9fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

9th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

29 Mehefin – 2 Gorffennaf | 29 June – 2 July 21

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

In defence of the hi-flex model

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This session responds to the "lessons learned" strand of the conference and looks at the benefits and successes (and reflects on the problems encountered) in delivering the hi-flex approach to teaching during the current academic session.

Student feedback on the hi-flex approach has been variable (due to technological glitches / user errors / levels of engagement) but invariably appreciated for its inclusive intentions. Although the hi-flex model is being stepped away from, with a renewed focus on in-person provision, there is nevertheless an appreciation of the benefits of the blended learning environment of which hi-flex is one tool in the box.

This session will consider hi-flex as a sustainable addition to teaching environments in the humanities (and perhaps beyond), recognising the need for inclusivity be that as a result of specifically Covid-related imperatives (ongoing requirements for self isolation / travel restrictions etc.) or simply as a way of maximising attendance and participation for all students (recognising the diverse demands the contemporary student body faces and diverse barriers to participating ranging from caring responsibilities, the demands of paid work, and issues relating to mental and physical well-being). As a whole this session will consider the benefits of the hi-flex approach in engaging and sustaining blended communities of learners during a period of disruption, and the potential of such an approach to enhance the learning experience by delivering continuity and group cohesion that physical learning spaces alone sometimes struggle to achieve. Further discussion will also touch on the wider opportunities that the hi-flex approach affords in terms of new, hard to reach, "markets", including but not limited to CPD enhancement. At the same time, this session will face-up to the difficulties the hi-flex model poses and will seek to identify ways to ameliorate, or at least soften, these barriers for all participants.