

This talk will consider the place of academic staff development within policymaking, historically and in the future. The last decade has seen the slow dismantling of national resources designed to explicitly support staff development in teaching and learning, and their replacement with a system of targets and metrics latterly enshrined in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework.

Pedagogic research - once the mainstay of efforts to improve the student experience, has been sidelined. Staff development is either mandated (for compliance reasons) or quietly ignored. Standardisation of the student experience is seen as an explicit goal.

Drawing on these themes alongside the news of the day, parallels from our history, and elements of the career of Sir Michael Barber, this talk will attempt to document the decline of educational development as a sector interest, and offer suggestions as to ways forward.