The MSOR Network is funded by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) to provide discipline specific support for teaching and learning as part of its decentralised subject centre model. You may be aware that the HEA is currently undergoing a major restructure that is intended to significantly increase the proportion of resources spent directly on frontline support and services to institutions and academics. As part of this discipline level support will be delivered centrally rather than by individual subject centres in order to create greater flexibility and to encourage inter-disciplinary work.

What does this mean for the MSOR network? We are totally dependent on HEA funding and therefore will be closing when this is no longer available. We are fully funded until 31 July 2011 and have submitted a bid for limited transition funding until 31 December 2011. If, as expected, this is successful we will deliver:

- Two more editions of Connections – September and December 2011 (in addition to that planned for June 2011)
- CETL-MSOR Annual Conference – Preparing for Student Led Education 5-6 Sep 2011
- Induction course for new lecturers 15-16 September 2011
- Supporting post graduates who teach workshops – September and October 2011
- Teaching Analysis workshop – date to be confirmed
- Provision of materials/resources that can continue to be accessed by the MSOR community

We are also working closely with the HEA to support the development of the new arrangements for MSOR discipline support. This will be led and delivered by an MSOR Discipline Lead within a STEM team supported by Academic Development Officers and a number of Associates contracted for a set number of days to support particular areas of work. At the time of writing the recruitment process for these posts had just commenced.

As part of ensuring an effective legacy, we will share our experiences of supporting the MSOR community with the new team. It is already good to see that the general areas identified by the HEA for subject specific support across all disciplines include initial teaching training (new lecturers and post graduates), continuation of journals (but possibly not in hard copy), development of materials and toolkits, web based resources together with workshops and events on key issues identified by subject communities. We want to build on this recognition of your needs and our experiences of meeting them to ensure that support continues to be available when and how you need it. Your views on the type of support you need will be essential to this process and I would welcome any comments. Please email me at d.a.waller@bham.ac.uk

I am sure you would join me in thanking all the MSOR Network team for their hard work and will continue to support them during the next few difficult months as we move to the new arrangements.