

The extent and value of technicians' contribution to learning and teaching

Val Gordon

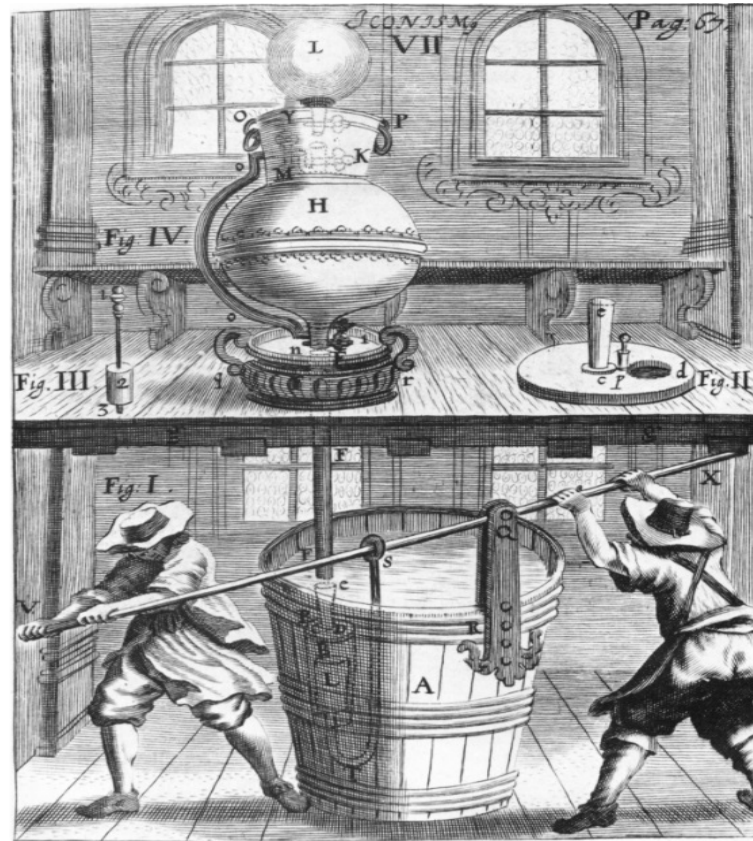
Technical Officer, Moray House School of Education
Technician Commitment Project Coordinator at UoE

Dr Jon Kelly

Lab Manager, Institute for Sport, Physical Education & Health Science

1000 technicians at UoE

Efficiently invisible



Proffered lowly status - although crucial,
invisible role is considered unimportant



"Look at this article on sanitation and waste management. I am listed as one of the co-authors."

Technician Commitment - Aims to address 4 key issues for technical staff

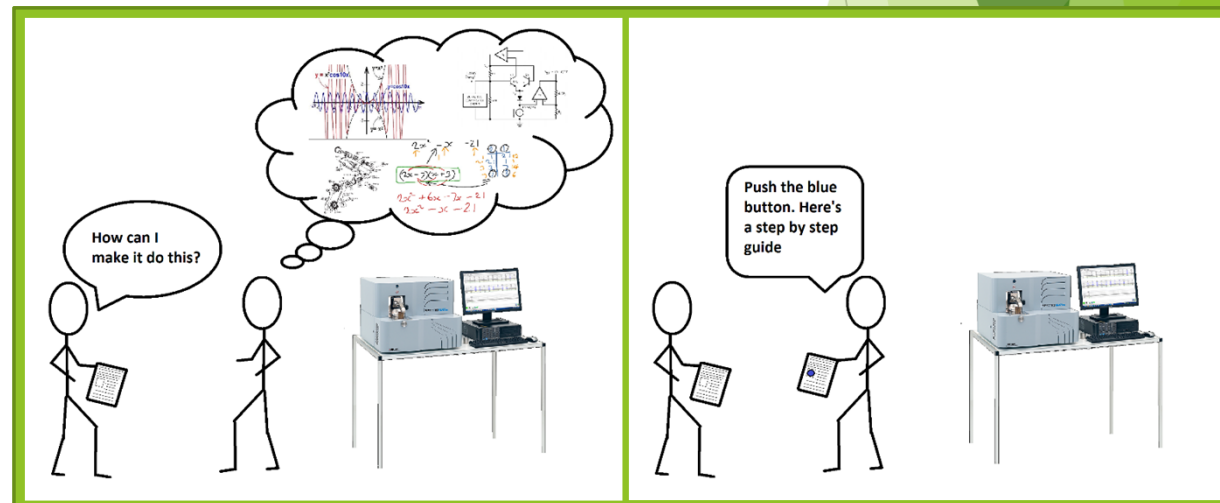
1. Visibility - ensuring all technicians are identifiable and their contribution evident.
2. Recognition - credit for role in success and institutional support for Professional Registration.
3. Career development - career progression through provision of clear, documented career pathways.
4. Sustainability - ensuring sustainability of technical skills and full utilisation of technical expertise.

Wider impact of improved conditions, status and opportunities for technical staff

- ▶ Improved technician morale, motivation and engagement
- ▶ Marketable superior technical support
- ✓ Attract increased student and staff numbers
- ✓ Solve succession planning issues - technical roles at UoE an aspirational career choice
- ✓ Secure increased grant funding and investment
- ▶ Raised learning and teaching values
- ▶ Enriched student experience

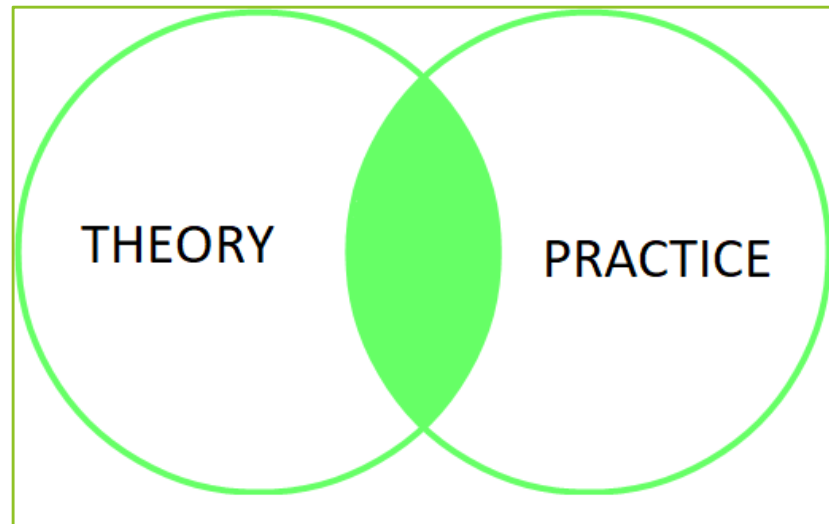
We teach

- ▶ Assisting to deliver practical classes to facilitate meeting learning outcomes
- ▶ Developing practical sessions to support experiential learning
- ▶ Preparing written materials to support student learning
- ▶ Supporting students in developing their research plans (e.g. dissertations)
- ▶ Developing resources to make complex equipment accessible to students



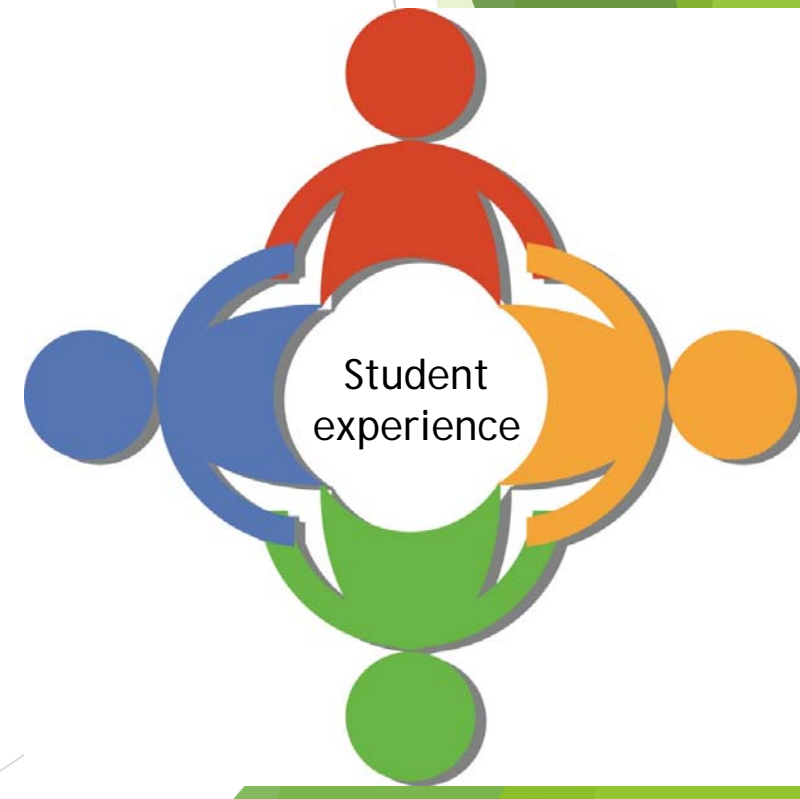
'I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand'

- ▶ What is a Technician?
 - ▶ *A person working in a field with a strong theoretical framework whose ability to perform their role relies upon their expertise in practical applications relevant to this subject area.*
- ▶ Experiential learning



Academic team

- ▶ Key contributors to learning and teaching (and to our research output)
- ▶ Invaluable to the rich student experience at our University.
- ▶ Vital front-line support for student wellbeing & mental health



Personal support for technicians and the Technician Commitment

- ▶ Find out who the technicians are in your area
- ▶ Ensure technical skills & knowledge are fully utilised
- ▶ Recognise & acknowledge technicians in your team effort
- ▶ Nominate technicians for awards
- ▶ Include technicians in student surveys & course evaluations – You might well see improved results!
- ▶ Visit our website and contribute
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/technicians>
- ▶ Follow us on Twitter @UoETechnicians#EdUniTechsCommit
- ▶ Get in contact techcom@ed.ac.uk