



THE CARRICK INSTITUTE
FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING
IN HIGHER EDUCATION LTD



Leadership and Assessment: Strengthening the Nexus Summary Report March 2007

1. Action Research Enablers

1.1 LEAP Forum

Held on Wednesday, 28th March. Topics discussed and workshopped included:

- Ethics
- Sustaining the project
- Assessment matrix
- Collecting supplementary data
- Supportive resources
- Assessment profile tool
- Departmental workshops

A range of resources were shared with the group:

Beirman, R. *Interview questions for academic staff.*

Beirman, R. *Student survey on assessment.*

Biggs, J. (2003). *Aligning teaching for constructed learning.* The Higher Education Academy.

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources.asp?process=full_record§ion=generic&id=477. Retrieved 26th March, 2007.

Harris, K. (2005). *The University of Melbourne. Guide for Reviewing Assessment, Prompts and guidelines for monitoring and enhancing assessment practices.* Centre for the Study of Higher Education. <http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/pdfs/GRA.pdf>. Retrieved 21st November, 2006.

REAP (2006). *Assessment principles: Some possible candidates.* Reengineering Assessment Practices project. <http://www.reap.ac.uk/resourcesPrinciples.html>. Retrieved 20th March, 2007.

1.2 Reflection Sessions

Reflection sessions continued to be conducted with the Action Research Enablers.

Chiro – Monday, 19th March

Law – Tuesday, 13th March

Computing- Wednesday, 7th March

Permission granted by Professor Tricia Vilkinas, University of South Australia, (8th March) to use her leadership model as part of our reflection process. This model was introduced during the Carrick workshop and forum on leadership (8th – 9th February).

Vilkinas, T. and Cartan, G. (2006). The integrated competing values framework: Its spatial; configuration. *Journal of Management Development*, 25, (6), 505-521.

1.3 Ethics

Marina completed the final writing of the ethics application on behalf of the LEAP team to cover any interviews with staff (e.g. unit-coordinators) as they undertake step 2 of the assessment profile. Penelope Watson is listed as the chief investigator with all other LEAP members listed as co-investigators. The application was submitted on Wednesday, 14th March.

2. Assessment profile

Final amendments were made to the assessment matrix (in response to February LEAP forum) and posted on WebCT. Work on developing Step 2 of the assessment profile was undertaken at this month's LEAP forum..

3. Evaluation

3.1 Research Assistant

A casual research assistance, Kate Highfield, has been employed to work on transcribing the digital voice recordings of the reflection sessions with the AREs. After signing a confidentiality statement, she has been provided with the files for the pilot and for the first session.

4. Project Dissemination

4.1 International Online Conference sponsored by the REAP Project: Assessment design for learner responsibility.

Submission of reflective case study (Tuesday, 27th) on the conference theme of *institutional strategies for assessment*. This case study will be added to a digital repository of case studies (one of the main outputs of the conference). The REAP project aim for this collection to become an important reference point in the field for those developing both assessment theories and practices.

4.2 Notification of acceptance of acceptance for ISSOTL.

Notified (9th March) that the panel submission has been accepted for the ISSOTL conference (July, 2007).

4.3 Notification of acceptance of paper for AARE

Notified on 13th March that the abstract submitted (by MH and SF) for the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) 2007 Focus conference (13 -14th June) has been accepted.

Progress against project outcomes

The project is continuing to progress through Project Phase 1, Step 1.2 (Preparation for Departmental Assessment mapping) while planning for Steps 1.3 (Development and implementation of departmental model) and 1.4 (Departmental policy and strategy development).