



THE CARRICK INSTITUTE
FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING
IN HIGHER EDUCATION LTD



Leadership and Assessment: Strengthening the Nexus Summary Report September 2007

1. Action Research Enablers

1.1 LEAP Forum

No forum or reflection sessions were held this month as attention was directed towards establishing the LEAP 2 team (except the reflection for Penelope Watson, Law on Thursday, 6th September, which had been carried from August).

1.2 LEAP 2

Initial planning (meetings or phone communications) were held with the three departments. There was difficulty in organising an ARE from EFS as the first nomination declined the invitation as this was not as high a priority as her research. The promise of funding for teaching release was not enough and I predict that this may become a common occurrence as organisational culture changes to one where research is valued above all else.

Warawara, Department of Indigenous Studies

Judy Lattas (Assoc Dean L&T SCMP) is the influencer. A first meeting was held with the ARE, Dr Kristina Everett, on Wednesday, 5th September. Administrative support has been offered and provided by Samantha Murray.

Department of Japanese Studies

The first meeting was held on Friday, 14th September. Mio Bryce (HOD) is the influencer and the role of ARE is to be job-shared between Helen Muir and Kayo Nakazawa.

Department of Economics

John Shepherd (Acting Assoc Dean L&T) is the influencer and Dr Michael Dobbie has accepted the role of ARE.

Leap 2 forum

The first LEAP2 forum has been planned (after several false starts!) for Friday, 12th October.

2. Project Dissemination

2.1 Development of Public Website

The public Leadership and Assessment project website was advertised in the staff news (Staff News 16/07 - 14 September 2007)

LAP (Leadership and Assessment Project) Website Goes Public

The *Leadership and Assessment: Strengthening the Nexus* project has launched its public website. The project, led by Dr Sharon Fraser, has been running at Macquarie University for one year. Three departments (Computing, Health and Chiropractic and Law) have been involved and as the project enters its second phase, an additional three departments will be participating. A range of resources has been developed by the project team. You are invited to explore the site, especially the resource section, with its focus on assessment and leadership.

Please bookmark the site and return regularly as the site grows and develops with the project.

<http://www.cpd.mq.edu.au/teaching/lap/>

Enquiries:

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2.2 The Department of Computing – Assessment project

The Department of Computing, using their funds from the LTPF, has appointed a research manager to focus on assessment (Mike Barnes). A meeting was held on Thursday, 14th September to support the progress of this project.

2.3 University's Learning & Teaching working party on assessment

A pre-meeting was held with Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Thursday 6th September) to consider the working party. An email distribution list has been created and support and stimulus resources distributed, including:

Australian Universities Quality Agency (n.d.). *Framework for standards, evidence and outcomes*, p.4. Retrieved 14th September, 2007 from <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/spq/docs/StandardsFramework.pdf>

Isaacs, G. (2001). *Assessment for learning. Teaching and learning in higher education series*. Brisbane: Teaching and Educational Development Institute, The University of Queensland. Retrieved from http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/downloads/Assessment_for_Learning.pdf

James, R; McInnes, C. & Devlin, M. (2002). *Assessing Learning in Australian Universities*. Centre for the Study of Higher Education Web : The University of Melbourne and The Australian Universities Teaching Committee. <http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/assessinglearning/docs/AssessingLearning.pdf>

Orrell, J. and Parry, S. (2007) *An Assessment Policy Framework*. Powerpoint presented to the Leadership and Assessment Steering Committee

Sadler, D.R. (2005). Interpretations of criteria-based assessment and grading in higher education. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 30, (2) 175-194.

Southern Cross university's Pathways to Good Practice has been recommended to us and the link to assessment is:
<http://www.scu.edu.au/services/tl/pathways/pathways06/assessing.html>

The first meeting was held on Thursday, 13th September and the room was filled with goodwill and enthusiasm. Policies from other universities were also used as stimuli for discussion (Murdoch University and the University of Queensland). The first meeting, a necessarily more casual format, provided a forum for members to become acquainted and to raise initial issues, concerns and hopes for assessment policy.

Subsequently, meetings were held with Bronwyn Kosman to start developing a glossary (on Thursday, 20th September) and with Stephen Marshall (Thursday, 27th September) to plan possible actions to progress the working party.