

# Summary of the USQ Learning and Teaching Plan 2009 – 2013

## Goal Statement

To enhance teaching performance and to provide high quality, flexible and inclusive learning experiences that promote lifelong learning, critical enquiry and students' career opportunities.

## Objectives

- Sustainable quality improvement of USQ curricula
- Enhanced position in open and flexible education
- Sustainable quality improvement of teaching performance
- Enhanced students' academic skills
- Enhanced learning and teaching management and policy framework

## Performance plan

The quality improvement of USQ courses and programs will be achieved through **ten projects**. Each of these projects has an implementation plan with clear timelines and reporting requirements. KPIs will be used at the level of Section Plans and project implementation plans to monitor outcomes.

### 1) COURSE AND PROGRAM MAPPING PROJECT

This project will address:

- the development of an on-line Course and Program Mapping System
- the alignment of graduate qualities with assessment and automatic feed of student outcomes to e-portfolios
- clear identification of referencing system in course specification

### 2) ASSESSMENT PROJECT

This project will address:

- implementation of the outcomes of the USQ Assessment Report
- dissemination of innovative assessment practice through exemplar website
- development of assessment booklet guidelines for streamlined dissemination of procedures and innovative practice
- establish links between online course specifications and accreditation documentations and assessment guidelines
- compliance with USQ policy
- the development of resources to assist with marking including information about assignment feedback, marking grids, and grade descriptors

### 3) THE VERTICALLY INTEGRATED CURRICULUM PROJECT

This project is about values-led and discipline specific curriculum change. It will embed, as appropriate:

- academic skills
- sustainability
- indigenous perspectives
- work-based learning
- community engagement
- whole-of program perspectives including, in particular, a program site on Moodle
- internationalisation of the curriculum.

#### **4) LEARNING AND TEACHING EVALUATION PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to revise USQ student feedback processes, address the difficulties of achieving good response rates from distance education students, enhance USQ learning and teaching indicators and develop post-evaluation strategies that engage staff and students in a cycle of continuous quality improvement of courses, programs, learning and teaching. 2008 - 2012 this project will:

- establish one-stop coordination of USQ & DEST L&T data collection in the Planning and Quality Office (PQO) (2008)
- revise USQ evaluation and data collection processes (2008)
- develop, pilot and implement a post-evaluation strategy (2008)
- in collaboration with PVC IP, enhance engagement of institutional partners in the evaluation cycle
- develop teaching and learning indicators that are benchmarked against ALTC Teaching Indicators Project and European Association for Quality assurance in Higher education 2005, Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher education Area <http://www.enqa.eu/files/BergenReport210205.pdf> and build on UK discipline benchmarking statements
- develop and implement a benchmarking framework for learning and teaching (2009)
- monitor progress (2009 - 2012)

#### **5) TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to provide a cost-effective framework for technology-enhanced, flexible learning options in all USQ courses and programs, with particular reference to the top 16 programs. 2008 - 2012 this project will address the implementation of:

- a newly developed Fleximode Policy
- ICE roll-out
- Moodle Development
- Virtual Classrooms (Wimba)
- Program Teams Plan
- ACODE Benchmarking
- emergent technologies as approved by ICT Strategy and Budget Management Committee

#### **6) THE ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

In collaboration with the Process Steward of the USQ 'Staff' goal and, as part of the USQ Staff Engagement Strategy, this project will develop and implement the following professional development strategies:

- induction
- foundations
- the development of website teaching resources
- tailored PD
- peak events (in particular the Learning and Teaching Visiting Scholar Program)
- communities of practice
- sessional staff
- staff e-portfolios.

#### **7) LEARNING AND TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to engage staff in reflective teaching practice and to facilitate high-end learning and teaching scholarship through USQ research centres. 2008-2012 this project will:

- develop a Learning and Teaching Scholarship Database
- embed learning and teaching scholarship, as appropriate, in all USQ Research Centres

- facilitate the development of learning and teaching scholarship through the creation of a USQ Teaching Academy
- enhance potential for learning and teaching scholarship through the USQ Learning and Teaching Visiting Scholar program

## **8) TEACHING EXCELLENCE PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to create opportunities for staff to engage with faculty, USQ, national and international opportunities to promote best practice in learning and teaching. 2008-2009 the project will:

- pilot a USQ Learning and Teaching Fellowships program
- conduct a USQ Visiting L&T Scholar Program
- develop a Learning and Teaching Adjunct Program
- initiate a USQ Teaching Academy
- develop processes to support applications for learning and teaching awards, grants and fellowships at faculty, university, national and international levels

## **9) LEARNING SUPPORT PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to provide coherent and consistent systems of support for the development of academic skills for all students regardless of location. 2008 - 2012, the project will implement the USQ Academic Learning Skills Plan which includes:

- orientation
- avoidance of academic misconduct strategies
- peer-assisted learning
- virtual and physical learning centres
- ALS Online
- the student self-diagnosis on-line system - AWARE

## **10) LEARNING AND TEACHING MANAGEMENT AND HR PROJECT**

The goal of this project is to audit and revise USQ learning and teaching policies, organisation and processes in order to:

- ensure that they facilitate flexibility and sustainability in learning and teaching (2008)
- specify shared expectations and standards for the production and distribution of learning resources (2008)
- update and simplify learning and teaching policies;
- streamline communication and decision-making processes between faculties, Academic Board, LTSU, and DAIS (2008)
- ensure that teaching is appropriately recognised in appointment, BUILD, performance and promotion and professional development processes (2009 - 2010)
- address the importance of developing appropriate physical and virtual learning spaces