

Welcome to the fourth edition of the LTSU Newsletter! This newsletter is distributed bimonthly. The purpose of the newsletter is to let you know what's happening to promote learning and teaching at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Australia.

What's New on the Learning and Teaching website

New Flyers

Formative Peer Review of Teaching

USQ has adopted a voluntary and formative approach to the peer review of teaching to facilitate continuous improvement in teaching excellence at USQ. The link is available from the ['How to' flyers page](#) under the 'Improving teaching' heading.

USQ Graduate Qualities and Skills

Two information flyers now available, "USQ Graduate Qualities and Skills- customization, mapping, and alignment template", and "Thinking about different learning levels for your course". See the [USQ L&T website](#) or the ['How to' flyers website](#).

Microsoft Office 2007

A series of 10 Microsoft Office 2007 quick tip flyers have been developed for students, which are now available on the [Learning Centre website](#).

LTSU Technology Advocate

The Technology Advocate position was created in response to the increasing importance of online learning environments and the need to embed the new digital literacy graduate skill in all USQ programs. See ['How to' flyers website](#), under facilitating and supporting learning.

Engaging with International Students

All staff working with international students can help them engage in study. There is a strong positive relationship between international students' engagement and outcomes like achievement, graduate skills and satisfaction. International students' overall perceptions of their university experience are closely linked to engagement in learning activities that are supportive, active, enriching, work-focused and academically challenging. See ['How to' flyers website](#).

USQ Learning & Teaching Week

Held 1-5 February 2010.

Academic and Professional staff from across USQ's three campuses have affirmed their commitment to enhancing their own professional development and the student experience following another successful Learning & Teaching Week at the University. Held annually, the week-long event showcases exciting developments in teaching and learning practice and celebrates staff excellence. This year, as well as the Academic Staff Induction forums, sessions provided opportunity for staff to gain insight into advances in tertiary education.

See the [USQ L&T Week website](#) for more information.



Prof Philip Candy



Digital Futures seminar

Scholarship of Tertiary Teaching and Learning (SoTTL) Summit

The Learning and Teaching Support Unit (LTSU) hosted a Summit on the topic of the Scholarship of Tertiary Teaching and Learning at USQ on 2 November, 2009. The purpose of this Summit was to review the importance of SoTTL to the development of learning and teaching at USQ, and to seek ways to maximise outcomes from the USQ 2010 Year of Research. See [USQ L&T Website](#).



(From left) Emeritus Prof Fred Lockwood
Prof Lynne Hunt and Prof Frank Bullen

Assessment Week

In September 2009, a week long event, initiated by the Associate Deans (Learning & Teaching) and focussing on assessment, was held at USQ under the heading “USQ Assessment Priority: Planning a Sustainable Culture of Assessment”. See the [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information.



(Left to right) A/Prof Lorelle Burton, Dr Jill Lawrence, Dr Sara Hammer, Prof Kerri-Lee Krause, Dr Lyn Brodie, Prof Marcia Devlin, Dr Karen Noble, Dr Liz Godfrey, Dr Jane Summers.

Visiting Scholars

Dr Suzana Kosir is Associate Dean for Education at the International School for Social and Business Studies in Celje, Slovenia. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information.



Dr Suzana Kosir

Ms Deborah Southwell is the Director, Learning & Teaching Development at QUT in Brisbane, Qld. Deborah is responsible for the oversight and deployment of institutional initiatives related to strategic teaching and learning priorities and outcomes including awards and grants services, academic staff development and curriculum design and implementation. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information.



Ms Deborah Southwell

Professor Asha Singh Kanwar became Vice President of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) on 1 April 2006 and assumed additional responsibility as Programme Director in April 2007. She is specifically responsible for stakeholder engagement and programme direction. A recipient of several awards and fellowships, Professor Kanwar brings with her the experience of having studied and worked in different contexts, both developing and developed. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information.



Prof Asha Kanwar

Professor Beverley Oliver is Director of teaching and learning at Curtin University of Technology. She has worked in teaching and learning development for six years, before which she spent many years teaching at all levels. Her discipline background is in humanities (languages, literature, media and technology), and she now works on whole of university projects. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information and interviews.



Prof Beverley Oliver

Teaching Excellence

Call for nominations for ALTC Citations

Nominations are now called for the Australian Learning & Teaching Council (ALTC) Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. These Citations recognize and reward the diverse contributions that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning. The Citations are granted to people who have made significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period. See the [ALTC website](#) for more information. The USQ deadline for ALTC Citations is 22 March. The USQ deadline for ALTC Leadership Grants was 11 March.

Learning & Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF) Summit

Held on 15 March to discuss progress and identify possible synergies. Each project was presented by at least one team member.

Promoting Excellence Network (PEN) Forum

Preparations are progressing for the PEN Forum to be held on 30-31 March, invitations have been sent.

Academic Development

LTSU Induction Day for new academic staff



Held during Learning & Teaching Week, 1-5 February 2010.

Induction is held twice a year and the purpose of the induction process is to introduce staff to fundamental concepts behind learning and teaching matters within the USQ context.

Next Academic Induction will be held mid-year 2010.

See [Induction website](#) for information.

LTSU Project Teams Report Summary

Learning and teaching is one of USQ's nine, cross-institutional goal plans that inform and reflect [USQ's Strategic Plan 2009-2013](#). The ten projects in the [USQ Learning and Teaching Plan 2009 - 2013](#) are implemented through [LTSU plans](#) which shape annual Faculty Learning and Teaching Action Plans. An update on each of the LTSU Projects follows.

1 Course and Program Mapping

Now that course specifications are up and running for 2010 the CPMS project now moves into its next phase of development; creating two way information sharing to and from PeopleSoft. The new production site for new course specifications is currently being tested by faculties and will be released in the next few weeks.

2 Assessment

The assessment project is currently on schedule with the completion of the Assessment foundation module by the end of February. This foundation module will be reviewed by stakeholders then subsequently evaluated in line with other course offerings at USQ. Work can now begin on the assessment disability flyer (scheduled for completion by the end of March).

3 Vertically Integrated Curriculum

Stage 1 of the project implementation is currently underway with Project Manager Todd Hartle and Project Leader defining critical components of program/courses for mapping and survey instrument design. Project is on track.

4 Learning and Teaching Evaluation

For many of the projects, except the Teaching Indicators project, there is a slight delay at

this stage due to the project team seeking more clarity on projects' scope and priorities from senior management, and aligning projects to the LTSU Operations Plan.

5 Technology Enhanced Learning

The following has been achieved in this reporting period:

- (a) Start to incorporate faculty Learning and Teaching action plans in 2010 TEL project plan
- (b) Establishment and facilitation of the Digital Tools for Learning and Teaching Brilliantly site
- (c) Planning has started with Moodle Support and ALS on how the Technology Advocate position can best support students

The launch of the Technology Advocate position during Teaching and Learning week and discussions with various groups have also started and this will help ensure that the Technology Advocate position will be most effective.

6 Academic Professional Development

Learning and Teaching Week was received well, with good attendance and involvement from all three campuses. ADRI review process is currently underway. Three visiting scholars have already visited Toowoomba campus and three more are currently booked for the next three months. APD modules are currently having the assessment criteria written. Three are completed, two close to completion and the remainder will soon be finalised. Negotiations are underway with the Faculty of Education to have these modules imbedded into the elective choices for the GCTT. Face to face workshops will also be developed and offered twice a year. Academic induction was very successful and for the first time was delivered separately over the three campuses.

7 Learning and Teaching Scholarship

Handover involved familiarisation with the implementation plan 2010 - purpose, scope, milestones/deliverables, tasks and timelines and constraints, and communication. Time also devoted to learning about the data base integration; requested that the former project leader provides step by step outline with respect to managing designations for ePrints database. Apart from documenting on SoTTL (see [L&T Website](#)), the reports submitted have been studied, and meetings held involving promoting SoTTL with Chair LTSU Research Committee, Engineering Education Research Group and members of the Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers in Education. In addition, two research forums have been attended to support and promote SoTTL. A draft flyer is being developed about SoTTL which may be helpful for committees, research groups and communities of practice – with the goal to define the relationship between research and the scholarship of teaching.

8 Teaching Excellence

The LTPF summit was held on 15 March. Each project was represented by at least 1 team member. Support has been provided to staff who are intending to submit an ALTC Citations nomination. The closing date was 22 March. Preparations are progressing for the PEN forum in March and the invitations have been sent.

9 Learning Support

The main development in the Academic Learning Support Project is that a redesigned Orientation has been successfully delivered. At Springfield campus, a full week pre-Orientation program called Building Pathways has been delivered and the feedback was extremely positive. Other developments include training of the biggest group of Meet-

Up leaders ever, including at Springfield and Fraser Coast campuses. In addition, ‘embedded’ workshops are expanding, particularly at Springfield campus, and will be delivered throughout semester one. A casual staff member is currently evaluating the online academic skills resources for students, and revising these where needed, which includes improvements to the look and feel of the Learning Centre website. Another casual staff member has developed a series of 11 new digital literacy flyers, which are now available from the Quick Tips page on the [Learning Centre website](#).

10 Learning and Teaching Management and HR

The Learning and Teaching Management and HR Project is one of ten, ongoing projects in the USQ Learning and Teaching Plan. Its purpose is to get the context right for supporting and enhancing learning and teaching. This month’s outcomes include:

- (a) Staff engagement with Corporate Communications. Topics covered included: Workshop ‘Working with the media’; a book promoting good teaching at USQ and L&T Experts register list
- (b) Finalisation of arrangements for GCTT scholarships
- (c) Facilitating the development of a coherent approach to staff e-portfolios
- (d) Initiating management processes for peer review of teaching
- (e) Addressing issues arising from new email protocol
- (f) Initiating processes to enhance compliance with Minimum Standards for StudyDesk and sessional staff participation in online induction
- (g) Input into HR processes associated with redesign of BUILD to include L&T
- (h) Development of LTSU Staff Assessment Portfolio for GL Review
- (i) Development of a WIL discussion paper
- (j) Facilitation of short course review
- (k) Clarification re L&T funds when staff leave USQ
- (l) Finalising L&T Experts Register

Contact Us

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

Website: <http://www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/default.htm>