

INFORMING PRINCIPLES

USQ is committed to:

1. creative partnerships between learners and teachers that foster a stimulating intellectual environment in which students engage actively in the learning process;
2. flexible modes of program delivery, both on and off-campus, including technology-supported and online learning as well as quality classroom teaching;
3. a range of pedagogies including constructivist pedagogy that scaffolds learning, problem-based learning, and authentic learning pedagogies that engage students in practical learning experiences;
4. shared and inclusive learning experiences for all students including preparation for life-long learning, employment and postgraduate research as well as the development of graduate attributes, internationalisation, Indigenous perspectives, academic integrity; sustainability; and numeracy, literacy and information retrieval skills;
5. quality assessment practices that provide opportunities for personal development planning and the documentation of students' achievements through portfolios that enhance opportunities for graduate employment and research;
6. a range of flexible pathways into and through higher education including flexible study and work patterns and negotiated learning contracts;
7. supportive learning contexts from pre-entry to graduation;
8. quality assurance of USQ learning and teaching processes based on a consistent cycle of student feedback, quality improvement and accreditation.

USQ Learning and Teaching Strategic Projects 2007-2012

The USQ Learning and Teaching Operational Plan is outcomes focussed, action oriented and designed as three projects for implementation 2007-2012

| PROJECT 1 | Sub-projects | Tasks | Responsible | Time |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum Project</p> <p>Goals:</p> <p>1) To provide streamlined, flexible, vertically integrated curricula with quality assessment, with particular reference to the top twenty programs</p> <p>2) To facilitate students' course and program planning and negotiation through the provision of consistent and high quality options</p> <p>3) To provide students with quality learning and choices within programs and courses</p> | <p>Course and Program Rationalisation Project</p> | <p>1. <u>Establish a course and program rationalisation plan</u> that includes a set of principles, including activity based costing (ABC), for the reduction in the number of USQ courses and programs by a minimum of 30% in accordance with ABC and USQ strategic directions</p> | <p>2. UPMC</p> | <p>Plan in accordance with CDEI process</p> |
| | <p>Program Revitalisation Project</p> | <p><u>Establish Program Revitalisation Implementation Project including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fleximode category ▪ Relevant pedagogies ▪ Quality assessment practice ▪ Graduate qualities and employability ▪ Embedded numeracy, communication, help-seeking and information literacy skills including academic honesty ▪ Curriculum innovation including work-based learning and negotiated learning contracts ▪ Internationalisation of learning ▪ Values-led curriculum development including: community engagement, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity with particular reference Indigenous perspectives, gender equity and widening access ▪ Integration of evaluation outcomes | <p>1. PVC (L&T)</p> | <p>Plan by 30.10.07</p> |

| PROJECT 2 | Tasks |
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| <p data-bbox="170 253 604 318">Technology- enhanced Learning & Teaching Project</p> <p data-bbox="149 370 617 578">Goal: To provide a cost-effective framework for technology-enhanced, flexible learning options in all USQ courses and programs, with particular reference to the top twenty programs.</p> | <p data-bbox="653 237 1682 269">Establish a Learning Technologies Project Implementation Plan that incorporates:</p> <ul data-bbox="653 305 1944 1300" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the successful transition to Moodle of all online course materials and other associated materials used in the teaching of USQ courses and programs; ▪ the introduction of fleximode categories that delineate the particular type and level of resources to be applied to USQ courses; ▪ a formal investigation of the financial and logistical feasibility of ‘flexilectures’ whereby the key lectures in top 20 programs are made available online, and/or via CD or DVD for all USQ students; ▪ the continued investigation and evaluation of a range of current and emerging synchronous communication tools which can be used in nominated courses in the top 20 programs. ▪ the completion of the pilot and evaluation of the application Elluminate, and the adoption of recommendations regarding its suitability for mainstream use across USQ courses and programs; ▪ the investigation and progressive implementation of an e-portfolio system that provides all students, alumni and staff, including sessional staff, access to a secure space, within a virtual environment, in which they may store examples of their best work to enhance employment and promotion opportunities; ▪ the investigation and progressive implementation of appropriate mobile technologies into the top 20 programs and other programs by negotiation through LTSU processes; ▪ the investigation and progressive implementation of appropriate mobile technologies such as podcasting, blogging, wikis and other social networking software into the top 20 programs and other programs by negotiation through LTSU processes; ▪ the establishment of direct, collaborative links with the work undertaken by the Learning Futures Innovations Institute to provide cutting-edge learning experiences for USQ students; ▪ the ongoing use of the ACODE e-learning benchmarks and other benchmarking instruments to monitor USQ’s progress against other institutions; ▪ the further development and implementation of activities related to Open Course Ware (OCW) as determined by the USQ Identity Project Board and formal course and program approval processes; ▪ remote access technology laboratories. |

| Strategy | Sub-project | Tasks | Responsible | Timeframe |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| LEARNING & TEACHING PROJECT 3 Enabling Project Goal To create a supportive context for the enhancement of learning and teaching at USQ | Professional Development Project | Develop L&T PD Implementation Project to: 1) Initiate innovative, portfolio-based, professional development events associated with key strategic directions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flexible delivery 2. Generic skills 3. Evaluation 4. Assessment LTSU PD Events to integrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keynotes by Visiting Scholars ▪ Associated blogging ▪ Tailored PD ▪ Development of online resources ▪ Communities of Practice 2) Develop documentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USQ frameworks for good teaching practice | LTSU | Plan by December 2007 |
| | Learning and Teaching Scholarship Project | Develop L&T Scholarship Implementation Project that incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning Futures Innovation Institute ▪ Transformative Pedagogies Research Centre ▪ LTSU L&T Scholarship initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DVC (GLS) ▪ PVC (Research) ▪ Transformative Pedagogies Research Centre ▪ LTSU | Plan by March 2008 |
| | Teaching Excellence Project | Establish Teaching Excellence Implementation Project that includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. L&T Fellowships 2. Visiting L&T Scholar Program 3. Learning and Teaching Adjunct Program 4. USQ Teaching Academy 5. Processes to support applications for L&T awards, grants and fellowships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LTSU ▪ USQ & Faculty LTECs | Plan by Jan 2008 |

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| | Learning Support Project | <p>Establish USQ Academic Learning Skills (ALS) Implementation Project that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orientation ▪ Virtual and physical learning centre ▪ ALS Online ▪ Aware | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LTSU ▪ DAIS | Plan by December 2007 |
| | Learning Spaces Project | <p>Develop a Physical Learning Spaces Plan that includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish Space Planning Advisory Committee with academic and student input ▪ Development of a Learning Commons R Block ▪ USQ Laboratories ▪ Development of social indoor and outdoor learning spaces that also enhance community engagement opportunities ▪ Appropriate learning space provided, on all campuses, for self-timed viewing of flexilectures <p>Develop a Virtual Learning Spaces Plan that includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal Learning Environments ▪ Student portal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities management (B&F) ▪ ICT ▪ Group Manager, Student Affairs ▪ DAIS ▪ LTSU ▪ Dean of Students ▪ Student Guild ▪ Faculties | Plan by March 2008 |
| | Learning and Teaching Evaluation Project | <p>Establish a USQ L&T Evaluation Implementation Project that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes one-stop coordination of USQ & DEST L&T evaluation in the Planning and Quality Office (PQO) ▪ Updates USQ evaluation and data collection processes ▪ Revises and aligns accreditation processes ▪ Provides a dissemination strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PQO ▪ PVC (L&T) | Plan by Dec 2007 |

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| | Course and Program Database Project | Develop a fully automated data base of USQ courses and programs for systematic dissemination of course specifications, including online approvals, notification of graduate attributes, fleximode category and referencing system for each course as well as automatic feed to handbook and Product Information Project (PIP). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student Administration ▪ ICT ▪ Product Information Project | Implemented by Dec 2008 |
| | Learning and Teaching Management Project | <p>Complete L&T Audit of USQ policies, committees, management and administrative processes in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ensure that they facilitate flexibility in L&T ▪ specify shared expectations and standards for the production and distribution of learning resources ▪ update and simplify learning and teaching policies ▪ streamline L&T committees ▪ streamline communication and decision-making processes between faculties, Academic Board, LTSU, DAIS and SLC ▪ create common L&T management structures across faculties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PVC (L&T) ▪ LTEC ▪ APC ▪ Deans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit completed by March 2008 ▪ Policy revision implemented on rolling basis |
| | Learning and Teaching HR Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit HR processes and procedures to ensure that teaching is appropriately recognised in appointment, BUILD, performance and promotion and professional development processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Director HR ▪ Director LTSU | Audit completed Dec 2007 |

