

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.

Teaching Excellence

Australian Learning & Teaching Council (ALTC)

Announcement

The Federal Government will force the Australian Learning and Teaching Council to cease operations at the end of 2011 leaving a gaping hole in the sector.

CEO, Dr Carol Nicoll, responded to the Prime Minister's announcement.

"The ALTC represents the Australian Government's commitment to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in higher education through means other than regulation," she said.

"Obviously we are deeply disappointed that the Government's stated commitment to improving the student learning experience for Australian students is not matched by continuing funding."

In the relatively short time since it began full operations in 2006, the ALTC's programs have already had a measurable impact on the sector and garnered huge support amongst the higher education community.

"We are the champion of teaching and learning in the higher education sector. Without the ALTC, I am deeply concerned that important work in this area, that is central to the mission of every Australian higher education institution, will go unrecognised and unrewarded," Dr Nicoll said.

The Chair of the ALTC Board, Professor John Hay AC, expressed his serious disappointment with the Government's decision. He said it clearly contradicts earlier commitments to acknowledging the crucial importance of teaching excellence in higher education and rewarding the nationally and internationally recognised achievements of outstanding Australian university teachers.

"The Government has taken the easy option of abolishing the ALTC. The savings to the government will be less than \$22 million per annum but the damage to the higher education sector and student outcomes will be far reaching," he said.

Over the coming weeks ALTC will reveal the full consequences of the closure to its range of programs. See [ALTC website](#) for more information.

Visiting Scholars- upcoming

ALTC Teaching Fellowship

Professor Milton Cox, is the Associate Director, Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching from Miami University (Ohio, USA). Prof Cox founded and directs the annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, now in its 30th year. He is also founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching* and the *Learning Communities Journal*. He facilitates the Hesburgh Award-winning Teaching Scholars Faculty Learning Community in its 31st year. Prof Cox has been project director of state and federal grants establishing faculty learning community programs at other institutions. He has worked with over 65 institutions to develop faculty learning communities, including for example the US Central Intelligence Agency, the California State University System, and King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia.

Professor Cox will be visiting USQ in the third week of February 2011 and will be holding the *Designing, Implementing and Facilitating Communities of Practice: Australian Learning and Teaching Council* Workshop.

This workshop is part of A/Prof Jacquie McDonald's 2010 ALTC Teaching Fellowship. See website <http://www.altc.edu.au/altc-teaching-fellow-jacquie-mcdonald>



Prof Milton D Cox

Academic Enhancement

ExcelL Intercultural Skills Workshop

In February this year USQ will welcome workshop facilitators and authors, Professor Michelle Barker and Professor Anita Mak, for a three day train-the-trainer workshop using their [ExcelL Intercultural Skills model](#). The aim of the workshop is to establish a core group of intercultural expertise across sections and faculties and provide them and others with the experience to better support NESB and international students. Relevant sections and faculties will initially contact their staff and invite them to participate in this three day event; remaining funded places will be advertised to the wider USQ community two weeks beforehand. Workshop dates are 16, 17, 18th February on Toowoomba campus. Please contact Dr Sara Hammer by phone (2641) or via email (sara.hammer@usq.edu.au) if you wish to register your interest.

Information Flyers

The USQ series of information flyers provides an introductory overview of key issues in learning and teaching. Each flyer highlights key points and refers to additional resources that provide in-depth analysis. The flyers are designed to be used as on-line or hard copy resources and may assist USQ staff in organising discipline-based learning and teaching seminars and workshops, particularly for new or contract staff. See the [USQ L&T website](#) for more information.

LTSU Teaching Tips

First Year and HE – engaging with students

The first weeks of their Higher Education can shape the way in which students engage with course content and the university environment. It is a time when enrollees become students and begin to develop the skills for their future success. Use your first classes to listen to what students expect from university, explain what you expect from them, and ensure that they understand disciplinary and course norms and practices as well as assessment and teaching activities. For more information, see the resources at '[Getting started and setting expectations](#)'

Planning your online teaching strategies

A teaching approach that is student-focused can facilitate the attainment of high level student learning outcomes. In order to achieve that with your online teaching strategies consider the appropriate technology to achieve those intended learning outcomes. For a guide on designing an effective course with appropriate technologies, check the Course Design Guide at the [USQ Learning and Teaching website](#). For ideas on the various web technologies for teaching, check the ALTC funded '[Learning to teach online](#)' website.

Events

Learning Impact Awards 2011 (LIA2011): 24 February 2011

Submissions for the LIA2011 event closed on 18 entries. Applications were received from VET, HE and schools. This one day event promises to be an exciting event and also has attracted a handful of interesting speakers. The awards recognise outstanding applications of technology to support education and learning. LIA2011 is facilitated by USQ and funded by DEEWR and will be held in Melbourne. A few places remain (free registration). More information is available - <http://www.usq.edu.au/lia2011>

Learning & Teaching Week 2011: 9 – 13 May 2011

A welcome number of Expressions of Interest have been received. A meeting is planned with Associate Deans to outline a structure for the week. Call for Papers will be announced shortly.

Third International m-libraries Conference: 11-13 May 2011

This event has attracted over 40 speakers (75% international). Hosted by USQ, this event will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland, and focuses on *Mobile technologies: information on the move* -see website <http://www.usq.edu.au/m-libraries> - the program will be updated by the end of February. Early Bird Registrations close in March.

Conference Date Claimers (Australia and Overseas)

HERDSA 2011 Conference
Teaching & Learning Forum 2011, Melbourne
Learning Commons Development & Design Forum 2011
Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (STLHE)
5TH Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity (5APCEI)
Teaching & Learning Forum 2011, Edith Cowan University
International Academic Conference
Educause 2011
EDULEARN11

Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF) Projects

Awarded 2010 – 2nd Round

Category \$100,000

- Dr Alexander Kist, Peter Gibbings, Dr Jill Lawrence, A/Professor Jane Summers, A/Professor Lorelle Burton, Dr Karen Noble - *Pedagogy of Remote Access Laboratories in Different Disciplines* - \$84,432
- Dr Rick Churchill, Dr Karen Noble, A/Professor Anne Jasman, A/Professor Lorelle Burton, A/Professor Jane Summers, Dr Jill Lawrence and Dr Peter Gibbings, *Consensus, professional development and resources for quality online pedagogy*

Category \$20,000

- Dr Tas Bedford, Dr Tim Dalby, Mr Peter Van Vuuren, Mr Tim Biddle – *OpenCourseWare* - \$19,881
- Dr Janice Jones, Helen Farley, Doona Moodie - *Enriching the Learning Journey using immersion* - \$19,960
- Dr Marilyn Meier-Kapavale, Dr Rhod McNeill, Dr Phillip Gearing, Dr Kyle Jenkins, Scott Alderdice, Jeff Black, Barbara Ryan - *Implementation of best practice innovative technologies* - \$19,499

- Lindy Kimmins, Jo Devine - *Evaluation of Meet-Up in Engineering & Surveying* - \$10,000
- Dr Shirley O'Neill, Deborah Geoghegan, Michelle McGill, Assoc Prof Anne Jasman, Rod Fogarty, Stephen Hughes, Warren Midgley – *Service and work integrated learning: space, place and pedagogy* - \$29,959.90 (Combined projects)

See [USQ website](#) link for more information. Enquiries in regards to ALTC and LTPF awards should be directed to [Teaching Excellence at USQ](#).

LTSU Projects and Reporting

LTSU Project Teams Report Summary

Learning and teaching is one of USQ's cross-institutional goal plans that inform and reflect [USQ's Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013](#). Below is a report on the 2010 projects in the [USQ Learning and Teaching Plan 2009 – 2013](#) which was 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

Goal (2011) – Mapping of elements (graduate qualities and skills across programs) so as to link with course objectives. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

The graduate skills mapping framework developed to assist Heads of Program and lecturing staff with a robust tool by which to align their assessment and outcomes with their Course Objectives has provided faculties with a consistent way forward to undertake this often complex task. There is still much work to be done in 2011, but 2010 saw significant progress in this area. In relation to the CPMS, after a few changes being made to the original requirements this project is now back on track and looking forward to some significant advances in 2011.

2 Assessment

Goal (2011) - Integration of existing emergent technologies with assessment processes. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

All tasks and milestones completed except for the rubric bank. Completed tasks include Assessment foundation module rewrite, provision of PD on assessment, an assessment and disability flyer, revitalisation of the assessment page, and revitalised assessment checklist.

3 Vertically Integrated Curriculum

Goal (2011) - To develop discipline specific theoretical framework and support development of sustainability with USQ curricula. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

Implementation of the project's "Implementation Plan" was successful as the survey instrument was designed and implemented across targeted programs, courses and faculties. The tool will be made available to all Faculty Support teams in 2011.

4 Learning and Teaching Evaluation

Goal (2011) - To develop and implement a benchmarking framework for learning and teaching and flexible delivery at USQ. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

The PIIB Benchmarking Project using the ACOE benchmarks with USQ as the lead university has progressed well and will culminate in a Summit Meeting in Toowoomba in May 2011. Participation in the ALTC supported Teaching Standards Framework Project will serve to further inform the USQ LTPF Teaching Indicators Project proposal in 2011. The Formative Peer Review of Teaching was implemented through the LTSU professional learning and academic induction programs in 2010 targeting both new and current academic staff.

5 Technology Enhanced Learning

Goal (2011) - To implement a consistent approach to enhanced learning advocacy and support for both students and staff. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

Technology Advocate: community has been renamed Digital Learning Tools @ USQ and links have been added to UTeach and ULearn pages. Better communication with ICT and USQStudyDesk functional support team. Use of Relay 2 to record Springfield campus lectures. ePortfolios: A Terms and Conditions document and Disclaimer document have been published on <http://eportfolio.usq.edu.au> and <http://community.usq.edu.au>. Moodle: UniMoodle and USQ-ANU collaborative projects community sited have been established

6 Academic Professional Development

Goal (2011) - To develop and release eight self paced online Foundation Modules Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

Maintaining visits to Fraser Coast and Springfield campuses. Effective use of the University Staff Engagement Strategy through the Integrated PD Working Group. LTSU and all other CoP meetings continuing. ADRI review of Online teaching modules underway. New target set for completion of APD modules in Feb 2011

7 Learning and Teaching Scholarship

Goal (2011) - To ensure greater alignment of the scholarship of L&T with the work of ADFI. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

CoP Writers and Publishers December meeting not convened. However 2011 planning took place with A/Prof A Jasman, Dr A Dashwood, Dr W Midgley (ECA), Dr S Hughes (ECA), Y Findlay (ECA), A/Prof K Noble and Prof P Danaher. Involvement in collaborative writing projects with FoE has resulted in 8 papers submitted for peer review to journals and conferences (CoP Writers and Publishers at Toowoomba and Springfield). As part of the Early Career Research Group committee two research symposia presented at both campuses.

8 Teaching Excellence

Goal (2011) - Build on existing processes developed during the pilot project to support staff in their application for both internal and external L&T awards, grants and fellowships etc. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

The project aligned with Faculty initiatives to work directly with LTSU to provide support to prospective nominees/applicants for L&T recognition initiatives: LTPF - 1st round (close 31/12/10); 2nd round – Funds available in 2011. ALTC Citations – Dr Rhod McNeil, A/Prof Aileen Cater-Steel, Dr Birgit Loch. ALTC Awards – unsuccessful; ALTC Fellowship – A/Prof Jacquie McDonald. ALTC Grants – A/Prof Jacquie McDonald. Faculty Awards - 7 nominations received. USQ Awards - P Collins (FoB), RAL Systems (FoES), A/Prof A

Cater-Steel FoB), L Stuart/team FoS), Dr S Goh (FoES). USQ Fellowships - Dr A Kist (FoES), Dr K Noble (FoE), Dr R Henderson (FoE), Dr P McIlveen (FoE), A/Prof L Burton (FoS), A/Prof Yan Li (FoS). PD activities and events were well attended. A/Professor P Albion was appointed to the Teaching Academy Board.

9 Learning Support

Goal (2011) - To develop and implement a range of learning support strategies for international students on and off campus both direct and partner supported. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

Consistent project work achieved through expansion of Meet-up and review of maths resources. The Academic PD modules are almost completed. A positive reconnection with the Internationalisation CoP and a better understanding of the demographics of The Learning Centre students.



Contact Us

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

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