

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)

Visiting Scholar Prof Peter Hutchings, from ALTC, visited USQ on 9 November. Prof Hutchings is the Acting General Manager, Programs and Engagement for ALTC.

Prof Hutchings provided expert advice on the highly competitive learning and teaching opportunities provided by the ALTC.

His visit to USQ is supported by the Promoting Excellence Project (PEI) which is funded by the ALTC.



Prof Peter Hutchings

Learning to teach online website - ALTC funded

The 'Learning to teach online' website developed by COFA Online from the University of NSW has now been launched. Funded through an ALTC Grant, it is intended that this website will provide 'professional development resources for university teachers seeking to introduce web technologies into their classrooms'.

Refer to the [ALTC news release](#) for more information.

Academic Enhancement

Information Flyers

Graduate Qualities and Skills

The USQ Graduate Qualities and Skills- customisation, mapping, and alignment template has been updated and the Defining Learning Levels for USQ skills assessed in your course is also updated. See the [USQ L&T website](#) for more information.

Teaching Tips


Using Technology-enhanced activities to increase student engagement

Technology-enhanced activities can achieve positive learning outcomes through increased student engagement and interaction in your course. What technology-enhanced activities can I use? Which technological tool is appropriate? More importantly, how do I design such a course? For practical evidence-based step-by-step guide on (1) how to design a digital

course, see the *Course Design Guide*; and (2) which technology-enhanced activities to use in your course, see the *Technology-Enhanced Learning & Teaching* flyer; at the USQ L&T ‘[How To](#)’ page, under ‘Designing Learning’.

Embedding academic skills in your course

The most effective way of embedding academic skills for students is through the development of teaching materials and linking it with the course assessment. In so doing, students do not see it as an “add on” but rather as a part of the course. Embedding academic skills involves analysing the skills required to produce the final piece of assessment, and developing activities to develop these skills. For example, you might develop critical reading skills by doing a critical reading exercise with one chapter of the textbook or journal article. More strategies can be found in the *Developing Students’ Academic Skills* flyer at the “[How to](#)” section of the [USQ L & T](#) website. For more information about embedding academic skills and exemplars, visit the [Embedding Academic Skills section](#).



Events

Community Research Evening 2010

USQ held the Community Research Evening on 10 November. This was held in the Refectory and benefited from the smaller space which created an inviting atmosphere. Both LTSU and the Teaching Academy submitted five posters each ranging from topics such as *How students with a disability and/or chronic illness manage their studies at USQ* as well as *Using Web2.0, Pedagogy 2.0 and Moodle 2.0 into your teaching: But just wait one sec*. For more information about this evening please see [this media release](#).

Visiting Scholars

USQ - ANU Visit

In November, a number of ANU staff visited the Toowoomba Campus and participated in the USQ-ANU workshop. The program focused on the use of technologies within the L&T realm and emerging functionality in USQ’s LMS. The visitors from ANU included Professor Liz Deane (PVC – Students), Allan Sieper, Dr Sharon Peoples, Dr Kim Blackmore, Dr Stephen Dunn, Grazia Scotellaro, Dr Glenys Bishop, DR. Kate Wilson and Ilona Van Galen. Topics discussed included:

- Museum Education and Internships
- Computer Sciences and Engineering
- Business and Economics
- Languages

- Statistical Consulting
- Contemporary Science
- Law

Additionally, the morning session of the workshop included a Moodle 'speed-dating' session discussing the installation and working processes used in or in conjunction with Moodle. Anyone interested in finding out more about the interesting work and collaboration that is happening between the universities should register for the USQ – ANU Moodle Community site - <http://snipurl.com.usq-anu> – the enrolment key is USQ –ANU



ANU visitors with USQ staff



Prof Liz Deane and Prof Phil Candy



Participants at the workshops

Date Claimers

Learning Impact Awards 2011 (LIA2011): 24 February 2011

Recognising outstanding applications of technology to support education and learning this one day event which is facilitated by USQ and funded by DEEWR will be held in Melbourne. Registrations and submission of entries are now being called - <http://www.usq.edu.au/lia2011>

Learning & Teaching Week 2011: 9 - 11 May 2011

A call for Expressions of Interest will be sent out in December.

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

Hosted by USQ, this event which will focus on *Mobile technologies: information on the move*, and will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane - <http://www.usq.edu.au/m-libraries>

LTSU Projects and Reporting

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 nine 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

Goal (2010) – 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:

Mapping activities have been conducted with three courses within the Information Systems major in the Bachelor of Commerce. The CPMS Board found it necessary to appoint a new Project Manager to run the this project and Ms Jacinta Crothers has since started in this position. Academic Board did not approve the change in policy to allow for the merging of the Rational and Synopsis in the new Course Specification. However, this will not adversely affect the timelines associated with this project.

2 Assessment

Goal (2010) - Integration of existing emergent technologies with assessment processes. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

- Four of the five resources to be developed in 2010 have now been completed - one final goal (a rubric bank) is to be rolled over into 2011
- Hands-on marking rubric workshop to be deferred until early 2011 to ensure better staff attendance
- Collaboration is taking place with Southern Cross University on an assessment benchmarking project with the Accounting and Humanities discipline. One outcome will be access to benchmarking resource for USQ academic staff.


3 Vertically Integrated Curriculum

Goal (2010) - To develop discipline specific theoretical framework and support development of sustainability with USQ curricula. Accordingly, this past month progress towards this goal has seen:

- Financial support approved to complete the pilot survey of selected programs and courses in relation to embedding of academic skills
- Faculties are generally on target with revitalisation

4 Learning and Teaching Evaluation

Goal (2010) - To develop and implement a benchmarking framework for learning and



The Learning & Teaching Support Unit (LTSU) would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and prosperous new year in 2011.

Contact Us

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

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