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

#### **2011 GOALS**

#### **Goal Statement**

To enhance teaching performance and to provide high quality, flexible and inclusive learning experiences that promotes 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 **seven projects in 2011**. 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. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 2 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan). Project leader: J Bundy

This project will promote best practice (learning and teaching) through an integrated professional development program. This project will develop, implement and evaluate the following professional development strategies:

- Induction
  - Develop a more sophisticated integrated induction that promotes LTSU as a leader in learning and teaching but effectively engages other key HR, ICT, Library and technology arenas
  - o Inductions to be conducted across all campuses
  - Review and consider the need and value of 2 day face to face induction supported by on line information
- Foundation online modules coherent assessment is needed and alignment with Graduate Certificate
- Ongoing development of website teaching resources
- Tailored PD to be monitored

- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within LTSU and faculties should be sought as the L&T Visiting Scholar Program will have budgetary limitations
- Further integration with ICT to offer PD in the area of e-portfolios

#### 2. ASSESSMENT AND ASSURANCE OF LEARNING PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 1 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)

Project leader: S Hammer

This project will ensure coherent planning within and between courses in programs with particular reference to graduate qualities and assessment. This project will include the development of guidelines and will address:

- Dissemination of innovative assessment practice through an exemplar website
- Development of an online rubric bank with exemplars for staff to download and adapt.
   The rubric builder component of this bank will be developed in conjunction with Drs Peter Evans and Megan Kek
- Ongoing links between online course specifications and accreditation documentation and assessment guidelines through Course and Program Mapping System (CPMS)
- Online CPMS 2011 including induction, PD and staff engagement through workshops
- Provision of continued support for faculties to map and align graduate skills with assessment
- Provision of support for faculties to develop strategies for communicating with students about USQ graduate qualities and skills
- Finalisation of assessment, foundation module (best practice)

#### 3. TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 4 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)

Project leader: M Sankey

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. This project will address the implementation of:

- Moodle Development Moodle2 rollout in 2011 which will require support materials and re-vitalisation documentation (including TEL workshops)
- Emergent technologies (ETAG) and investigation of Web 2.0 technologies there will be a requirement for workshops (implication of external resource dependencies) as well as stronger connections with ICT, Moodle support and ADFI
- LTSU staff will be encouraged to attend technology workshops so as to be prepared for events being facilitated by LTSU as well as to understand the problems being faced by academics in their courses
- Continue to align and engage some key activities with the work of ADFI

# 4. VERTICAL INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT MATERIALS PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 1 and 2 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)

Project team: I Weber, G Colclough, L Kimmins

This project considers a values-led and discipline specific curriculum change. It is intended to embed in courses, as appropriate:

• Embed academic skills

- Indigenous perspectives
- Internationalisation of the curriculum consider this in the context of inter-cultural and cross-cultural and provide guidance and examples on embedding internationalisation into their curriculum. It will be necessary to ensure this is included in the 2011 Faculty Learning & Teaching Action Plans as a priority area

Additionally, the project goal is to provide coherent and consistent systems of support for the development of academic skills for all students regardless of location. It is intended to engage staff and students in a cycle of continuous, evidence-based quality improvement and enhancing student academic skills through:

- Support Orientation processes (i.e. workshops, presentations)
- Work with faculty to develop "at-risk" strategies within the first-year student cohort
- Provide academic learning support for students within the faculty as part of the new support teams (i.e. workshops, one-to-one consultations)
- Promote avoidance of academic misconduct strategies this will be Faculty led and through a pedagogical method such as demonstrated by the Faculty of business
- Develop a position paper for peer-assisted learning
- Develop a Maths support base through the Digital Tools Community Site
- Promote LTSU student support systems such as The Learning Centre, Meet-Up and ALS Online so as to enhance the student journey
- Re-develop ALS Online using a portal approach

#### 5. BENCHMARKING AND EVALUATION PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 2 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)
Project leader: M Kek

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. This project will:

- Implement a benchmarking framework for learning and teaching (using the ACODE benchmarks) through the Pilot Inter-Institutional Benchmarking Project (PIIB) eventuating in a Benchmarking Summit to be held mid-2011
- Create a Moodle module on benchmarking in learning and teaching
- Propose a Teaching and Learning Indicator framework
- Introduce cross university transformative quality learning circles with the purpose of engaging academic staff in conversations and ideation about enhancing/improving their courses to achieve better student experiences and learning outcomes. The learning circles will be underpinned by USQ Community of Practice guiding principles and method. The intention is that this program will serve as an extension of the CPR project by LTSU through the provision of post evaluation and L & T support and services to academic staff

# 6. LEARNING & TEACHING RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 2 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)

Project leader: G Curro

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. This project will:

- Embed learning and teaching scholarship, as appropriate, in all USQ Research Centres through ADFI and the proposed CHER (specifically through Faculty of Engineering)
- Increase cross-campus Faculty engagement through more regular meetings of existing Early Career Research CoPs Writers and Publishers. It is intended that this will enhance the deliverables of the year of Research (2010-2011) by promoting research resources and methodologies for HE Research
- Create a structure and sustainable direction for this project through action research, workshops on ethics, ERA rankings, good supervision practices
- Highlight and strengthen links between research (in HE) and learning and teaching practices

## 7. COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoPs) PROJECT

Aligned with Objective 2 of the L&T Goal (overall USQ 5 year plan)

Project leader: J McDonald

The goal of this project is to promote best practice in learning and teaching by engaging both academic and professional staff involved in learning and teaching and/or the support of staff and students in communities of practice. Activities include:

- Providing proven business processes to Communities of Practice (CoP) facilitators and members to established and sustain CoPs;
- Mentoring CoP facilitators and members regarding CoP activities and opportunities to engage in institutional and personal enhancement processes;
- Workshops to enhance facilitator leadership skills and capacity;
- Create and sustain facilitator learning community to share and develop practice and build personal and professional knowledge and expertise;
- USQ and National activities with CoPs to promote CoP visibility and establish management, HR and staff recognition of CoPs playing a key role in promoting and supporting best practice in learning and teaching