

AGENDA ITEM 12**Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee****12.2 Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 11 June 2008**

The Learning and Teaching Committee met on 11 June 2008 when there were present: The Chair (Associate Professor G Ryan) presiding, Professors D Armstrong and B Sutton, Associate Professors D Airey, S Barrie, C Collyer, P McCallum, P McGreevy and C Roberts, Drs J Clegg, D Collins, S Cumming, M Edmond, D Field (for D Guest), C Groenlund, A Rubino, K Shresthna (for R Saunders) and C Taylor, Mr R Anderson, Ms J Gavan, Ms K Laing, Ms D Lockart and Ms P Stevens (for S Hanfling). Ms A Griffiths was in attendance.

The full agenda for the meeting may be accessed on the web:

http://sydney.edu.au/ab/committees/oldcom/learn_teach/2008_agendas.shtml

12.2.1 Vice-Chancellor's Awards**(1) Awards for Outstanding Teaching**

The winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Teaching for 2008 have been announced and the recipients are:

Associate Professor Anthony Masters, School of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

Associate Professor Masters is an outstanding teacher who is committed to enhancing student learning through thoughtful and innovative teaching practice.

Associate Professor Paul McGreevy, Animal Science, Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Associate Professor McGreevy demonstrates a passion for teaching through the development of innovative teaching curricula which is recognised internationally.

In the early teaching career award category:

Dr Michael Anderson, Faculty of Education and Social Work

Dr Anderson teaching pedagogical philosophy encourages debate amongst his students and reflection on their learning outcomes.

This year there were 13 applications received and all were of particularly high standard which reflects the quality of teaching across the University. The Selection Panel found selecting only three winners particularly challenging and agreed to highly commend two of the applications. Many applicants were encouraged to resubmit in 2009.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note and congratulate the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Teaching for 2008.

(2) Award for Support of the Student Experience

The winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Support of the Student Experience for 2008 is **First Year Chemistry Teaching Fellow Team** whose team includes Dr Adam Bridgeman, Professor Trevor Hambley and Professor Scott Kable.

The First Year Chemistry Teaching Fellow Team is a scheme developed by the School of Chemistry in 2006 which aims to establish an enthusiastic, well-

trained team of Teaching Fellows to deliver an enlarged and engaging tutorial program. To support the professional development of the Fellows through the pursuit of research and teaching excellence and to develop new teaching practices and approaches with enhanced student support, feedback and employment.

The Selection Panel agreed that the First Year Chemistry Teaching Fellow Team was an excellent initiative that was sustainable and distinctive benefitting undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note and congratulate the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Support of the Student Experience for 2008.

12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

(1) Focus Topic

The Committee further considered the documents

- *Consultation with Students and*
- *Flexible, Student Centred Learning in the University of Sydney*

It was agreed that Flexible, Student Centred Learning in the University of Sydney has been superseded by other existing Academic Board policy documents. Discussion then focussed on the Consultation with Students document. Changes suggested in the meeting will now be used to amend the document before a new draft is presented to the Academic Board.

(2) Report of the Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee

The Chair sought feedback from the Committee on the Academic Reform paper that was presented by the Provost at the April meeting of the Academic Board and subsequently circulated to members of the Committee. Concerns were raised by members over the implications of the recommendation that every student be given the opportunity for study overseas and the equity issues this would raise. It was explained that the paper was the result of recommendations that came out of working parties. The next phase would be to look at the recommendations and how they might be implemented. It was not yet decided which recommendations would be implemented. The Committee was keen to have further input to the recommendations and will await the timeline for this process. As a starting point, members will seek comment from their faculties for discussion at the August Learning and Teaching Committee meeting.

(3) Report of the Deputy Provost and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)

The Committee noted a report from the Deputy Provost and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching). Professor Armstrong spoke to the written report, adding an extensive review of Indigenous Education and educational support is being undertaken by the University. The review panel will be meeting and compiling a report next semester, with the report due by the end of the year.

(4) Other Matters Considered by the Committee

- The Committee noted the report of the Academic Board meeting of the 28 May 2008.
- The Committee was informed that it was the final meeting for Dr Jack Clegg, of SUPRA. The Committee thanked Dr Clegg for the contribution he has made during his time on the Committee.