

AGENDA ITEM 12**Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee****12.2 Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 22 October 2008**

The Learning and Teaching Committee met on 22 October 2008 when there were present: The Acting Chair (Associate Professor S Barrie) presiding, Professors B Sutton, D Armstrong, Associate Professors D Airey, M Boughton, C Collyer, M Freeman, P McCallum, Drs S Cattle, M Collier (for P McGreevy), S Cumming, M Edmond, E Fonacier, J Jones, A Rubino, F Waugh, Mr A Cooper (for B Meikle), S Greenland, Ms J Gavan, S Hanfling. Ms A Griffiths was in attendance.

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

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

12.2.1 Learning Centre 2007 Annual Report*pages G3-Gx*

The Executive Summary for the report is attached, and the full report is available on the web at: http://www.usyd.edu/stuserv/learning_centre/about.shtml.

Dr Janet Jones spoke to the report informing the Committee that the past year had seen an increase in the number of students assisted by the Centre on a one-to-one basis. This was only possible by continuing to cap the number of hours of help available to each student. The cap also protects the Learning Centre from students that might 'shop around' with lecturers. The Centre negotiates thesis packages for students requiring intense support. Dr Jones expressed concern that thesis editing can pose a conflict of interest. The Centre had always referred postgraduate students to SUPRA for referral to thesis editing services however with an increase in students approaching the Learning Centre it may be timely to for a broader discussion about where students should be directed for editing.

Mr Sam Greenland, noting the trend of increasing postgraduate demand for Learning Centre services, suggested surveying postgraduate students using the Centre to better understand the trend. It was also stated that SUPRA would support a centralised program for thesis assistance.

It was agreed that the Learning Centre continues to provide an invaluable resource to students within tight budgetary constraints. The Committee recognised that if more resources were made available to the Centre, its programs could be expanded and offered to an increased number of students.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Learning Centre's 2007 Annual Report, as set out in the report presented..

12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee**(1) Ethical Principles regarding Special Consideration**

The Committee considered the set of Ethical Principles regarding Special Consideration formulated by the Assessment Working Party. It was agreed that members should be given time to consult with their respective faculties and that questions would be taken on notice ahead of further discussion of the principles at the November meeting of the Learning and Teaching Committee.

(2) Other reports

The Committee noted the following reports:

- the Institute for Learning and Teaching 2007 Annual Report (the report is available on the web at: <http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/aboutus/annualreport07.pdf>);
- the report of the Centre for Continuing Education (for access to this report please contact the [secretariat](#));
- the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 8 October 2008; and
- the report of the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).