

FACULTY OF NURSING

REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PHASE TWO

Recommendation 1	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty continue to identify international benchmarking partners as well as benchmarking common activities and processes within the College of Health Sciences. The Review Team recommends using the 2005 Nursing Research Conference as an opportunity to identify potential international and national benchmarking partners. <i>(See Section 3.2.2)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The Faculty has applied and received a TIF grant to address this issue in 2005.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	It is planned to identify and liaise with a number of institutions in both the UK, Canada and the USA this year to discuss benchmarking with Faculty activities in 2005.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage

Recommendation 2	The Review Team commends the Faculty on its review of postgraduate coursework offerings and recommends that it includes Indigenous Australian Health in a new postgraduate course or as a speciality area in the current Master of Nursing, and continues with its goal for introduction of the new coursework offerings in 2005. <i>(See Section 4.1.3)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The postgraduate coursework offerings of the Faculty have undergone extensive review in the last 18 months. Consultations with both other faculties within the University and with external professionals and professional bodies have taken place.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The revised postgraduate coursework offerings will be submitted to the Academic Board for approval in the second quarter of 2005. The University's repositioning of the Faculty and the managing change processes that are still in place have necessitated limiting the number of specialty areas the Faculty is able to offer. However Indigenous issues have been fully incorporated into the proposed Master of Nursing Practice. With the greater College-wide focus on Indigenous issues and coursework, the Faculty is reviewing the best way to continue its academic programs in Indigenous nursing and health care in concert with the College's evolving Indigenous strategy.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	The review has addressed a number of concerns raised by interested parties both external and internal to the University.

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Recommendation 3	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty should take a leadership role in bringing together participants in clinical training to address quality and process issues around the clinical experience. This might include an investigation of the means of rewarding individuals for their participation in clinical practice, e.g. by the appointment of Clinical Associates and Clinical Chairs. <i>(See Sections 4.2.2 and 8.2.2)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The Faculty has commenced a review of its honorary positions and links with the clinical environment with a view to enlarging the participation of clinical staff in its programs.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	This process is on-going.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.

Recommendation 4	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty examine ways for existing students to gain access to the new Bachelor of Nursing course. <i>(See Section 4.2.3)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	Students who remain enrolled in the old BN course are completing their degrees by taking their remaining units from those offered in the new BN.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	No further action planned.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	There has been no formal evaluation of this and it would be difficult to obtain a valid response because the majority of those students who remain in the old course are students who have failed one or more units of study. Consideration might be given to evaluating those combined degree students who have had access to the new course.

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Recommendation 5	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate the Teaching Award schemes already in place in the College and University, particularly any schemes that involve nominations from both peers and students. <i>(See Section 4.3.1)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	No action taken
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	It is planned to introduce a teaching award scheme, however the events that have taken place in the last 9 months have not been conducive to discussions over matters such as this.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage

Recommendation 6	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate the inclusion of a Research Roundtable as part of the review of postgraduate coursework offerings and investigate means of extending this research assistance to postgraduate research students. <i>(See Section 4.5.1)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The review of postgraduate coursework has resulted in a number of research focused units being developed. Apart from these separate units of study a greater research focus has been incorporated into units throughout the degree.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The research component in postgraduate coursework will be further developed as the new MN progresses. Postgraduate research students will be able to take research methodology units of study that will constitute part of the new MN.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage

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Recommendation 7	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate ways of fostering a collegiate culture amongst researchers, including ways to support an increase in the numbers of full-time postgraduate research students. <i>(See Section 4.6.2)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The RDSU is now open and a Director appointed (Professor Kate White). Professor White commenced her position in the Faculty in January 2005.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	Further action is planned after Professor White has had an opportunity to fully assess the requirements of the Faculty. Professor White will assist staff to develop research teams based on the final research plan of the Faculty. As part of her role, she will also consider ways the Faculty can increase the number of research students.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.

Recommendation 8	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate the use of the communication modules of WebCT and the development of class email groups to overcome remote student's sense of isolation. <i>(See Section 5.2.1)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The Faculty has applied for and received partial funding for the employment of a WebCT person to stimulate use and development of WebCT throughout the Faculty.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	Advertisements for this position will go out shortly.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.

Recommendation 9	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty negotiate again with Facilities Planning and Management for a shuttle bus between the two campuses. <i>(See Section 5.3)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The Faculty has approached both Facilities Management and Security over this issue several times in the past 6 months as has the Sydney University Nursing Society (SUNS). The Faculty assisted SUNS by undertaking a questionnaire of students who would like access to a bus, however the response from the University was that as the Faculty is only two blocks from Parramatta Road there was no necessity for this service.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	None planned
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Unsuccessful

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Recommendation 10	The Review Team recommends that one of the initial responsibilities of the RDSU be a review of the Faculty's Research Plan. The revised Plan should include Key Performance Indicators, timeframes and an allocation of responsibility. <i>(See Section 6.1.5)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	The Faculty has recently conducted a strategic planning retreat with all staff. One of the main areas of discussion was research and the Director, RDSU (Professor White) plans to utilise the information gained to review the Faculty's research plan and to incorporate KPIs, etc, over the next few months.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	Development of a strategic research plan and operational plan including KPIs and timeframes for all academic staff in the Faculty.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.

Recommendation 11	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty liaise with the College Dean of Research and Development to investigate opportunities for cooperative research projects in the priority areas of ageing and indigenous health. <i>(See Section 6.2.3)</i>
Action taken by the Faculty	This has been designated to the portfolio of the Director, RDSU (Professor White). She has had a number of discussions with the College Dean and these are ongoing.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	Once the Faculty's research plans are more clearly defined, Professor White will take further action on behalf of the Faculty to develop areas of collaborative research.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.

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Recommendation 12	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate making compulsory its process for the identification and remediation of NESB and International students at risk. A model is available in the Student Preparation Program provided for International Students by the Faculty of Health Sciences. (<i>See Section 7.1.2</i>)
Action taken by the Faculty	As the Faculty has effectively ceased undergraduate enrolments the processes associated with this recommendation have not been carried out.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	With the commencement of the graduate entry program in 2006 the Faculty will need to re-assess the remediation requirements of students based on enrolment demographics.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Not applicable at this stage.