STRATEGIC POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION

Faculty of Architecture
Boards of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies
New and Revised Unit of Study

Professor Gary Moore

DESC 9075
Credit point value: 6

STRATEGIC POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION
Semester: July, annually

Graduate
Intensive mode with 5 sessions of average duration 7+ hours each for total of 36 hours contact time.

Professor-in-charge: Professor Gary Moore

Entry Requirements

Assumed Knowledge. None necessary, though for any students in the graduate Facilities Management program, it would be beneficial if they have completed FM2 that has a small segment on POE in it; this segment can serve well as an introduction to this more intensive and extensive course. Would also be beneficial for all students to have exposure to research methods like questionnaire design and statistical data analysis, but not necessary as can be introduced sufficiently in the context of this unit.

Unit of Study Outline and Brief Description

Aim

The principle aims of this unit are to develop students’ knowledge, skills and capacity to understand, design, and implement effective and strategic post-occupancy evaluations (POE) in various facility contexts. The unit will aim to develop students understanding of the conceptual knowledge required to conduct post-occupancy evaluations, including that relating to evaluation frameworks and research methods employed in post-occupancy evaluation. The unit will further aim to develop, or to consolidate and refine, students’ skills in planning, designing and implementing POEs through lectures, readings of the POE literature and related research methods literature, and the planning and conducting of an actual POE project. Finally, the course will aim to develop students’ skills in analysing the information collected in POEs, and in writing practical and strategic reports based on the findings.

Objectives

On the successful completion of the unit of study, students will have demonstrated:

- A solid understanding of the conceptual frameworks underlying different types of post-occupancy evaluation
- An ability to strategically plan and design post-occupancy evaluations that address specific organizational objectives or needs
- A broad awareness of the scope of different methodologies applicable to POEs, and the capacity to develop and implement two methods within a POE project
- The capacity to efficiently and meaningfully analyse the results from a POE, apply these results the strategic issue the POE is seeks to address, and develop a concise report which communicates the POE process and strategic recommendations
Generic Attributes

On the successful completion of the unit of study, students will have developed their capacities:
• to identify and formulate problems, and to envisage and enact processes in response to them
• to use information in critical thinking, making informed judgements, solving problem, and in constructing knowledge and arguments
• to make effective use of oral, written, statistical, visual and other forms of communication to critique, negotiate, create and communicate understanding

These capacities will be developed through the learning of conceptual knowledge on POEs, and the subsequent application of this knowledge in the planning, designing, implementing and reporting of strategic POE projects.

Contribution of Unit of Study to its Program

The unit will be a recommended option in the three versions of the Facility Management Program (MDesSc (FM) and newly proposed MFM and MCom/MFM), an elective in the MDesSc (Building) and (Building Services) Programs as well as the other MDesSc streams in the architectural science area, an elective for BArch and senior/3rd year BDesArch students, and available as a CPD course for outside professionals. It will also be offered as a possible elective to the MPJobMan degree in Engineering.

Student Workload

Contact hours = total of 36 hours over 5 sessions

Self Directed Learning

• Class preparation = 3 hours per week (ca 7.2 hrs per session = 36 hours total)
• Assessment preparation = 60 hours per semester (POE project)

Total Effort Expected = 132 hours

The unit schedule will be as follows:

SESSION 1 Fri 12 - 6 pm 6hrs
SESSION 2 Sat 9 - 5 pm 8hrs
SESSION 3 Sat 9 - 5 pm 8hrs
SESSION 4 Fri 12 – 6 pm 6hrs
SESSION 5 Sat 9 - 5 pm 8hrs
REVIEW Fri 1 or 2 – 5 pm POE project review session

Assessment

• Participation as evidenced by critical discussion of readings in class (20%)
• Report One “POE project plan and presentation”: assessment and proposed POE strategy due for Session 3 (30%)
• Report Two “POE Final Report”: results, analysis and interpretation of the POE due for Session 6 (post-semester review session) (50%)

Textbooks:


Baird, George et al. Building Evaluation Techniques (Centre for Building Performance Research,


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Unit Content and Context

Main Reasons for this Unit of Study

To provide a new unit of study that focuses on the assessment of buildings and the evaluation of facilities in use. There is already a short session and exercise on POE in FM2. This unit will build on that introduction to provide FM and other students with the tools to be able to conduct professionally, strategic post-occupancy evaluations of facilities in use.

Research-Led Teaching

Utilisation of Research and Scholarship in Teaching this Unit

This unit of study will utilize a number of the presenters’ experience and skills related to research they have previously and currently conducted. This includes Professor Gary Moore’s research and consulting on POE with specialities in housing for the elderly, schools and others; Dr Simon Hayman’s research specialities in building systems; Associate Professor Warren Julian's expertise in lighting; and Dr David Leifer’s work on applying POE with a facility management practice framework. The current research on Rohan Lulham on correctional facilities, and previous work on government building will also be drawn upon. We will also be making use of our recently departed colleague, David Rowe’s research on indoor work environments and performance, and that of his colleague and Visiting Scholar to our Faculty, Associate Professor Jacqueline Vischer has internationally recognised research on workplace evaluation and performance.

Development of Student Skills in Research and Scholarship

Fundamental to this unit of study will be the development of students’ research skills. The unit will cover research planning, design, methods, analysis and reporting in the context of developing a research-based POE evaluation strategy for a particular building context.