Report on 2011 Orientation Activities
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PURPOSE

The Orientation Program is designed to facilitate the academic, cultural and social adjustment of first year commencing undergraduate students. Program activities are linked to the Key Strategic goals of the University, namely enhancing the Student Experience, developing excellence in Learning and Teaching, and encouraging participation for students from diverse cultural and social backgrounds.

Orientation is identified as a process that extends beyond the first few weeks of a student's first semester at university. Orientation and transition activities at the University of Sydney are seen to commence with the University’s contact with prospective students, their parents and schools. The process continues in the provision of the intensive events and programs run through Orientation Week, and extends through to specialised programs for students during their first year at Sydney. The Orientation Program is closely linked with the First Year Experience activities being developed by the Faculties.

Students in their first year have special learning needs arising from the social and academic transition they are experiencing. From multiple starting points, all students are on a journey to becoming self-managing or self-directed learners, and the first-year curriculum must help them get there. Kift and Nelson, 2005 p. 229

Development of the Program was ongoing in 2011, with the Project Group continuing to work cooperatively in developing the integrated program for Orientation Week activities on the Camperdown and Darlington campuses. Links continued to be provided to Orientation activities on the other campuses. Project Group membership and Terms of Reference are listed at Appendix C.

Significant developments for 2011 include;

1. The mainstreaming of International Orientation from the preceding week to within Orientation week. This involved changing the event from a 4 day to a one and half day event, and included parallel social activities with the University of Sydney Union and Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness.

2. The introduction of the First-Year Book Club. (Discussed later and full report available at Appendix D)

ORIENTATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS

There are many components that are integral to the Orientation Program, these are;

University Welcome to New Students

Each year, The University Welcome to New Students marks the commencement of the Orientation Program. This is a student’s first opportunity to experience a formal University event in the Great Hall with the carillon and a large academic procession, accompanied by the University organist. In 2011, students were welcomed by The Chancellor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, The Vice-Chancellor Dr. Michael Spence, the Presidents of the Students’ Representative Council and The University of Sydney Union, and the O-Week Directors. Principal Officers, Residential College and Faculty representation in this year’s academic procession numbered 45. The event was very well attended by students with The Great Hall being filled to capacity (700 seats plus standing).
International Orientation Program

In previous years, the International Student Welcome has been held in the week preceding the Orientation program. Following feedback from students and staff the program changed in timing and structure. Semester one International Student Orientation entailed;

a) Arrival Information Sessions. Attended by 534 students. Sixteen sessions were held for newly arriving students from 7 February to 3 March 2011. These sessions provided basic, vital information about accommodation, life in Sydney, university services and allowed attendees to meet fellow students.

b) One and a half days of activities included two formal welcomes in the Great Hall, where students were welcomed by senior staff at the university, International Office, the Union and Counselling and Psychology Services (CAPS) and were entertained by Thulli Dreaming. The program also included social activities and tours of both the University campus and the city of Sydney in collaboration with USU and SUSF.

The shift in 2011 of the timing and structure of the International Orientation Program facilitated transition into the main Orientation program and highlighted the importance of attending faculty welcomes and skills development workshops. Data from the Orientation survey revealed that 72% of the International respondents also attended some of the Orientation events held from 23-25 February.

First-Year Book Club

Introduced in 2011 the First-Year Book Club aimed to provide all incoming undergraduate students with a common platform for discussion and engagement. The book “the Secret River” was selected late in 2010 and distributed to 8500 students in January and February at in-person enrolment. Students were able to participate in online discussions through the University facebook site, competitions, public speaking skills workshops and debates, and attend the culminating event in the Great Hall with Kate Grenville in facilitated discussion with Associate Professor Will Christie. The First-Year Book Club promotion entailed media (external SMH and ABC radio702), Staff News and AtSydney in conjunction with internal communications and the Media Office. A full report of the First-Year Book Club activities is provided in Appendix D.

Promotion

Promotion of the Orientation 2011 program included distribution of the Orientation 2011 Booklet through direct mail out; an Orientation 2011 website linked to the look and feel of the booklet, containing extensive links from University sites; word of mouth; direct email to students, as well as information included in presentations at University community outreach events such as Sydney Uni LIVE! and Information Day. An advert was also placed in the 2011 Student Guide. The program was highlighted to students accessing assistance through the Student Help Line staffed by Student Ambassadors.

Orientation 2011 Booklet

Following developments to the booklet in 2009 and 2010, and feedback from the annual evaluation survey and focus groups, further refinements were made to streamline information about Faculty welcomes, academic information sessions and transition talks. Information regarding Orientation activities held on the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM), the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) and Cumberland campuses was included in the booklet, as was USU O-Week 11 information. The booklet also included information about the First-Year Book Club. The booklet was distributed by mail to all newly enrolling first year students (local addresses only). Copies of the booklet were distributed to newly arriving international students at International Student Orientation sessions presented by the Counselling and Psychological
Service staff on 21 and 22 February 2011 and were available at the USU Access tents throughout O-Week. For reference, the image on the booklet is replicated on the front of this report.

Orientation 2011 website

The website was updated by the Student Experience Coordinator, Student Support Services, supported by staff in Web and Print Production. The website and booklet were developed in parallel with each other, as in previous years, to strengthen the Orientation Program identity and provide visual consistency. Downloadable pdf’s of the booklet and the Orientation Week timetable were made available.

As discussed above, the University of Sydney Current Students Orientation website was reconfigured to include Orientation event information, whereas a separate campaign website had been developed previously. This Orientation site is live year round, with periodic updating of the information and resources contained on the site. The site contains dynamic feature panes, links and images. The site remains live throughout semester, with ongoing uploading of resources and information about transition and skills acquisition.

The Orientation 2011 button and link featured on the University home page, Future Students (START) and the Services for Students pages. Faculties were advised on how to link to the site from their websites. Most Faculties offering Orientation to undergraduate students posted the button on their home page.

Within the Orientation 2011 site, University services and information were highlighted by links to key websites including START, the MyUni student portal, ICT Computer Access Labs, IT Assist, Services for Students, Student Life, Getting Around (campus maps) and Security Services (safety on campus). The Contact Us page provided direct email links and phone numbers to enable undergraduate students to directly contact Faculties, University services and the RTA transport information site. The Starting Uni Quiz was situated within the site and on the home page, providing dynamic links to information and resources located within the Orientation site.

A significant addition to the Orientation site for 2011 was the introduction of the First-Year Book Club site, which contained information about activities, and competitions students could participate in during semester one, information about the chosen book “the Secret River” and links to further information about the book and author.

Promotion to University staff

Principal Officers of the University, Deans, Heads of Schools, Heads of Residential Colleges and key administrative staff were provided with information regarding the Program and invited to attend the University Welcome to New Students. Information regarding the Orientation program was sent through the Staff Newsletter to promote awareness of the upcoming events. The First-year Book Club notices in the Staff Newsletter received a high number of hits with 450 staff clicking on the initial story and 850 clicking on the free book notice.

Role of Convenor in other promotional activities

The Orientation Convenor and the Student Experience Coordinator continued to have responsibility for the coordination and development of the program; for liaison with the O-Week Directors from the University of Sydney Union; the mail out of the Orientation booklet plus the O-Week 11: Welcome Aboard flyer; the promotion of information regarding the Faculty and School Welcomes; and the organisation of the University Welcome to New Students. Staff from the Graduations Office and Student Centre assisted with the organisation of the University Welcome. Student Ambassadors from Student Recruitment Unit were employed for the Orientation mail out, as ushers at the Official Welcome, guest speakers within the Mature-Age, Rural and Interstate and Broadway welcomes, and as representatives for student services in Faculty welcomes.
Orientation 2011 Evaluation

Evaluation of the Orientation 2011 program and promotional materials was conducted through feedback questionnaires at seminar and information sessions, as well as the annual e-survey to undergraduate students in weeks 10-11 of semester 1, 2011. The Web Report was not available in full for the 2011 campaign due to IT security concerns early in January 2011. Web data are presented from ‘CrazyEgg’ statistics as embedded prior to January 2011.

Through the 2011 e-survey, the majority of students reported that attending the Orientation enabled them to feel a sense of belonging to the University (approx 65% Agree (A) or Strongly agreed (SA) ), to identify sources of support on campus (56% A or SA), to find their way around campus (75% A or SA), to enjoy their first few weeks on campus (68% A or SA) and to feel more comfortable on campus (70% A or SA).

One new student said the best thing about Orientation was;

“Just the atmosphere of the uni and the ability to feel like you got to know the people and places around the university.”

 Welcomes and Orientation activities are provided to specifically target the needs of each of the following cohorts: Broadway scheme students; Rural and Interstate students; Mature age and Part time students. Transition seminars and academic skills workshops enable all students to develop academic, personal and social skills to achieve to their potential at University level. Over 32% of first year students who completed the e-survey for the 2011 program reported being from a Non-English Speaking Background (NESB). One fifth (21.2%) of all students were the first in their family to attend university, and 7.4% were Australian rural students. Of the rural students, close to 66% attended a rural public school. More than 25% of all respondents were more than 22 years old.

In the 2011 e-survey, more than 50% of non-attendees to the Orientation program reported in retrospect that they should have attended. Please see Appendix E for a full copy of the Orientation 2011 survey. Student feedback of individual seminars and workshops are included in the evaluation and quality assurance cycle for ongoing innovation and development of the seminars for the following program. Recommendations stemming from the student survey will be included in the overall recommendations and planning for the 2012 cycle.

Links with the University of Sydney Union (USU) and other student groups

In the week preceding Semester One, the Orientation 2011 Program continued to be provided in parallel with USU O-Week 11: Welcome Aboard. This parallel programming continues to recognize the value of the total University of Sydney experience and the importance of the integration of academic and social, cultural and sporting activities in student life at the University. To facilitate the programming of activities, key USU representatives are invited to attend Orientation Project Group meetings. Each year the Convenor of the Orientation Project Group liaises with USU staff as well as the O-Week Directors to ensure effective collaboration between Orientation and O-Week activities. The staff from University services and Campus Infrastructure Services are also closely involved in facilitating and supporting Orientation and O-Week activities.

In 2011 and under the banner of O-Week 11: Welcome Aboard stalls were available on the Front Lawn and Eastern Avenue for three days (Wednesday-Friday) while other activities were held at Manning House. Other entertainment events were held in the evenings throughout the three days. The USU worked cooperatively with the Orientation Project Group to ensure cross promotion of events through the Semester One Orientation period. The Orientation 2011 booklet and website included promotion of O-Week 11 activities. The Orientation website included information on all student organisations and provided links to the USU, the Students'
Representative Council, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association and Sydney University Sport and Fitness. Similarly, the O-Week 11 website included links to the Orientation 2011 website. The promotional mail out to first year students was jointly funded by the Orientation Program and the USU. During O-Week 11 the USU distributed additional copies of Orientation booklets from Information tents on the Front Lawn and to USU Student volunteers at O-Week training sessions.

**Specific Programs**

The intensive Orientation to the University program was provided over five days, 21-25 February 2011, and included the University Welcome to New Students, International Orientation Programs, Faculty Welcomes and Information Sessions, and academic skills and transition seminars. Detailed descriptions of the programs offered can be found at Appendices A and B.

The University Welcome, and the Faculty and School Welcomes continue to be integrated into the Orientation program due to the key importance for commencing students to feel connected with the academic staff of their Faculty and Departments and be integrated into the academic life of the University, in order to positively impact upon student retention. The Faculties of Arts, Science, Business, and Veterinary Science continued to provide extended Orientation activities held in addition to their Faculty Welcomes. The faculties of Health Sciences, the SCA and SCM’s independent Orientation programs were coordinated with the main campus Orientations this year to allow students to experience both. The 2011 Program included extended activities by the University of Sydney Library, the Learning Centre and Counselling and Psychological Services as outlined in Appendix A.

The Koori Centre was open throughout the duration of the Orientation program. The Financial Assistance Service offered information sessions. The Mathematics Learning Centre, Disability Services and the Careers Centre held open days. The International Office provided seminars on Student Exchange opportunities whilst studying at Sydney.

**Outcomes and future directions**

The Orientation Program contributes significantly to the University's welcome to new students. Attendance at all activities continues to be strong, and has increased at a number of activities. Feedback from students attending indicates a high level of satisfaction with the Program. Many students stated that the Program assisted them in gaining a sense of belonging at the University, getting to know their way around campus and meeting staff and fellow students. An outline of the various activities involved and the level of attendance at activities, where available, is provided in Appendix A.

A review of the Orientation 2011 Program by the members of the Project Group was held on 28 April 2011. The review indicated a successful outcome for 2011 based on feedback, endorsed the program developments trialed this year, and looked at ways of taking forward the support of students during 2011. The Project Group notes that developments of the Program will need to be informed by the University of Sydney White paper, as well as responding to demands for increased support and assistance to students from diverse equity cohorts.

The Project Group has endorsed the inclusion of the Postgraduate Orientation in semester two, 2011, and proposes that if the First-Year Book Club is to be repeated in 2012, significant planning needs to commence in mid 2011 to enable the integration of First-Year Book Club activities into first year curriculum activities. The Group further affirmed the value of the Orientation program to meet the needs of commencing students to tertiary study at the University of Sydney.

Jordi Austin
Director, Student Support Services
Convenor Orientation 2011 Project Group
APPENDIX A
Support Services

Accommodation Information Service

The Accommodation Information Service provided two hour-long information sessions for Orientation. These included a PowerPoint presentation followed by a question and answer session.

The presentation provided:
• a description of the different on-campus options, the application process, and details of current on-campus vacancies;
• an overview of resources available to find off-campus accommodation;
• a description of different types of off-campus accommodation including current costs;
• a discussion of the Accommodation Database, including a demonstration showing how to access and search it;
• information about tenancy matters and places to get information and assistance;
• information about other assistance and resources the Accommodation Information Service provides, including information about using public transport to get to University and resources to help students set up a home.

An information pack was provided to each student.

35 students attended on Wednesday 23 February and 10 students attended on Thursday 24 February. 39 students completed evaluation surveys. The results from the evaluation survey indicated that of the 39 respondents 8 students strongly agreed and 29 students agreed that the “session was informative and helpful”. Two students were undecided.

Accommodation Information Sessions for international students

From 24 January to 3 March, Accommodation Information Sessions were presented for newly arrived international students, each for one hour. From the 7-25 February, these sessions were held Monday to Friday. Outside of this period they were held when needed. 562 international students were assisted in this period.

The sessions were interactive and included a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer session, and information packs were provided. The sessions addressed the specific accommodation needs of newly arrived international students.

Students were asked to evaluate the session through a short questionnaire. The overwhelming majority agreed or strongly agreed that:
• The session covered the topics they wanted to know about
• The information was presented clearly and was easy to understand
• The written information in the information pack was clear and useful
• The information provided was sufficient to commence their accommodation search
• Their concerns and questions were effectively addressed by the Accommodation Officer
• They had enough time to interact with the Accommodation Officer.
Alumni Relations Office

Goal

This program aims to introduce the concept of alumni and its significance to new students as soon as they are on campus, using the Orientation Faculty Welcomes and Official Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor. We aim to lay the groundwork for a range of alumni familiarisation and student-alumni engagement programs, on which we build as students progress through their university career, so that by the time they graduate they are a committed and hopefully active University of Sydney alumni.

Strategy

The ARO contacted all Faculties and the Vice-Chancellor with the request to use the following text in their official Orientation Week welcomes:

"As a newly-enrolled student, you are now part of the University of Sydney community, and when you graduate you will become a life-long member of Sydney’s alumni community (‘alumni’ is Latin for ‘graduates’). Through the Alumni Relations Office, this community offers a worldwide network of friendship, support, services and benefits, which I hope you will take advantage of over the years."

In addition a PowerPoint display is available to representatives and faculty staff to show at new student welcomes and other functions.

Careers Centre

During Orientation Week, the Careers Centre had a number of Student Ambassadors on campus who handed out promotional material and encouraged students to subscribe for job vacancies through the Job Alert system on the Careers Centre Jobs Database. From 21 February to 25 March, 1558 students subscribed to Job Alert. This figure accounts for the promotional activities in Orientation Week as well as Weeks 1 and 2 (which includes two Careers Fairs scheduled in Week 1). Job Alert subscriptions started at 15,773 on 21 February and rose to 17331 by 25 March.

The drop-in sessions (where students could talk with a careers adviser and were shown around the Resource Centre) were popular with students during Orientation Week and the numbers dropped off in Week 1. We saw a total of 74 students in Orientation Week and a further 13 students in Week 1 when they were given a more general introduction to the Careers Centre and the resources available to them.

The Careers Centre also conducted the following sessions:
• Looking for Casual Work – Wednesday 23 February, attended by 200 students
• Looking for Casual Work – Thursday 24 February, attended by 150 students

The attendance numbers at the Looking for Casual Work sessions were higher than 2010.

Careers staff did not personally participate in Faculty Welcomes but contributed a PowerPoint slide to the presentation on Services to Students conducted by Student Ambassadors at Faculty Welcomes. The Career Development Officer (Postgraduate) presented to over 120 students at the Induction Program for Postgraduate Students on 9 March 2011.
Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) presented workshops and seminars across an array of topics and issues relevant to commencing students. Written feedback, in the form of standardized evaluation questionnaires, indicated that the seminars were useful and relevant, in an appropriate format, and that respondents would recommend the seminars to future commencing students. The majority of students found out about the seminars via the Orientation Booklet. There was a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students in all seminars. Presenters faced the usual difficulty in getting participants to fill in evaluation forms as the main interest was in dashing to the next event.

In 2011, seminars were provided on the following topics plus new programs*
- Social networking: to help students learn to take advantage of opportunities to make new friends and establish contacts. This workshop was rated highly with clear feedback that students liked interactive events.
- Working in groups*; to help students work effectively in a group and manage different personality types
- Well balanced lifestyle: to help students set clear goals, plan their time and manage stress
- Succeeding at University: to help students realize their potential and enjoy the University experience
- Happiness: to help students learn to use their time and talents to live with meaning and purpose
- CAPS for the second year coordinated student ambassadors to participate in Faculty Welcomes at most undergraduate faculty welcomes. Student ambassadors introduced students to issues that they may confront throughout their studies, and directed them to the range of support services available on campus, including Services for Students, Careers and Scholarships.
- *Presentations were provided to the Residential Colleges. A student ambassador visited most Residential Colleges during the course of the Orientation Program.
- Residential Advisor training was provided to some residential Colleges where invited.

In 2011, the Mature Age and Part-time Students’ Welcome were run by Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for the sixth year. Students were contacted individually by email and were invited to attend an information seminar and social activity. The program included a presentation by CAPS on “Top ten tips: Surviving and Thriving at University”. In addition, both the Learning Centre and the Financial Assistance Service provided key information relevant to this student group. Two senior year mature age students also shared their experiences and strategies for coping at University. Further presentations were provided by the SRC and Student Union and, to conclude the session, a “Q and A” panel (which, in addition to the speakers noted above, also included representatives from Fisher Library and the Student Centre) answered questions arising from the audience.

Approximately 100 students participated in the event. Feedback was highly positive, with all respondents indicating that they would recommend the event to future mature age students. The University of Sydney Union also provided a social event after the information session.

The “Broadway Welcome” was re-introduced this year providing an orientation program for students entering the university under the Broadway scheme. In 2009 this program had been part of the SOAR Welcome that had included Commonwealth Learning Scholarship students. Changes in the scholarship funding structure for 2010 however resulted in a decision to revise the target group for this orientation program.

All commencing students entering Broadway scheme were contacted individually via email. Approximately 30 students attended on the day. The Broadway program was held on the day before Orientation week commenced to ensure privacy, as students have expressed concern about being identified as a Broadway student by other commencing students. Student Ambassadors gave presentations to commencing students about accessing university resources and their experience in managing the transition to university. Other presentations through the
afternoon included addresses on coping with change and “Finding your Feet at Uni” from CAPS, along with information from the Learning Centre, Disability Service, Financial Assistance Service, and the Students Representative Council. A “Q and A” panel also included participants from the Library, the Student Centre and the Student Union. Students were given the opportunity to meet other students at an afternoon tea held at the end of the afternoon’s program.

In 2011, a re-formulated Country and Interstate Welcome was also run for the second time. Rural/interstate students were identified and contacted individually via email to invite them to attend the two-hour welcome program. Unfortunately this session coincided with a major faculty's program and only about 10 students attended this session. The session included; practical information about transport and activities in Sydney, ideas for managing transitions into new learning and social communities, information about financial support options from the Financial Assistance Service and “advice” from two Student Ambassadors, themselves rural students, about coping with the first year student experience. The information session was followed by a luncheon provided by the University of Sydney Union, which facilitated social support networking among these students.

The student presentations for both the Mature Age and the Broadway programs have subsequently been uploaded as podcasts available to all students on the university Orientation website.

Innovation 2011

As a result of the realignment of the Counselling Service and International Student Support Unit the realigned services known as Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) reconfigured orientation events for study abroad and exchange and full degree international students. Separate Orientation welcomes were held for these groups at the beginning of O week activities so that international students could participate in O week events. The welcomes included information about student organisations and visa and safety information in Australia. A presentation by an aboriginal dance group was a focal point of the welcome. The Student Union organized events such as Sydney trips and a welcome party. The sports union organized a BBQ.

Disability Services

Disability Services conducted the following Orientation sessions in February 2011:

Wednesday 23 February 3pm-4pm: Accessing Disability Services (Find out how to access services and support from Disability Services)
Thursday 24 February 11am-12pm: Accessing Disability Services (Find out how to access services and support from Disability Services)
These sessions were run by Disability Services staff. At the first session on the 23rd February, 5 students attended (one was already enrolled and registered with Disability Services and the other 4 were prospective students) and at the second session on the 24th February no students attended.

Thursday 24 February 2.30pm-3.15pm: Disability Services: Assistive Technology (Become familiar with assistive hardware and software to help you progress in your studies)
Thursday 24 February 3.15pm-4pm: Disability Services: Navigating MyUni (Gain an introduction to Myuni and managing student administration and email accounts)

These sessions were run by ICT assistive technology staff. A small group of only 3 students attended both sessions, one who had already been referred for Assistive Technology Support, another who was likely to request access to speech recognition, and unknown whether the third student would require AT support.
Financial Assistance Service

The Financial Assistance Service provided two information sessions called Money Matters. The sessions were well attended, with 35 students attending on Wednesday 23 February and 24 on Friday 25 February.

This year the sessions were co-presented by Finance Journalist Ross Greenwood from Channel Nine as part of the University’s partnership with the ANZ Bank.

The sessions covered financial assistance available at the University and information regarding Centrelink assistance. Budgeting and debt management, with a particular focus on credit card debt, were also discussed.

The Financial Assistance Service also gave presentations at the Broadway Welcome, Mature Age and Part-time Welcome, and the Rural and Interstate Welcome.

ICT Computer Access Labs

The primary objective of the ICT Orientation 2011 program was to consolidate and promote knowledge of student computing services on campus amongst the student population of the University. Focus was placed on the new intake of students for the 2011 academic year and bringing current students up to date with the new free Internet model being used on campus. The secondary objective was to further test and strengthen the template used last year for orientation periods.

To this end 2 programs were offered with two and three streams each:

Staff volunteer program
- Organising committee
- Stall volunteers

Student engagement Program
- Faculty Welcomes
- Information sessions
- USU O-Week Stall

The Staff volunteer program was broken down into two streams, the organising committee (whose duty it was to compile the program and enact it) and the stall volunteers. These volunteers came from a wide range of jobs in ICT from front line staff to directors. This program was valuable for the students as they were able to meet administration and senior staff that they would otherwise rarely encounter. It was valuable for the staff as they experienced a front line role and saw the end result of their hard work on campus with the varying parts of the IT Infrastructure.

The student engagement was the primary thrust of the ICT orientation activities and was broken down into three parts, faculty welcomes, information sessions and the USU O-Week stall.

The faculty welcomes were run by ICT Relationship Managers for those faculties that asked. The Faculty of Health Science and the Camden campus both used Access Lab staff in their welcome lectures to students. Unfortunately due to time constraints we were unable to be part of the international student welcome this year.

The information sessions were well received. There was a low turnout on main campus, but a 5 approval rating (on a 1-10 scale with 1 being poor and 10 excellent) was received by those who attended. The information from the classes was also left running on a loop in the geosciences
access lab as an informal drop in information session during the orientation period. The Cumberland campus had a major success with their laptop setup classes with an initial 90% setup success rate and the remaining 10% setup within 24 hours.

The USU O-Week stall was the highlight of our program. Here we gave out information to students on the new free internet policy, wireless setup guides, pens with the switch web site link, tote bags advertising the free internet and answered general IT questions. Anecdotally 95% of our questions were related to wireless issues and/or free Internet. This is reinforced by our data collected from the Fisher Access Lab where an average of 150 students were provided with wireless assistance between 9am and 4pm (data gathered from Extro admin console on vpn account changes as primary assistance step). 811 students visited the stall over Orientation period, which was over double the amount of students we talked to last year.

International Exchange Program

The study abroad and exchange team participated in two days of orientation for the incoming study abroad and exchange students, combined with CAPS. The new format was well received and more changes are to come in the next semester. Our outbound student exchange program was represented with a stall for all 3 days of USU orientation. Unfortunately we did not have a booth with high student traffic so the impact was limited in comparison to previous years. Our two information sessions were well attended.

Learning Centre

The Learning Centre presented thirteen introductory Learning to Learn lectures during Orientation 2011, two of which were repeated. Over 2550 students from a wide range of Faculties attended these introductory lectures and student evaluations were very positive. Lecture notes and presentation slides were accessible for students to download from the Learning Centre website.

Lectures and attendances were:
• Strategies for Successful Learning c 250 students
• Lectures and How to Use them c 350 students
• Successful Essay Writing in First Year c 800 students
• Developing Critical Thinking Skills c 400 students
• Collaborative Learning c 30 students
• Successful Report Writing c 260 students
• Working in Groups c 75 students
• Learning about Plagiarism c 75 students
• Developing Oral Presentation Skills c 250 students
• Mature Age Welcome 60 students

The Learning Centre funded activities for first year students including:
• Twenty nine hours of academic skills workshops specifically targeting First Year students in the Learning Centre’s Central Program in first semester.

In addition, the Learning Centre provided the following support for first year students:
• Orientation programs for new students in a number of Faculties and other Units, such as the Mature Age Welcome and the Broadway Welcome
• An Academic Skills Program for new International students at Cumberland Campus in February.
• Teaching and materials for the Koori Centre Academic Skills Program in February.
• Additional study skills resources (Understanding Yourself as a Learner, Being a More Effective Learner, Using Planners and Plans) published by the Learning Centre made available on the Learning Centre website for downloading.
Finally, as part of the Learning Centre’s Faculty Program, a range of learning and teaching activities were provided for first year students. These are supported by Faculty funding on a cost-recovery basis for teaching and marking:

• Diagnostic assessment of students’ writing, using the MASUS procedure developed by the Learning Centre. A combined total of 370 students from the Semester 1 first year cohort in Units of Study, ENGG1803 and ENGG1805 in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies were assessed using MASUS. Follow up language support sessions focusing on academic communication skills (written and oral), designed and delivered by Learning Centre staff were integrated into the above-named Units of Study: ENGG1803 and ENGG1805.

• Learning Centre staff participated in the Staying on Track seminars conducted in March 2011 at both Camperdown and Cumberland campuses.

Mathematics Learning Centre

The Mathematics Learning Centre, together with the School of Mathematics and Statistics, organised mathematics bridging courses during February.

In 2011, approximately 270 students attended these courses. The Mathematics Learning Centre invited students to drop-in and meet the Centre's staff during an open day in Orientation. Mathematics Learning Centre staff participated in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Koori Centre orientation programs.

The University Library

In 2011 Library staff welcomed students and introduced them to the Library as the starting point for information and research.

• A ‘Race around the Library’ competition was held and 20 teams of two people each had to complete tasks online and in five libraries to have their ‘passports’ stamped. All the student teams had 2 and ½ hours to complete the race - the fastest team completed it in an amazing 40 minutes. One team took the whole time allowance as they visited O-Week stalls and other events while racing around the Library. One of the tasks required the students to have their photo taken with Fred the skeleton in the Medical Library. These photos were put up on the Library Facebook page so people could vote for the funniest photo. The prizes for the race included iTunes and Coop Bookshop vouchers and vouchers for free coffee. Overall there was a very positive response to the Race and we would look to run it again next year.

* The Library also ran another competition in conjunction with the Frontiers of Science exhibition in the SciTech Library. This competition allowed students to express their artistic side by visually presenting scientific ideas about global warming. They drew inspiration from the exhibition and the online Frontiers of Science cartoons. There were 17 excellent entries that are now displayed in the SciTech Library close to the main exhibition. The prize was an iPad2 presented to the winner by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

* The SCA Library ran Orientation Week tours based around the theme Your Body in the Library in which students solved 6 clues. 138 students took part and completed the tour to win lollipops, tattoos and library maps.

* The Library also provided online support through Getting Started podcasts and a range of online I-Reseaech learning modules such as Plagiarism and academic honesty; Finding items on your reading list; Finding journals using databases and Search smarter: search faster. This year the Library also put up a visual first year roadmap to help students navigate the Library system.
• 12 multidisciplinary libraries had welcome banners and posters at each information desk. The Library provided handy credit card sized student guides, which provide information about the University of Sydney library including location maps that directed students to the appropriate library.

• Students were encouraged to visit the libraries related to their faculties or subject areas and were provided with information about all the different libraries. Students attended introductory sessions in libraries. Tailored classes, aligned with Units of Study and specific information skill sets, also began in Orientation Week and will continue to run throughout the year. Orientation week tours were offered in some libraries and were well attended.

• Faculty Liaison Librarians participated in welcome functions arranged by Faculties and departments and for specific programs. There were academic orientations for Architecture, Arts, Conservatorium, Business, Education, Engineering and IT, Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Sydney College of the Arts, Science and Veterinary Science first year students. The library participated in the welcomes for new Undergraduate and Postgraduate International Students. There were presentations for the Mature and Part Time student welcomes. Librarians also made presentations to Postgraduates in Architecture, Arts, Law, Engineering and IT, Pharmacy, Science, Sydney College of the Arts and Vet Sciences.

• Information about the Library and its services was included in welcome packs for incoming students.
APPENDIX B
Faculty Events

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Orientation and Transition Program in Arts and Social Sciences began this year on Monday 21 February with Welcome Day, an exciting event incorporating activities such as an interactive role-play, small group activities for students enrolled in the same degree program, and a ‘Must See, Must Have, Must Do’ tour around campus. On the evening of Wednesday 23 February, we ran a special event for mature-aged students commencing in undergraduate degree programs. This event was wonderfully supported by our Faculty Liaison Librarians, and designed to lead into the University-wide Welcome for mature-aged and part-time students. Over 130 volunteer senior student mentors, including a very enthusiastic group of mature-aged mentors, participated in these activities and warmly welcomed new students to the Faculty.

Our official Introduction to the Faculty was held in the Footbridge Theatre on Thursday 24 February. This provided an opportunity for students to be welcomed by staff and introduced to the academic culture and perspectives of the Faculty. On Friday 25th we held a morning tea for students registered with Disability Services. We were delighted to be joined at this event by Emeritus Professor Ron MacCallum, who spoke on his own experience of living and learning with a disability.

Senior student mentors continued to support first years over the challenging first few weeks of the semester. In week two students were also able to participate in their mentoring groups in a choice of workshops facilitated by colleagues from the Learning Centre.

Further transition activities were conducted within lecture and tutorial groups. For example, over 1,500 students in ten junior units of study benefitted from an online tutorial in information literacy skills, as part of their preparation for their first assessment activities. This online resource, ARTS1000 ‘eSearch to Research’, has been developed jointly by Arts and Social Sciences, the University Library, and the Sydney eLearning Team.
University of Sydney Business School

The Business School has undertaken a variety of initiatives to assist students in their orientation and transition in the Business School and the University of Sydney:

1: Ongoing development of an orientation website (http://sydney.edu.au/business/orientation)
- information on Business School Orientation programs
- information on Business School and University Clubs and Societies
- information on the Peer Mentoring Program
- information Careers and Employment Relations Office
- information about Peer Assisted Study Session (PASS)
- links to Sydney Welcome Orientation website
- links to the Business School Guide for New Students publication

2: 3 hour orientation programs each for Postgraduates and Undergraduates held in the Seymour Centre. These sessions covered a range of resources and interests, including introduction to the peer-mentoring program and student administration.

Topics included:
- Welcome and Helping you Settle-In
- Student Services – Finding your way through the maze
- Introduction to the Peer Mentoring Program
- Clubs and Societies
- Employer Panel and Discussion

Students were provided with light refreshment afterwards and were able to sign up the Peer Mentoring Program and meet their mentors. Mentors then conducted tours of the university campus, with particular emphasis on the Business School.

3: Program-specific orientation for postgraduate students only (the Business School now runs one undergraduate degree program and therefore did not run a degree specific program). Ranging from one to two hours with post-session refreshments provided, areas covered included:

- Master of Commerce broken down into specialisations:
  - Management and Organisation
  - Accounting
  - Banking and Finance
  - Integrated Business Solutions
  - Logistics & Supply Chain Management
  - Project Management
  - Strategy and Innovation
- Master of Marketing
- Master of Human Resource & Industrial Relations Management
- Masters of International Business
- Master of Professional Accounting
- Graduate Certificate Innovation and Entrepreneurship

4: Ten Head Start sessions running at various times throughout weeks one and two, including a new session from Careers and Employer Relations Office. These sessions are designed to provide information and support for students transitioning into the Business School:
http://sydney.edu.au/business/learning/students/workshops/head_start

- Succeeding with Groupwork (for UG and PG)
- Writing an Academic Essay (one session for UG only and one session for PG only)
- How to be an Independent Learner (for UG and PG)
- Standing on the Shoulders of Giants (UG and PG)
- Learning Smarter Not Harder (for UG and PG)
- Critical Thinking (for PG only)
- Making the Grade (for UG and PG)
- Effective Reading (for UG and PG)
- My Business Degree - My Future (for UG and PG)

6: 3 x Technical Skills Workshops held in Computer Labs during weeks one and two:
- Using Spreadsheets (for PG only)
- BlackBoard 9- eLearning (Individual sessions for UG and PG Students)
- Using Library Resources (Individual sessions for UG and PG Students)

7: Further workshops - Students are also encouraged to attend workshops available within and beyond the Business School, including:
- Accelerate Your Learning – an undergraduate program design to refine referencing skills prior to submitting assessments.
- Counselling And Psychological Services (CAPS) Skillshop program to assist with time management, organisation, adjusting to university life, communication etc.
- Maths Learning Centre workshops in algebra, working with graphs, sigma notation, etc.,
- Learning Centre workshop programs which include workshops such as planning assignments, critical thinking, discussion skills, oral presentation skills etc.
Faculty of Science

More than 500 new students and around 120 parents were welcomed to the Faculty of Science at the Student Transition Workshop and Parents’ Program on Saturday 19th February 2011. This workshop, which has been held every year since 1997, is a wonderful chance for students to meet other new friends and for parents to have those last minute concerns and questions addressed. The event included welcomes from the staff, talks from current students including hints on how to survive and prosper in first-year, formation of peer groups, tours of the campus and a ‘Campus Novelty Race’ run by the student science society ‘SCISOC’.

The peer groups were formed on the basis of the students’ University timetables, enabling students to meet those who have similar interests and chosen the same subjects in an out-of-class setting. These new peer groups grow usually into an extensive network of friends and contacts during the first semester with students providing each other with support and assistance throughout the first year and the succeeding years of their degree.

The Parents’ Program included formal welcomes, a short seminar on the challenges students face in making the transition from school to university, reflections on first year from two senior students, and a presentation about employment possibilities for science graduates from the University Careers Centre. These were followed by a very lively question & answer session. The day concluded with afternoon tea in the main quadrangle. Academic staff from the Faculty acted as workshop leaders and support persons, ably assisted by a team of student helpers throughout the day.

The event also introduced the new students to the Faculty of Science’s mentoring and leadership program. This program, which now includes SLAM (‘Science Link-up And Mentoring’) lunches, provides on-going support and encouragement throughout the semesters and builds active participation and discussion with research staff.

The Science Faculty's Welcome to New Students was held on Wednesday, 23rd February in the Eastern Avenue Auditorium. The hour-long event was packed out with over 500 new students queuing outside for a spot. A warm welcome was expressed by Professor Trevor Hambley, the Dean of Science, who then introduced the First Year Directors of each School in the Faculty. The Directors presented ‘objects’ chosen to summarize the nature of their disciplines including a Rubix cube race, a levitating magnet and an oscillating chemical reaction.

The event concluded with a video link up with Dr Karl who was en route to the last ever space shuttle launch. Dr Karl packed life, death and everything in between in his advice to the new students.

After a hearty round of applause for the Dean, everyone made the short walk over to the School of Chemistry for the first SCISOC barbeque of the semester. The smell of sausages (both meat and vegetarian, of course) filled the laboratories for the remainder of the day.

Other events run during Orientation Week for new and returning students were lunchtime barbeques given by the Schools of the Faculty, a chemistry magic show by the postgraduate students from Chemistry and a series of introductory talks for students planning to be involved in the Faculty’s Talented Students Program.
Orientation 2011 Project Group
Terms of Reference

The Orientation Project Group is involved in the planning, delivery and review of the welcome, orientation and transition activities for commencing undergraduate students at the University of Sydney Camperdown and Darlington campuses.

The first year activities within faculties on the Camperdown and Darlington campuses are promoted through the Orientation website and booklet.

The welcome orientation and transition activities at other campuses of the University are included in the Orientation website and booklet.

Terms of Reference

• develop the Orientation Strategic Plan for First Year Academic Orientation and Transition in line with University's Strategic Directions 2006-2010, Learning and Teaching and The Student Experience, jointly with Faculty Strategic Plans

• develop coordinated, visible and active involvement of the University in academic orientation and transition

• develop timetable of activities including Chancellor's Welcome, Faculty and Department Welcomes and the activities of central student support services including Alumni Relations, ICT Computer Access Labs, International Office (International Exchange Program), Koori Centre, Learning Centre, Library, Marketing and Student Recruitment, Mathematics Learning Centre, Sydney Talent, The Sydney Summer School and Student Administration and Support.

• develop the Orientation website and booklet

• promote the Orientation Program to prospective students and families, enrolled students, and staff of the University

• determine and organise best publicity options for Orientation, including the Orientation booklet and website

• liaise with the University of Sydney Union regarding O-Week activities

• develop a (Re)Orientation Program for Second Semester commencers and other First Year students

• develop ongoing orientation, transition and retention support at the University throughout the First Year by central student support services including Alumni Relations, ICT Computer Access Labs, International Office (International Exchange Program), Koori Centre, Learning Centre, Library, Marketing and Student Recruitment, Mathematics Learning Centre, Sydney Talent, The Sydney Summer School and Student Administration and Support, and within Faculties and Departments.
Orientation 2011 Project Group
Membership – April 2011

Ex-officio members

Director, Student Support Services
(Ms Jordi Austin) Convenor Orientation 2011

Alumni Relations nominee (to be confirmed)

Careers Centre Manager (Ms Nitsa Athanassopoulos)

Counselling and Psychological Services Acting Head (Ms Philomena Renner)

Faculty nominees
Faculty of Arts (Dr Nerida Jarkey)
School of Business (Assoc Prof Michele Scoufis)
Faculty of Pharmacy (Dr Lorraine Smith)
Faculty of Science (Dr Adam Bridgeman)
Faculty of Health Sciences nominee (Ms Peggy Timmins)
Faculty of Engineering and IT nominee (Ms Sandra Lange)
Faculty of Law nominee (to be confirmed)
Conservatorium of Music nominee (Prof Anna Reid)
Sydney College of the Arts nominee (Mrs Nerida Olson)

Scholarships Office nominee (Mr Ben Alfred)

Information and Communications Technology nominee (Ms Madeleine McCabe)
Information and Communications Technology nominee (Mr Rishikesh Shankar)
International Office nominee (Ms Kate Cormie)

Koori Centre nominee (Ms Tanya Griffiths)

Learning Centre Head (Dr Helen Drury)
Learning Centre nominee (Dr Angela Ardington)

Marketing and Student Recruitment nominee (Mr Kaveh Ghezel)

Mathematics Learning Centre Head (Ms Jackie Nicholas)

Media Office/Student Communications nominee (Mr David Sams)

Social Inclusion nominee (Ms Simone Ross)

Student Centre nominee (Mr Geoffrey Hammet)
Student Centre nominee (Ms Shamielah Toefy)

Sydney Summer School Director (Dr Jillian Stewart)

University Library nominee (Ms Linden Fairbairn)
University Library nominee (Ms Irene Rossendell)
Invited:

University of Sydney Union nominees
Programs Manager (Ms Louise Anthony)
Marketing Manager (Ms Samantha Bala)
Events Manager (Ms Clare Van De Wall)

Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness (Mr Andrew Tilley)

Support:

Student Experience Coordinator, Student Support Services (Ms Catherine Dernee)
APPENDIX D

First Year Book Club Report

The inaugural First-Year Book Club should be viewed as a successful, initial step towards embedding a program that values the enrichment of the first-year student experience in the institution’s strategies and planning. Programs that serve the interests of first-year students take upwards of ten years to become fully established, and require incremental development (Swing, FYHE, 2003). Further, to ensure success, they require a multi-layered approach that encourages partnership and provides support at a variety of levels of the organisation (Kift, 2008).

The First-Year Book Club (FYBC) was a joint initiative between the University of Sydney and the Booker Prize Foundation. A panel of central and faculty staff selected Kate Grenville’s “The Secret River”. Over 8500 copies of the chosen book were distributed at in-person enrolment in early 2011 to commencing first-year students. The First-Year Book Club aimed to provide a common platform for discussion and engagement for all incoming students across all disciplines, around themes in the book relevant to the 20th century. By doing so, it sought to create an inclusive environment that was socially and intellectually stimulating.

Promotions:

Webpage

A dedicated webpage was created that sat within the Orientation website. This page contained information about the book, events being held in semester one and linked to further information. The website was well visited.

For the period from enrolment (when students received their books and bookmark) until mid-April, the FYBC webpage was the second most visited page on the Orientation website. It had 6,845 visits and 8,253 page views. The most activity was recorded from the beginning of February until the beginning of March, which coincided with the Orientation and transition period.

Image a: Webpage view at Orientation week.

Image b: Total visits to webpage from 24 January- 14 April 2011 (Start of enrolment period until week of author talk)
Media (@Sydney, Facebook and public media)
The Book Club received university-wide and public interest, with public radio, print and University media queries.
1. The FYBC was promoted in six editions of @Sydney from mid-February until mid-April. The promotions received an average number of clicks (300-400) for an @Sydney item, showing sustained student interest in the FYBC. Posts made on the University’s facebook page also received an average number of responses.
2. The FYBC was also promoted in Staff News. Information about the project stimulated strong interest, with over 450 clicks, an above average number for a story in Staff News. The ‘free book’ story in the Staff News created very strong demand with over 850 clicks, and more than 400 staff members collecting books.
3. A piece in Sydney Morning Herald’s Spectrum section highlighted the FYBC initiative to the public.
4. ABC Radio702 interviewed the author in conjunction with the author talk, to bring the event to a wider audience.

Events:
Online competitions:
Four online competitions were run, designed to provoke interest in the book and the author talk. Competitions were promoted on the webpage and through @Sydney, and each had the prize of a $50 Coop book voucher. Topics included “What question would you like to ask Kate Grenville, author of The Secret River?” Entries were limited to 50-100 words.

Kate Grenville Talk:
Held 12 April, 1-2pm in the Great Hall.
The author, Kate Grenville participated in facilitated discussion with Assoc. Prof Will Christie, Chair of the Department of English. Over 80 people attended. Approximately 30 students attended the event. 16 students had a SID 311/310 (First Year) and the remainder were senior undergraduates or postgraduates. Approximately 50 staff attended. 30 students from the Compass program, which targets low-SES high school students, were also invited. Anecdotal and informal feedback from audience members at the talk was overwhelmingly positive with good discussion and engagement through the questions.

Public Speaking Workshops:
A series of workshops entitled ‘The Art and Science of Public Speaking’ were held weekly from 17 March to 21 April, facilitated by Shana Alexander, counsellor with CAPS. The workshops provided students with the opportunity to extend their social network, gain valuable speaking skills and techniques, discuss themes from the Secret River, practice public speaking and obtain useful feedback. Due to the venue, capacity was capped at 20 students. Four people attended the initial session, with attendance growing to eighteen by the final session. The growth can be attributed to word of mouth and a change in wording of the event promotion from advertising that attendance was capped to encouraging all interested students to attend. The facilitator described the workshops as a success, noting that students who attended several sessions improved drastically in their presentation and public speaking skills. The students stated that they noticed a big change in their confidence around public speaking in class. The group was very supportive of each other and gave very positive feedback after the prepared speeches. Students who answered the feedback survey reported that overall the session was either ‘very good’ or ‘outstanding’. One attendee said

“I found that my approach to presentations, classroom participation, and general day-to-day conversations significantly changed from the few workshops that I attended. Thanks Shana!”
Survey Data and feedback:
An online survey was run during weeks 10 and 11 of semester one to assess students’ experience of Orientation and the First-Year Book Club. 306 responses were received. Responses were proportional to faculty enrolment. 20% of respondents had read the Secret River. Of the students who completed the survey, more science students had read the book than students from any other faculty. Of those who had read the book, 57% enjoyed it, 47% discussed it with a friend and 34% recommended the book to others. In the free responses, students commented that the club was “a great initiative”, “a great concept” and “awesome”.
Of those who hadn’t (80% of respondents), 33% hadn’t received the book, 35% were planning to read it later and 18% didn’t like reading novels much. In the free responses, students indicated they were too busy with university coursework to read it, and it didn’t look interesting or relevant to them.
Students’ main suggestions for improvements were to choose a different, more popular genre of book, ensure more publicity of events, particularly to International students and facilitate more activities, for example weekly discussion groups.

Conclusions:
The inaugural effort should be considered a success, and a positive first step towards establishing a new, institution-wide initiative. Of particular note was the success of the Art and Science of Public Speaking workshops. The author talk was also successful in format, albeit not having the anticipated number of guests. The webpage also received a notable amount of traffic. The First-Year Book Club’s success is particularly commendable in light of the last-minute endorsement of the initiative and lack of dedicated resources available. Several staff members from Student Support Services, Media Office, and the selection committee took on extra work to plan for and promote the initiative. With increased resources and involvement from central and faculty divisions to encourage student involvement and engagement the benefits of the First-Year Book Club will grow and the initiative is likely to thrive.

Recommendations:
The FYBC initiative should be continued and consolidated in 2012. In order to provide an effective and inclusive platform for first-year students further resources and support from various areas of the university are necessary.
Student Support Services recommends;

• Development of a six-month plan in conjunction with various stakeholders for forward planning of the 2012 FYBC.
• Central funding to assist SSS, ITL, LC and faculties in development of activities
• Academics and student coordinators to be encouraged to promote the FYBC to students- either in the curriculum or by extracurricular means.
• Faculties, in conjunction with ITL initiatives, to hold their own FYBC events in student cohort groups.
• Books distributed to incoming first-year students with explicit message from the Vice Chancellor that they are strongly encouraged to read it and participate in the FYBC.
• Books distributed to peer mentors to facilitate small group discussions.
• Senior students post messages to university sites and comment on activities.
• Move author event to earlier in semester (week 3 or 4) and cross promote with Orientation activities.
APPENDIX E

2011 Orientation e-survey (see attached)
APPENDIX F

1 September 2011

ORIENTATION 2012 AT THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PEGGY TIMMINS, ORIENTATION PROJECT MANAGER, LEARNING & TEACHING DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Pre-Orientation briefing
This was provided to the Dean and included the following:
§ Addressing feedback from Orientation 2010
§ Recommendations from the Project Manager for Orientation 2011
§ Explanation of draft budget
§ Dean’s recommendation/approval
§ Terms of Reference
§ Appendices relating to the briefing

Scheduling of Orientation
In 2011, the Faculty of Health Sciences had two orientation dates:
21 February for Undergraduates
22 February for Graduate Entry Masters
23 to 25 February for Bachelor of Health Science students at our Camperdown Campus

Undergraduate Orientation summary
The Undergraduate Orientation was divided into two sessions with the morning session starting at 9.00 am and
the afternoon session starting at 12 noon. The morning session included Disciplines talks by:
Exercise and
Sport Science; Speech Pathology; Physiotherapy and Diagnostic Radiography. Bachelor of Health Sciences
including BHS Nursing and Occupational Therapy conducted their Discipline talks in the
afternoon session at
1.00pm. Both welcome sessions included a new presentation on ‘where to go for help’. The
campus tours were conducted by both staff and current students who volunteered. The student volunteers
were all offered a $20.00 food voucher courtesy of Campus Rewards. Copies of maps of the
campus were distributed at the welcoming session.
IT Access Lab conducted tours every half hour beginning at 12.30 pm and the library had talks
every half hour
also beginning at 12.30.
In 2011 there were 19 stalls/booths organised each with banners representing the 6
Undergraduate Courses and
the other internal and external participants. FHS printing assisted with the design of the banners
for the 6 courses and Digital Print Media finalised the work. Show bags were also organised courtesy of Campus Rewards.

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Graduate Entry Masters Orientation summary
Graduate Entry Masters Orientation was a whole day event. The welcome session included students who presented on their experiences with Hoc-Mai Scholarship Program and Physiotherapy. The campus tours were conducted by staff and student volunteers. The student volunteers were all offered a $20.00 food voucher courtesy of Campus Rewards. There were 8 Discipline talks. The welcome session also included a new presentation on ‘where to go for help’.

BHS stall
A BHS stall was organised for the Camperdown Orientation, which was held on the 23, 24 and 25 February. BHS volunteers under the supervision of Trish Corbett assisted with staffing of the booths for the 3 days.

AV and IT support
AV support provided by our Audio Visual Officer and the IT desk support assisted on both days of Orientation.

Buses
Extra buses were ordered for Orientation week.

Camperdown timetable
The Faculty of Health Sciences main activities were included in the main timetable of Camperdown. All Faculty and School activities were printed in the Orientation booklet, which was provided to newly enrolled first year students and made available to students from mid-December on the Orientation website.

Evaluations
Evaluations forms were distributed to students at both Undergraduate and Graduate Entry Master’s orientation. The evaluation was also available on line via survey monkey and advertised on the enrolment and orientation program. As there was not enough evaluation forms returned, these forms were then handed out on the first day of lectures to all new Undergraduate and Graduate Entry Master’s students by the program administrators/course directors. Staff and students who participated in orientation were acknowledged with a ‘thank you’ email which included a link to an online survey (one for feedback from volunteer students and the other for feedback from staff).

Proposal for Orientation 2012

Individuals accountable for the document
Associate Deans, Learning & Teaching via the Project Manager for Orientation
Overview
Changes to the format for Orientation 2012 (February 27 for Undergraduate and March 1 for Graduate Entry Master’s) and BHS Camperdown Orientation (February 29)

Proposals
1. Undergraduate and Graduate Entry Master’s timetable-proposed change is to include a slide each on Counselling, OH&S and Security as part of the presentation slides ‘where to go for help’. The presentation will also be placed on the web for students to access.
2. Undergraduate second session to start at 11.00am rather than 12noon.
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Peggy Timmins (FHS) 1 September 2011 Page 3
3. Graduate Entry Master’s Orientation will commence at 9.30am rather than 9.00am. The discipline talks to be extended from 1 hour to 2 hours followed by a party in the Loft; the extension in the discipline talk time replaces the campus tour for GEM.
4. BHS at Camperdown will have their Orientation on Wednesday 29 February and BHS student representatives will assist with manning the booth at Camperdown.
5. There will be no welcome food at Cumberland (prior to the Welcome speech) on both days.
6. Evaluation forms will be distributed by each of the Course Directors at their Discipline talks to all the students attending Orientation 2012. Students were not keen on filling the evaluation forms online.
7. A request for student volunteers will be made via bulk email, digital signage and via posters placed around the Cumberland Campus from the start of second semester.
8. There will be no need for extra buses as we now have the metro government buses, which are scheduled more regularly.
9. Banners will be made up for the library and the access lab to get the students to partake of their facilities at Orientation.

Rationale
The proposals have been a result of feedback received from the students and staff regarding Orientation 2011.