Teaching Division Report to Faculty, November 2002

The Faculty’s Teaching and Learning Committee met eight times in 2002. It has coordinated the following activities:

✔ Academic Board Visit
Representatives from the Academic Board visited the Faculty in April and interviewed staff and students. A brief summary of the recommendations is attached. Dr Robyn Gibson, Dr Janette Bobis and Dr Robyn Ewing have been involved in reviews of other faculties.

✔ Teaching and Learning Forums
A Faculty Retreat was held in February. Two Faculty Forums (in August and November) have focussed on enhancing learning using ICT & innovative forms of assessment. In addition, staff have worked in small groups to revise the Faculty Teaching and Learning Plan taking into account the University focus on research led teaching.

✔ Teaching Improvement Fund
This year the Faculty received a CHASS Teaching Improvement Fund grant of $90,000 to further develop its partnerships with schools, professional associations and school systems. In addition, two smaller grants of $7000 were made by CHASS (and matched by the Faculty) for projects that focussed on improving scholarship in teaching.

✔ Teaching Development Grants
Small grants (up to $2000) were made available to enable staff to improve or develop quality teaching in programs. Education 1, B.Ed (Primary) and M.Teach programs have made use of this opportunity to date.

✔ Scholarship in Teaching Incentive Funds
The Faculty received just over $27,000 for its 1999 scholarship in teaching activities. This has been used to fund a number of small grants that have enabled staff to research their teaching practices. In addition, incentive grants were allocated to staff who contributed to the Faculty’s Scholarship in Teaching Index. Funds were also allocated to support the Waikato Symposium (see below).
✓ Contributions to Excellence in Teaching in the Faculty
The Teaching and Learning Committee revised the guidelines for the 2002 awards at its September meeting. Particular attention was given to the University focus on research led teaching. Twelve staff have been nominated by students for 2002 Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards.

✓ Waikato Symposium
Twenty seven staff will participate in a Symposium at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, NZ from 10-12 December. The focus for the symposium is on sharing our teaching and learning practices with our Education colleagues at the University of Waikato and enhancing practices in both faculties. Funding has been made available from the Scholarship in Teaching Fund for airfare and accommodation for those presenting a paper that will then be submitted to a journal about teaching and learning in higher education.

✓ First Year Experience
A revised plan to meet the needs of first year students in Education I has been developed based on the University guidelines. This includes a pilot mentor program. Student mentors in later years of their degree will run workshops with first year students. These workshops are timetabled although not compulsory. Many thanks to Dr Stephen Juan and Ms Kitty te Riele for their leadership in this area.

Robyn Ewing
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