



## Faculty Response to the 2009 SCEQ

### A Response to Undergraduate Coursework Students and the MTeach-BTeach Students

Around the middle of 2009 you had the opportunity to complete a survey called the Student Course Experience Questionnaire (SCEQ), which asks questions about how you are experiencing your degree as a whole. We would like to say thank you to those students who filled it in, and also respond to all students regarding the results. We have carefully considered the results - both the ratings and the written comments. There were a number of areas that you commented on positively in addition to some suggestions for improvement.

### Professional Experience and Field Education

Many of you highly value the contribution that the Professional Experience and Field Education components make to your professional development; and the Faculty is pleased that you have appreciated the centrality these components have in your programs. Working in partnership with the human services and teaching professions, we aim to provide a quality learning experience for you that is both well guided and professionally rich. While at present there are sufficient social work placements, there are some issues in obtaining sufficient numbers of quality student teacher placements in schools. This is an issue for all universities. Within an increasingly competitive context we are working in partnerships with schools to work around these constraints in a collaborative and strategic way.

### Assessment

There were a couple of issues that you commented on in regard to assessment. We have taken these on board and will be working on strategies to improve the scheduling of assessments in particular. Where scheduling strategies have worked well in some programs we will be referring to these as a model for other programs.

**Thanks again for your participation in this survey. Your comments are important to us, and helpful for improving your experience and that of your fellow students. The SCEQ will be carried out again in 2011. It would be great if you are able to complete it if you are contacted to do so. For those of you who will graduate before then, there is an end of degree survey called the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ).**

If you would like further information, please feel free to contact the Division of Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Education and Social Work, via Belinda Chambers on 02-9351 6243 or [belinda.chambers@sydney.edu.au](mailto:belinda.chambers@sydney.edu.au)

Reports on the results of the 2009 SCEQ can be found via the ITL website on <http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/sceq/>

We are also trialling some technical solutions such as the use of electronic program calendars to assist in the planning of assessment dates.

The University is currently reviewing assessment practices. In the Faculty of Education and Social Work we will be reviewing our assessment practices in line with the University policies. When we do this we will also review the Faculty's assessment standards in order to improve and enable a common understanding of those standards for staff and students alike.

### Technology

In response to your comments about the use of technology, the Faculty has undertaken a number of teaching improvement projects in this area in order to better integrate the use of technology in programs. In addition, the University as a whole will be changing from WebCT to LEARN and will be implementing a new system called Sydney Student. This will be a staged process but the intention is to improve the student experience of elearning and to better integrate student systems overall in the University. This is in order that there is a streamlined and consistent approach: from the beginning of your contact with the University to when you graduate and become a valued member of our alumni.

### Learning Community

A sense of community was another area that drew positive comments. We are pleased to build and foster a community in which all students can feel like they are valuable members. Student engagement and improving the student experience is central to the Faculty's Learning and Teaching strategies. We currently offer a mentoring program for first year education students. We have reactivated the online Faculty Academic Honesty module to enable all students the opportunity to revise and refresh their skills. We are also developing online resources to assist all students in the Faculty with their transition to University. The Faculty continues to support the student organisation, EDSOC, and is appreciative of the contribution that the many student representatives have made, particularly during the Centenary of Education and 70 years of Social Work that are being celebrated in 2010.

### Individual Programs

In addition, the academics involved in teaching your programs and in Professional Experience and Field Education have also taken on board your responses to the SCEQ. They will be working on ways to enhance your learning and teaching experience