

Minutes of the eLearning Governance Group, Thursday 12 June 2008.

There were present: The Acting Chair of the eLearning Governance Group, Associate Professor Rob Ellis, the Chair of the Academic Board, Professor Bruce Sutton, the Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee, Associate Professor Greg Ryan, the University Librarian, Mr John Shipp and Mr Peter Whitfield representing Mr Bruce Meikle. Ms Sally Paynter was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Derrick Armstrong, Associate Professor Mark Freeman, Mr Bruce Meikle and Mr Andrew Cooper.

The Acting Chair welcomed Mr Peter Whitfield who was representing Mr Bruce Meikle at the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 10/08

The eLearning Governance Group adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 April 2008 as a true record.

3. Matters arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

4. Report of the Chair

The Acting Chair advised he had nothing on which to report.

5. ePortfolios and student portal

The Acting Chair advised that since July 2007 there had been two discussions running in parallel about the ePortfolios and the student portal, the first was with faculties, the second with potential vendors. Members noted that the University had seen presentations from 6 vendors so far and was only negotiating with those vendors that had a maintenance policy. The last presentation had been given by *Desire to Learn* and had received positive feedback. The National Learning and Teaching Council were due to hand down recommendations about eLearning in July 2008 and after this both Associate Professor Ellis and Emeritus Professor Ann Sefton would respond with recommendations for the University.

The Acting Chair tabled draft Faculty responses to ePortfolio System Questionnaire which presented a summary of responses to the 11 questions faculties were required to answer. The questions sought to gain a sense of demand by students, an understanding of the existing culture of ePortfolios within faculties and how faculties would anticipate using them if the system became available. Other universities such as Wollongong had implemented the system and had 1000 students using the ePortfolios, promoted the use of them and run workshops for students and did not see an increase in this number. Proving the theory that if students do not have a need to use an ePortfolio they may opt not too.

Members noted that a pilot was planned for 2009 and 3-4 faculties would be asked to trial the system. Discussions were continuing about whether to roll the system out to teachers first. Two potential vendors were being considered and two systems, *Desire to Learn* and *Pebble Pad*, were in the front running. A summary of their capabilities would be attached

to the final report on faculty responses to the ePortfolio System questionnaire, due in August 2008.

The Acting Chair advised that the ePortfolio project had raised issues of coherence of virtual learning experience for students. It had been recommended that the Student Portal be used to provide a platform for improving the coherence of experience across enterprise e-system. The Student Portal would be set up to ensure students had access to not just their ePortfolios but also faculty websites, timetable and class information, support programs, fee payments etc. The strategy was to improve the integration of the system for the user. The renewal of the Student Portal would form a key part of the ePortfolio report along with the learning and teaching plans for faculties. Discussions around this issue continue between the Community and the Learning and Teaching portfolios.

Resolution 11/08

The eLearning Governance Group noted the report on ePortfolios and student portal.

6. Streaming and AV/ICT

Members noted that the issues surrounding the streaming pilot included the pressure of managing the recording of between 250 – 400 lectures per week but it was anticipated that by the end of 2009 the University would be above the national benchmark for recording. At present it was pot luck for teachers about whether they secured teaching space that was equipped with the appropriate AV/ICT technology to support streaming. The Acting Chair advised that a desktop solution would be more equitable where teachers were able to upload recordings from their desktop to the unit of study website. It was noted that issues of copyright and other sector developments would be worked put by 2009 and the advice that was currently being given to teachers was not to replace any face-to-face teaching with streaming.

Resolution 12/08

The eLearning Governance Group noted the report on streaming and AV/ICT.

7. Student laptop scheme

The Acting Chair advised that a project brief on the student laptop scheme was being prepared and would be presented to the eLearning Governance Group when it had been finalised. It was noted that the scheme would be piloted by one or two faculties first with a view to it rolling out across the University once it had been trialled. The idea behind the scheme was to ask students to pay an increased fee for which they would receive a laptop with all the University systems loaded on it ready to use.

Resolution 13/08

The eLearning Governance Group noted the report on the student laptop scheme.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the eLearning Governance Group would be held on Thursday 28 August 2008 in the Kevin Lee's Room, A14.