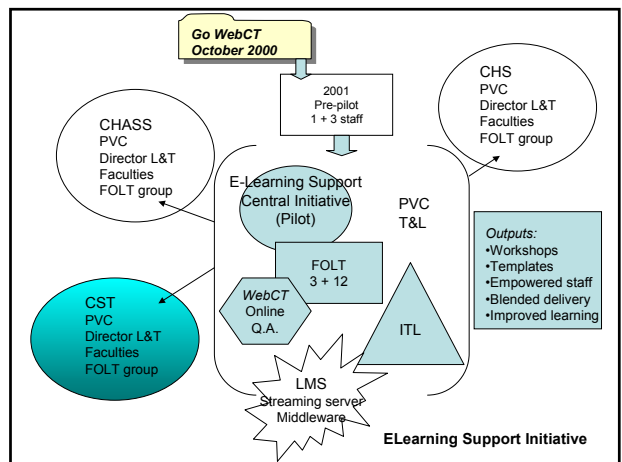


A dilemma in the strategic move towards blended learning: balancing bottom-up with top-down approaches

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The team in CST

- Who we are
- How we work
- What questions have we been asking in 2005?
 - What is the size and shape of eLearning?
 - How is eLearning influencing learning activities/opportunities?
 - How is this influencing assessment?

The dilemma we faced....

- Do we look for overarching, all embracing projects: top-down approach?
- OR
- Do we work at the 'coalface' level: bottom-up approach?
 - How do we determine the balance?

Our choice in the last 18 months?

- 9 projects: bottom-up, curriculum developments
 - Increasing the use of *WebCT* within units of study by providing:
 - templates for unit sites
 - online mastery activities
 - ways to re-engineer legacy materials
 - training in a one-to-one mode

and.....

- 4 projects: top-down, capacity building
 - Audit of online teaching & learning to help answer our questions
 - Still images online web site and workshops
 - Identifying the projects for support in 2005
 - Identifying training needs for staff

Issues encountered on the way.....

- Workload issues for academic staff
 - Insufficient time to provide content; attend meetings
- Collaboration
 - Clarity of roles between members of a group
- Levels of change introduce high levels of uncertainty
 - Need to introduce more flexibility

Benefits to the College

- Outputs
 - Research projects developed
 - Dissemination within University and outside
 - Templates for models of educational design
 - Professional development resources and training
 - Resource delivery models

and

- Outcomes for the College
 - Better understanding by staff of the pedagogical use of eLearning
 - Student acknowledgment of a superior online teaching & learning environment
 - Technologically more literate students (and thus, in time, graduates)
 - Research

College level strategies for 2006

Looking at the big picture our strategies should be to:

1. support large classes or single units of study
2. help smooth out the transition of eLearning across the years within a discipline
3. provide whole program developments (postgrad programs)

Proposed 2006 projects

- Capacity Building
 - ICT role-based training program for College staff
- Curriculum development
 - Astrophysics elearning tool (Physics)
 - Field study online (Biological Sciences)
- ??? *Looking for a strategy 2 idea* - transition of eLearning across the years within a discipline

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