

AGENDA ITEM 11**Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee****11.2 Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2009**

The Learning and Teaching Committee met on 13 May 2009 when there was present: The Deputy Chair (Associate Professor S Barrie) presiding; Professor D Armstrong; Associate Professors C Collyer (from 10.50am), M Scoufis, T Ho and P McCallum; Drs S Cattle, M Edmund, C Groenlund, J Jones, H McKenzie, R Roubin, R Saunders and F Waugh; Ms J Gavan, Ms R Kumar; Mr B Meikle and Mr J Saurine. Mr M Charet and Ms L Young were in attendance.

The full agenda for the meeting may be accessed on the web at:

http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/learn_teach/agendas.shtml

11.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews**(1) Sydney College of the Arts**

The Academic Board Review Phase Three Report for the Sydney College of the Arts was circulated as Attachment 2 to the agenda. The Committee was informed that since the Academic Board Review, the Faculty had developed a workshop plan with Human Resources around mentoring staff and improving communication. The Faculty is about to launch this plan and had already completed a survey on how staff and students were feeling. The Committee also heard that the Faculty had developed a clear, transparent model for staff and students to see the roles of – and subsequent hours worked by – technical staff in demonstration during lectures.

The full report is available on the Committee's website at:

http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/learn_teach/agendas.shtml

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Academic Board Review Phase Three Report for the Sydney College of the Arts as presented.

11.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee**(1) Policy updates and reviews: Students at Risk Working Party**

The Committee heard that the Working Party was making good progress, with discussion at the most recent meeting on the identification of practices which had developed outside the requirements of policy.

(2) Review of Academic Board

The Committee discussed what changes might be made to the structure and membership of the Academic Board's standing committees in the University's new operating environment. The key points noted in the discussion were:

- That there was a role for the Learning and Teaching Committee in terms of scrutinising and reflecting decision-making as well as participating in collegial decision-making about teaching and learning matters in the University
- That there was a particular role for the Learning and Teaching Committee in ensuring the maintenance of standards - both in teaching and learning policy formulation and its implementation
- That there could be an additional role for the Learning and Teaching Committee in informing future Academic Board quality assurance and enhancement processes - for instance in analysis and interpretation of

teaching and learning quality data, and on subsequent follow-through of responses to teaching and learning quality processes across the University

- That the membership of the Learning and Teaching Committee might require review to reflect an enhanced quality assurance role
- That there was a need for a clear delineation of functions between SEG (Education) subcommittee and Learning and Teaching Committee – while recognising that some processes, eg policy formulation might originate in either
- That there should be separate reporting lines for the Learning and Teaching Committee and the SEG (Education) subcommittee however there was a need for close communication between the two to ensure neither operated in isolation

(3) Reports

The Committee noted the following reports:

- Report of the Academic Board meetings held on 10 March and 15 April 2009 and the 2008 Annual Report; and
- report of the DVC(Education).