

Learning and Teaching Matters 30 September 2020

Overview from Director, LTC Associate Professor Anthony Whitty

Welcome to another edition of Learning and Teaching Matters. I would like to begin by congratulating the recipients of the 2020 ACU Teaching Development Grants. In total, twelve projects have been funded across a range of disciplines. This year saw a record number of applications and I commend all team members for their innovative proposals which focus on delivering excellence in learning and teaching. The LTC look forward to working with the successful applicants to progress their projects.

This week's newsletter contains timely information for SELT surveys for Semester 2. I acknowledge staff again for the excellent response rate to SELT surveys for Semester 1. This is a testament to the ongoing dedication and commitment of our staff in challenging circumstances.

Timetabling have provided some information to assist with planning of classes for Semester 1, 2021. I encourage you to read this carefully as it may necessitate a change to previous requests from Schools.

Finally, may I wish you a productive final month of teaching for this semester. For further information on any items in this newsletter or other areas of interest, please contact your supervisor or Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching. They will work with myself and the LTC team to ensure we clarify any concerns or provide updates on matters related to learning and teaching.

2020 ACU Teaching Development Grants

The Awards and Grants Committee received an unprecedented total of 36 high-quality and competitive proposals from teams representing all faculties and a wide range of disciplines. The committee commended the commitment of staff to these initiatives in learning and teaching which contribute to the innovation and excellence agenda at ACU. The committee awarded funding for eight projects in Group 1 and four projects in Group 2.

Group 1: Applications covered a broad range of topics including technology enhanced learning and performance, student support for placements in health and education, enhancing student career pathways, digital literacy, student mentoring, authentic assessment, and academic integrity. Innovative uses of technology in the COVID-19 context were well represented.

Group 2: Applications covered a broad range of topics including embedding principles of Indigenised learning, Indigenous approaches to higher education, and culturally protective practices and safe pedagogy. These projects continue to build cultural capacity in alignment with ACU's commitment.

The successful 2020 ACU Teaching Development Grant proposals for Group 1 are:

- Dr Rachel Busbridge and team, Faculty of Education and Arts: 'Career thinking and retention in the Bachelor of Arts: A first-year intervention to enhance student perceptions of the employability of arts graduates'.
- Dr Kerry Ttofari Eecen and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'Practicalities, feasibility and participant perspectives of a student-led telepractice literacy service for school-aged children'.
- Dr Sally Humphrey and team, Faculty of Education and Arts: 'Designing disciplinary multiliteracies pedagogies across teaching areas'.
- Dr Kathleen McGuire and team, Faculty of Education and Arts: 'Augmenting pre-service music teachers' intercultural understanding in an online environment through authentic immersion in a culturally diverse performance'.
- Dr Oscar Modesto and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'Does a flexible mentoring arrangement between first- and third-year psychology students promote psychological wellbeing, academic self-efficacy and student retention?'.
- Dr Maggie Nolan and team, Faculty of Education and Arts: 'Literature in a digital world'.
- Associate Professor Gert-Jan Pepping and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'Virtual practicum'.

- Dr Bhavani Sridharan and team, Faculty of Law and Business: 'Authentically assuring graduate capability through assessment authenticity, proximity and academic integrity'.

The successful 2020 ACU Teaching Development Grant proposals for Group 2 are:

- Mrs Cath Emmerson and Associate Professor Kerrie Thomsen and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'Codesigning the evaluation of allied health student learning in cultural capacity'.
- Dr Isabelle Lys and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'Co-creating a distinctive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander online interactive garden trail with students for learning and for community engagement'.
- Dr Chrissy Monteleone and team, Faculty of Education and Arts: 'Education as Dreaming: Developing an innovative culturally supportive learning environment'.
- Associate Professor Kerrie Thomsen and Dr Elisa Yule and team, Faculty of Health Sciences: 'A co-design process for decolonising allied health curriculum'.

Student Evaluation of Learning and Teaching (SELT) surveys for Semester 2 units

The **Student Evaluation of Learning and Teaching (SELT)** surveys for 2020 Semester 2 units will start on **Monday, 5 October 2020**. Emails inviting students to participate in the surveys will be sent to the ACU student email accounts from **'Evaluations LTC'** with embedded links (URL) to the SELT surveys. Students can also access the surveys through the **'Evaluations'** block on the [LEO](#) homepage. The SELT surveys for 2020 Semester 2 units will close on **29 November 2020**.

Your help is needed for the following:

1. SELT surveys will be promoted during Week 10, through class visits by the **ACU SELT Survey Promotion Officers** (current ACU students employed on a casual basis) at **North Sydney, Strathfield and Brisbane campuses only**. Please inform all teaching staff members (including sessional staff members) in your Faculties/Schools regarding the possibility of class visits in week 10. It is important that Lecturers/Tutors enable the respective campus SELT Survey Promotion Officers to talk to the classes. Only about 5-10 minutes of class time is needed to promote the surveys and to play the SELT promotional video to students. Large classes will be targeted to derive maximum benefit.
2. Since the visits by ACU SELT Survey Promotion Officers are feasible for only targeted classes, it is vital that all teaching staff (lecturers/tutors) spend a few minutes to discuss the importance of student feedback process, and to encourage their students to complete the SELT surveys.
3. Online class 'visits' (i.e., brief input from SELT Survey Promotion Officers during Zoom sessions) will be made available for classes at Melbourne, Canberra and Ballarat campuses, based on requests from lecturers/tutors through prior communication with Evaluations.LTC@acu.edu.au.

Staff may wish to use a [short video](#) (which highlights some aspects of the SELT survey) to start a conversation with students and another [video](#) on providing constructive feedback. Further information on SELT surveys is available at https://staff.acu.edu.au/our_university/learning_and_teaching/evaluation_and_improvement.

If staff or students have any questions about the SELT survey, they can visit the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) webpage (log-in required) or contact Evaluations.LTC@acu.edu.au

Students on campus Semester 1 2021 – update from Timetabling

Timetabling are currently working through models to change the Semester 1, 2021 timetable to reflect decisions made by the University's Recovery Management Team. This will necessitate a change to the requests that Schools previously made for their Semester 1 classes.

Student Administration have done some testing to find an equitable solution to scheduling classes on reduced capacity campuses. The agreed approach will be:

- All Lectures are online.
- Core Curriculum and Schools who have made specific requests to maximise online classes will be accommodated.
- The Universities Australia 4sqm and 2sqm (Qld only) recommendations with a max of 50pax in a space, will be set within teaching space capacities in Syllabus Plus.
- The activities originally scheduled on campus will be alternately labelled on-campus or online and rescheduled.

The combination of the measures outlined, and the technical approach undertaken by the team, will allow timetabling to bring 33% of classes back to campus of those originally requested for Semester 1. In addition to this 33%, all practical classes will be run on campus. With the remaining space capacity, Schools will be able to nominate their preferences for other classes to move back to campus. Timetabling will work to accommodate as many such requests as possible. If the remaining space is all taken up, this should see the on-campus rate reach 40% of classes.

This is the most effective and equitable way to resettle the timetable, maximising time on campus without favouring any School over another. Timetabling plan to implement these changes in the week starting **5 October**.

eLearning Update

DUPLICATE feature for LEO Editing Lecturer role

We are pleased to inform LEO users that, after successful and extensive load testing, the Duplicate action is now enabled for your role in LEO. This means you will be able to quickly and easily duplicate resources and activities within your LEO unit using the Duplicate function. Visit the [LEO Guides](#) for more information

Removal of LEO units

As part of the annual process to maintain LEO LMS, 1858 units were moved from LEO to the [reference site](#). If there is a unit that has been mistakenly moved, please check if the unit is on the [reference site](#). If it is there you will be able to download the resources. If the unit needs to be restored to LEO for students, please contact [LEO Support](#).

LEO Upgrade project

The University's Learning Environment Online (LEO) will be undergoing important upgrades to the Learning Management System (Moodle) and ePortfolio (Mahara). The main reasons for the upgrade are to:

- maintain currency of the Moodle system (latest version is v3.9; ACU is on v3.5)
- maintain currency of the Mahara system (latest version is v20.1; ACU is on v18.4)
- take advantage of additional features and improvements in this version that are desirable for ACU use
- resolve issues including security issues

Work on the upgrades will begin on Monday 5 October 2020 and will be completed on Saturday 9 January 2021. All staff and students will be able to access and continue to work on their LEO units, create new units for 2021 and rollover existing units to 2021 until Wednesday 6 January 2021. Information on the upgrades will be provided as they progress.

Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) Virtual WIL Summit

ACEN Virtual WIL Summit – Beyond 2020: Creating a future with WIL

The ACEN WIL Virtual Summit is a 2-day online event open to ACEN Members (free) and Non-Members. Join us to explore the Summit theme "Beyond 2020: Creating the Future with WIL" through showcases, refereed paper presentations and interactive round tables. There will also be online opportunities to socialise and network with colleagues from across the country and beyond. *The program is now available. ACU has an ACEN membership and attendance is free.*

To Register: <http://acen.edu.au/summit-about/>

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