

INFORMATICS FACULTY PLAN (2005–2006)

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2005–2006

OVERVIEW

As previously advised, the University has changed their Faculty Planning and Resource template. The Plan, as submitted, complies with this changed template.

For the purposes of clarify, this summary report follows the changed reporting template by summarising progress within the two core sections and the four sub-sections of the new template as identified below:

Planning and Review of Core Activities

- Learning and Teaching/ Internationalisation
- Research/ Internationalisation
- Community Engagement
- Student Equity

Resources and Management

- Student Profile
- Staff Management
- Resource Implications (*not reported against*)
- Projected Income & Expenditure (*not reported against*)

Please note, however, that the objectives and strategies for this current Plan were devised at the full Faculty Planning Conference held in December 2004 and adjusted at a smaller Planning Meeting in December 2005. As such, new sub-sections which appeared in the revised template were not considered within the structure of that the Planning Conference and the subsequent Plan. However, where the Faculty has progressed activities against these sub-sections in the normal course of operations, this progress has been reported.

Please note also that some new objectives have been formulated (identified in body of summary) and some objectives may have been adjusted in response to changes in environment and priorities.

SECTION 1: CORE ACTIVITIES

Teaching and Learning / Internationalisation

Objective: *Provide an effective educational experience for all our students that will produce quality graduates.*

- FEC identified MATH151, ECTE171 and CSCI191 for change evaluation in Autumn
- Two unsuccessful ESDF grants completed and lodged
- One successful ESDF application, *Summertime Math*
- One successful Teaching and Learning Fund application, *Developing Maths in Science*
- Teaching and Learning Fund application submitted to release SMAS academic to initiate followup evaluations of subject improvements and to identify “second steps”

- Expression of Interest for CASR funding submitted to complete larger scale project, *Return to Mathematics*
- Under Faculty Service Agreement with CEDIR:
 - newsletter developed
 - video clips of Science and Engineering problems, student experience and Maths of 21st Century developed
- Improvements effected in three subjects so far:
 - STAT131 – change of assessment
 - SCS1114 – continued lab development and assessment modifications
 - MATH141 – developed and trialled new video learning resources
- Followup evaluations of five subjects (STAF131, MATH141, CSCI114, CSCI124 and CSCI103) conducted
- FEC formed working party, amalgamated with Tertiary Literacies Integration working party (TLIWP), to investigate and report on language issues across the Faculty
- Integrated various strategies to support academic literacy development within ECTE171, including early assessment of writing, lecture and follow-up seminars, and still developing marking routines and guide for assessors
- Actively reviewing language development needs of ECTE250/INFO202 and reporting to TLIWP
- Separated international PG IACT201/MS9201/ITCS908 students and formed into single tutorial group receiving two intensive workshops on written assignment tasks which delivered significantly positive results
- Report-writing workshop and plagiarism-avoidance workshop integrated into ECTE957.

Objective: *Review course and subject offerings in line with the University Quality Review Framework with a clear focus on key national and (where appropriate) international industry and social sector needs.*

- SITACS course and subject review awaiting outcome of IT/IS Review
- Internal audit conducted of SITACS subject outlines with adjustments made to streamline assessment procedures
- CSCI124 commenced Autumn 2006 session with structured labs
- Restructure of years three and four of BE majors currently being finalised
- Proposal to fast-track changes to SECTE Masters courses currently being considered
- Benchmarking being undertaken of SECTE Masters courses against major Australian competitor offerings relative to duration, subject offerings, industry input and course names
- SMAS proposal formulated for immediate changes to MMathFin (first year) for implementation in 2007 and forwarded to FEC
- SMAS commenced process of degree accreditation with the Australian Mathematical Society and the Statistical Society of Australia; application for accreditation of MMathFin with ASIC is nearing completion
- Discussions re connections between MATH121 and CSCI103 in a *Critical Cooperation Project* in process
- SECTE students now provided with MATH010 *Enabling Maths*

- Discussions ongoing with Faculty of Science to explore closer involvement with SMAS-provided teaching
- FEC developed schedule of course reviews by School
- BIST-review process progressing with terms of reference being developed
- Session reviews of subject delivery process in place and commenced Autumn 2006.

Objective: *Develop Dean's Scholars program across Faculty courses*

- FEC determining potential framework for a Faculty Dean's Scholars program.

Objective: *Consolidate all offshore partnerships*

- Developing strategic government and industry linkages and contacts as follows:
 - formal relationship currently being developed with the Singaporean Infocomm authority as well as the Singapore Computer Society
 - key industry players identified and dialogue commenced in China, Malaysia and Hong Kong
- Faculty Alumni successfully activated in Malaysia and Singapore with major functions being held in both locations during February
- Hong Kong Alumni activation in progress with event scheduled for October.

Objective: *Review teaching allocation*

- SITACS formed committee to review teaching allocation and subject delivery
- Many SMAS subjects now team-taught, including by an external expert in STAT304.

Objective: *Further enhancing teaching quality (new objective and only for FEC)*

- Five Quality Teaching and Learning grant applications submitted – two successful
- Two ESDF grant applications submitted – both unsuccessful
- Two Carrick Institute competitive grants in priority area categories applications submitted – both unsuccessful.

Research / Internationalisation

Objective: *SITACS to attract high calibre Postgraduate students and improve their research productivity, and performance and completion rates*

- SITACS' new HDR Co-ordinator to arrange a supervision workshop for Spring 2006.

Objective: *Ensure that 85% of Academic staff are research active*

- SITACS constructed database to identify baselines against which to measure progress; new HDR Co-ordinator to liaise with Research Committee to set targets
- SITACS runs School Research Colloquium every week.

Objective: *Increase dollar-level of competitive funding from ARC, CRC, other funding agencies and industry sources*

- Faculty review process conducted for 2007 ARC Discovery Grants
- 25 ARC Discovery grant applications submitted

- Successful SMAS staff mentoring program instituted and development of joint applications with other staff members also instituted.

Objective: *SMAS to have a strong international reputation for research*

- Four new PhD students enrolled
- Active group in Nanotechnology with postdocs and visitors established
- Two new professors in Statistics acquired
- Collaborations in Statistics with Manchester, Southampton and ANU established.

Objective: *Review SMAS research structure*

- Maths in Industry Group (MISC) planning progressing with:
 - Two SMAS staff appointed as directors
 - Funding of \$10,000 secured for 2003
 - Web site now live
 - Partners offering problems and support now identified.

Objective: *Produce a substantial amount of research of high quality and impact, thereby positioning the Faculty to thrive in the new Research Quality Framework being developed by the Federal Government*

- FIRDS grant awarded.

Objective: *Establish and/or improve relationship with six key domestic organisations*

- Meetings held in TITR to identify potential projects
- Approaches made to NZ Ministry of Health and to ANSTO.

Objective: *Develop an effective Faculty-wide research management and funding plan in collaboration with URC*

- Research groups and funding processes finalised.

Community Engagement

Objective: *Quarterly Research Seminars and/or mini-workshops for local industry.*

- Ad-hoc workshops and presentations organised by various research groups and strengths; objective to be slated to Associate Dean (Research) to further progress.

Objective: *Provide the ICT leadership focus in terms of the development of the Wollongong Innovation Campus (WIC).*

- Discussions with *Imprezzeo* progressing with significant venture capital interest
- Two provisional patents lodged.

Objective: *Contribute to a sustainable economic and environmental management*

- *SECTE, SMAS, TITR:* Remote individual computer wake-up applied on an individual unit basis for the server(s) systems and applicable only to computers that have the suitable configuration facility thereby effecting power savings

- *SITACS*: All new SITACS labs (and other computers) are being set so they do not turn on automatically, again effecting power savings.

Student Equity

Objective: *Improve access, participation, retention and completion rates among student equity groups at the University of Wollongong*

- SECTE created first-year scholarships for females in non-traditional areas to be advertised for students commencing in 2007
- SECTE held lunch for female students, HDR students through to first-year graduates and staff to encourage networking and demonstrate support for female students
- SECTE joined with Faculty of Engineering in planning a *Guides in Engineering and Science Saturday*
- Female intake into Maths-related degrees increased to 36%.

SECTION 2: RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

Student Profile

Objective: *Attract and retain undergraduate and postgraduate students, both domestically and internationally.*

- SECTE developing a new dynamic School website
- SECTE established an informal marketing sub-committee
- SECTE advised UniAdvice of willingness for staff to visit Schools
- SECTE currently producing advertisement on all courses for international magazine and new website placement
- Faculty marketing activities has focussed on attending identified Careers Markets and on supporting and growing the Enrichment Program
- New booklet developed and printed *Focus on Informatics* for career market distribution, Discovery Day database mailout, and to mail out to Schools
- The Enrichment Program now has a structure and process including online registrations through a dedicated web site, data collation and reporting, and dedicated administrative resources.

Objective: *Diversify International onshore students by country, levels and programs.*

- Significant consolidation achieved with Chu Hai College in China resulting in more nuanced articulation arrangements being developed
- Faculty and University profiling activities with new partner, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, including promotional seminars and media interviews
- Discussions and meetings held with Singapore Polytechnic to gain market intelligence on Singaporean student course preferences as well as subject-development advice for new BComputer Science major, *Multimedia and Games Development*
- Research seminars scheduled to be delivered at both Chulalongkorn and Thammasat University; Prof P Ogunbona on editorial board of Chulalongkorn Computer Science journals

- Seminars presented at ICI in Jakarta receiving press coverage and local industry and government exposure; preliminary discussions with University Binus Nusantara resulting in a senior delegation scheduled to visit in July
- Key academic staff with strong cross-cultural/student interaction skills identified and implemented for soft marketing campaigns

Objective: *Monitor and develop new staff.*

- SMAS have achieved a balanced staff workload through Workload agreements, new staff having at least one class at first year/service level and at least one class at a higher level, new staff applying for a small ARC and/or Early Career Research Grant, and each new staff member being a joint supervisor of at least one higher degree student
- All new SMAS staff achieving good progress with ITT
- Discussions held with senior staff to identify those seeking leadership roles, eg through MISC, SEC and research groups.

Objective: *Improve representation of academic women*

- *Women in Engineering* program reinvigorated in SECTE
- Female academic staff actively involved in high profile committee representative roles
- Dr Katina Michael appointed co-ordinator of R&D initiative on *IP Location Aware Services* (collaborative effort between *Andrew Corporation* and the Faculties of Informatics and Commerce).

Objective: *Create a more inclusive and mentoring Faculty culture for equity group members*

- Faculty achieved 90+% completion rate for EOline (only Faculty to do so)
- SITACS provides mentoring by Head of School for all new staff within three months of appointment
- SITACS' team-teaching practice to undergo Committee review
- SMAS reviewed mentoring arrangements at the commencement of 2006
- All SMAS probation and promotion applications discussed with Head of School and submitted on time
- Over 50% of SMAS subjects team-taught
- INFO411 team-taught with Faculty's other two Schools
- Entire Faculty attended *Chinese Culture and Language Workshop*.

Objective: *Ensure work practices are non-discriminatory*

- Workloads working party formed to review and assess workload allocation and consistency across the Faculty's schools to be considered at both the Faculty and the EEO Office level.

Objective: *Implement the OH&S Strategic Plan for Informatics*

- The University is still to implement new Cognos reporting tool with updated, accurate data
- Schools working on Audit inspections of Labs, teaching spaces and ultimately office space (*see also below*).

Objective: *Promote a safe and healthy work and student environment for all staff, students and visitors*

- SECTE established OH&S sub-committee which has met and scheduled meetings bi-monthly
- Above sub-committee scheduling workplace inspections as per OH&S Strategic Plan commencing with Building 6 laboratories (*see also above*).

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13 June 2006