

## **2008 LEADERSHIP RETREAT; DAY 2 PARTICIPANT EVALUATION SUMMARY**

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### **Day 2: 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2008**

#### **Session 1: Action Learning Project**

What aspects of this session did you find most useful relevant?

- This was a valuable session in assisting with the preparation for the plenary session.
- Working with Marcus (past scholar) who was fantastic. Lots of excellent advice about running the project about planning and positive feedback regarding the value of the work.
- Clarified the issue in my research project. Identified someone else who was working on a similar project.
- Useful talking with ex-scholar. Useful to chat with someone doing same thing as me.
- Great to identify someone who had similar project and to discuss and share ideas, identify similar obstacles and ideas for managing these. Feedback from the previous scholar.
- Discussion with peer. Feedback on action steps.
- Getting to know more re partner's project. Having chance to think through issues and obstacles in the project. Input from Cathy as facilitator.
- Useful to clarify the project – got some good ideas from my co-scholar.
- This session was by far the best session of the day as I was able to discuss my project and realise the difficulties within my plan and restructure the concept into a more manageable activity.
- Clarification of expectations for the project as a whole. Time on my own to think (partner not very interested in interacting – feeling stressed).
- This was a highlight I really appreciated the chance to guide current scholars – perhaps they can stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. The amount of time allowed was adequate (Past Scholar).

Were there aspects of this session that could be improved? If so how?

- Perhaps a bit more guidance on outcomes.
- Perhaps restate the constraints of the Action Plans.
- Longer time!!
- More detailed briefing as to what was to be done in the session.

Do you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments to make regarding this session?

- Marcus did an excellent job of keeping the discussion focussed so we had some concrete suggestions for presentation for Day 3.
- Excellent!
- Reinforce need for preparation before retreat. Some people didn't have the file on email.
- Would have been good to perhaps be visited by G & D.
- Try to get facilitator who isn't from wither person's institution.

#### **Session 2: Addressing Issues, Obstacles and Difficulties**

What aspects of this session did you find most useful relevant?

- Creative presentations was enjoyable change of pace.
- “Creative presentations” reinforces the depth and diversity in the group. Humour and creativity and open space are very valuable.
- Love the “creative” presentations.
- Discussion imagery, thinking through obstacles.
- Creative presentation in group was fantastic.
- Creative presentations were enjoyable, useful.
- Creative presentation great for building relationships. Great brainstorming.
- Creative presentations were fun. Excellent. Appreciated having experiences of the former scholars. Good to have the benefit of their experience.
- A good way of engaging discussion and reflection on issues. Creative focus was engaging.
- This was a good session “bedding down” learnings from previous session.
- The whole thing was useful – possibly the best session yet.
- Great: I really enjoyed the fact that the Scholars used such creative way of thing about communicating about this. (Past Scholar).

Were there aspects of this session that could be improved? If so how?

- More guidelines, More time.
- Maybe a summary to pull it altogether? Like – “From our experience last year the key things our Faculty Scholars learnt was ....”
- Can't be helped I guess but members of groups wasn't always co-operative – would get an idea and be inflexible etc.

Do you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments to make regarding this session?

- It was excellent – worked well both putting our presentation together and seeing/discussing the others.

### Session 3: Roundtable Planning.

What aspects of this session did you find most useful relevant?

- Insights, feedback.
- Start to get an idea of what a Roundtable is. Past scholars are a very important resource.
- Helped clarify what the expectations were.
- Finding out what was going to happen.
- Great for reducing anxiety. Good to bed down dates etc.
- Break out groups.
- Informative, exciting to hear of potential of the Roundtable and to begin concrete plans.
- Good to quiz past scholars to have opportunity to do so. Good to clarify dates of Roundtable now.
- Obviously the outcome of Roundtable is input to project.
- Hearing from previous scholars – brought it to life.
- I think the Scholars asked really good questions – I hope we (Past Scholars) provided useful information. (Past Scholar)

Were there aspects of this session that could be improved? If so how?

- Too long.
- This is quite scary – think it needs more time to find out the scope of the Roundtable task – still don't have much idea of how this will be planned.
- Tips and tricks – very long. More time for us to discuss ours.
- I appreciate the freedom to make the Roundtable our own .... But If there are some boundaries and constraints to the Roundtable – perhaps worth clarifying them.
- Yes – not sure how though ☺
- Previous scholars can be careful about presenting things in negative light.
- Not that I can think of – but any feedback from Scholars would be gratefully received. (Past Scholar)

Do you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments to make regarding this session?

- Keep it shorter.
- Group is starting to get tired!
- Looking forward to the Roundtable.

#### Session 4: True Colours.

What aspects of this session did you find most useful relevant?

- Nice change of pace. Good self reflection.
- Break up day with alternative activity.
- Hearing how others perceive themselves.
- This was an interesting activity.
- Seeing the make up of our group.
- Getting to meet other “blues”
- Hmmm – doesn't really work for me?
- Interesting concept.
- Reflection on self from insightful colleagues.

Were there aspects of this session that could be improved? If so how?

- This didn't give much information about roles.
- I think there are better tools that could be used.
- Other more specific models may be easier to see differences. Build on leadership roles within own university team.
- Might not be necessary to read out whole page on each 'type' summarise ... then link to leadership roles/tasks.

Do you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments to make regarding this session?

- Perhaps so Myers Brigg rather than cards.
- Need to draw out information and relate to roles in the group.
- Make it part of an actual planning session.
- Can be done more interactively by bringing in work from other quadrant ideas.
- If we are serious about understanding each other better then maybe more evidence-based tools or

instruments? Just not really my thing.

- We use a 'u' in the word 'colour' in this country!

**Further Comments:**

- Another good day!
- On reflection of Day 1 and Day 2 – I am feeling a little underdone with regard to some of the theory. – like Distributive Leadership theory – if we are not going to cover this then will there be readings available.
- I really think that this year's Scholars (and the way they have interacted) are great. They have huge potential – I think they will achieve great things. (Past Scholar)