The UOW Academic Services Division (ASD) held their first Divisional Planning Day on Tuesday 20th July 2010. Being the inaugural ASD Planning Day, it was declared a “Red Letter Day” with a “red theme” continuing throughout the day’s activities.

The event was hosted by Sandra Wills, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching, and held in the ITAMS Building on the Innovation Campus. The day commenced with a welcome from Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and discussion concerning the University Strategic Plans.

ASD comprises the following units: Academic Development Unit; Careers Central; Centre for Academic Systems & Resources; Dean of Students; Learning Design; Learning Development; Learning Innovation, Facilities & Technologies; Library; Student Support & Peer Learning; and Woolyungah Indigenous Centre.

All Heads of Units, accompanied by one other unit staff member, attended the event and, during the morning, presented the “hot topics and burning issues” that were presently being faced by their own unit. Discussions then proceeded to brain-storming on the idea of cross-ASD collaborations.

A fun themed lunch was held in the Science Centre café followed by a Planetarium and a Bubble show. Consensus was that the lunch and Science Centre shows were a fantastic addition to the day, providing an opportunity to engage with colleagues in a highly entertaining environment.

Group brain-storming continued throughout the afternoon with discussions focussing on planning priorities, timelines and resources. To bring the day’s activities to a close, Sandra Wills and Rob Castle gave a summary of discussions and spoke of continuing collaborations between the ASD units. Outcomes from the Planning Day are in the process of being actioned and further updates will be provided in due course.

As can be seen from the photographs of the Planning Day some ASD members took the “red theme” very seriously.