



University of Wollongong

Quality Matters

Issue 6 – 18 July 2006

<http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/>

Quality after AUQA

In September next year the University is required to report publicly on its progress in addressing recommendations and affirmations¹ included in AUQA's report of its audit of UOW (released in March this year).

A Quality Improvement Plan has now been developed to put improvements into action. It also covers a range of other suggestions included in the AUQA report, to maximise the benefits of the audit process and ensure a successful second audit outcome.

Periodic reports of our progress against the Plan will be presented to Academic Senate and Council, with the first report due in October this year.

Below is a summary of just some of the actions underway in identified areas for improvement.

Senior Women ...

Recommendation: *UOW needs to take steps to address the disproportionately low number of women at senior levels in the organisation.*

Action: The Employment Equity and Diversity Unit has continued to actively pursue a range of strategies to address this issue, including: benchmarking activities to help identify best practice; providing recruitment firms with a specific gender equity brief; including an equity component in training for Academic Promotion Committee Members; continuing to conduct workshops for academic women preparing for promotion.

¹ Recommendations relate to areas that the Audit Panel believed required improvement at the date of the audit. Affirmations relate to areas already noted by the University as requiring attention.

Graduate Attributes ...

Affirmation: *UOW needs to further develop systems to ensure that the UOW Graduate Attributes are embedded in teaching and assessment and to raise the level of awareness of some academic staff.*

Action: A project team, funded by ESDF and led by the Head of Student Services A/Prof Greg Hampton, has been set up to review Graduate Attributes and Tertiary Literacies with a view to developing a simplified, integrated framework that can readily be understood and applied by all academic staff.

UOW Student Experience ...

Improvement Suggestion: *UOW needs to better define the UOW student experience and improve University-wide coordination.*

Action: The "UOW Student Experience" is one of the University's Strategic Projects. The team steering this project, led by the Academic Registrar Dr David Christie, has developed a draft model of the experience which identifies its various elements – attraction/ access; learning; personal support; lifestyle; student management; success after UOW – and will now identify and prioritise improvement opportunities.

Intellectual Property Policy ...

Recommendation: *UOW needs to practice clear and consistent policy on the intellectual property rights of students.*

Action: A new Intellectual Property Framework has been developed and approved by Council, including a specific policy addressing student assignment of IP accompanied by explanatory guidelines.

Marketing ...

Recommendation: *UOW needs to strengthen quality controls for how UOW programs are promoted to international markets.*

Action: A new policy – “Production of Marketing Material and Use of UOW Brand” – has been finalised following an extensive consultation process. The policy will be considered by Administrative Committee of Council on 18 July before going to Council for endorsement on 18 August.

Other quality enhancement activities

Work is also being done in other areas, including:

- Further development of online policy database
- Identification of institutional benchmarking opportunities
- Extension of risk management framework to faculties and professional units
- Comparative analyses of student learning outcomes
- Systematic approach to effecting the link between research and teaching
- Biosafety management
- Developing a framework for quality assurance of offshore teaching activities

New University Planning and Quality Committee

With the development of a quality model that integrally links planning and quality, the Vice-Chancellor has established a new advisory committee – the University Planning and Quality Committee (UPAQ) – which combines the roles of the Quality Audit and Planning Committee and the Strategic Plan Working Party.

UPAQ will oversee the next review of strategic planning and the implementation of the Quality Improvement Plan in response to the AUQA Report.

A link to UPAQ’s terms of reference is located on the Management and Committees webpage under “Other Committees”. See:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/>

New Planning and Quality website

The Strategic Planning Team invites you to visit a useful new website on Quality and Planning @ UOW:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality>

The capacity to plan and assure quality is critical for achieving UOW’s goals. The new website explains the University’s quality and planning processes and provides links to key policies and documents.

An Essential Guide to Planning and Quality @UOW, which summarises key information, can also be conveniently downloaded from the site’s home page.

Comments or questions regarding any aspect of the website or planning and quality at UOW are welcome. Please send any feedback to quality@uow.edu.au.

