

imPAQt



Planning and Quality @ UOW

Issue 2 - 20 November 2007

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

This issue of imPAQt marks the end of the 2005-07 planning cycle and the beginning of a new one for 2008 to 2010.

Over the last three years, the University has recorded some exceptional achievements. We have now charted pathways for the coming cycle which promises to bring landmark changes for UOW.

You are invited to read below about UOW's record so far and the directions we will be following for 2008-10 - the ones that affect how you and your faculty/unit develop.

Please contact the Strategic Planning & Quality Office (SPQ) if you have any queries - ext 3386 or jennyh@uow.edu.au

UOW Achievements 2005-07

The 2005-07 Strategic Plan spanned one of the peak periods in the University's development. The big achievements included:

- Continuing (maximum) 5-star rankings in The Good Universities Guide, particularly for research intensity and graduate outcomes and employability
- Outstanding achievement in the new Australian Government Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (top tier in first two rounds)
- Inaugural Commonwealth University of the Year Award for Community Engagement (The Times Higher Education Supplement and the Association of Commonwealth Universities)
- In Top 200 World University Rankings, The Times Higher Education Supplement 2006 and 2007*
- Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (\$12m from ARC) and Global Centre of Excellence for Transnational Crime Prevention (\$12m from Australian Government) established in 2006
- UOW Dubai - new premises opened in Knowledge Village in 2005 and very positive growth
- Construction began on Innovation Campus - \$350m+ project
- The Graduate School of Medicine MBBS degree commenced in purpose- built facilities on Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses
- The University Library extended and refurbished to provide a new look and many improved features for study and research
- University ranked 5th nationally in total ARC grant income (approximately \$10 million) relative to size (2007)
- University listed in the Top 500 academic rankings of world universities by the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University*

Over the three years, the University's faculties and units showed an increasing commitment to regular planning and review.

Launch of UOW Strategic Plan 2008-10

The 2008-10 UOW Strategic Plan will guide the University's development over the next three year period. It was developed through a consultative process across the University and the wider community.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, officially launched the Plan at the October Planning Forum attended by 150 executive and management staff from across the University.

The 2008-10 Vision commits the University to a role in enriching "individuals, their communities and the environment". The Vice-Chancellor's opening statement identifies the four distinctive UOW strengths that will be essential for realising our vision – *diversity, partnership, enterprise and excellence*.

The University will work towards seven **Goals in 2008-2010:**

1. Excellence and innovation in learning and teaching
2. Excellence and innovation in research
3. Dynamic engagement with our communities
4. Students engaged with learning and University life
5. A university of international outlook and achievement
6. Versatile, skilled and committed staff
7. Business capacity to advance the achievement of our Vision

The strategies to achieve these Goals will be implemented and monitored through Faculty and Unit Plans, Shoalhaven Campus and Education Centre Plans, UOW Dubai Plan and other related plans.

The full version of the 2008-10 Strategic Plan can be viewed at:

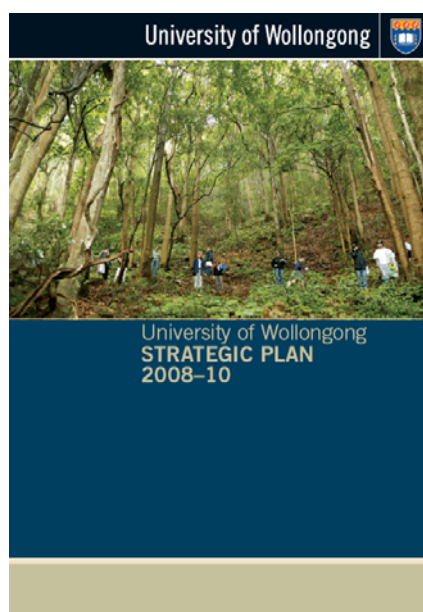
<http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/strategicplan/index.html>

Strategic Priorities 2008-10

Each Goal identifies issues of critical and distinctive focus over this planning cycle. These 2008-10 UOW Strategic Priorities are summarised below:

- National and international recognition
- Ethical practice in education and research
- Leading research performance

- Excellence in learning and teaching
- The UOW Student Experience
- Knowledge, skills and qualities of UOW students and graduates
- The Innovation Campus
- The Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute
- Medical training for regional, rural and remote Australia
- Improved channels for interaction with the community
- Environmental management across all UOW locations
- Staff capacity to achieve excellent outcomes
- Quality processes and professional business planning and practice



Monitoring Progress

UOW is committed to a four-step quality process – Plan, Act, Review and Improve. Quality is assured by a monitoring cycle that tests outcomes and introduces improvements and updates into the planning system.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are institutional markers of the University's progress towards meeting its goals. The KPIs for the 2008-10 Plan are:

- Learning and Teaching Performance
- Research Performance
- Community Perception
- Student Demand
- Student Outcomes
- Student Perception
- International Recognition
- Employer Perception
- Staff Perception
- Staff Capability
- Environmental Impact
- Financial Performance
- Resource Utilisation

Progress in the KPI areas will be tracked by a new **Performance Monitoring Framework** with indicators and targets for each of the Goal areas. The Framework will be the major reference point for Faculties and Professional Units in the development of their own plans and in the conduct of their annual reviews. It is intended as a further step in rationalising and aligning performance measurement.

AUQA Audit Update

Progress Report on Quality Improvement

On 21 September, the University submitted a progress report to AUQA on quality improvements and initiatives (as required 18 months after the audit).

AUQA responded with positive comment and approved the report for publication on the UOW website, linked to AUQA's own website:

To check the considerable progress made by many units and areas over the last 18 months and the ongoing quality initiatives, please see:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@spq/documents/doc/uow038439.pdf>

Next AUQA audit

AUQA's second audit cycle will begin in 2008, with UOW likely to be audited again in 2011. During Audit Cycle 2 there will be a greater emphasis on **standards and performance outcomes**. In particular, UOW must report on external **benchmarking** activities and outcomes.

Two areas of activity will be chosen for detailed attention. These areas will be selected in consultation with the University, guided by considerations of academic risk. For each area, AUQA will be asking:

- How are standards determined?
- How are standards applied consistently across the University?
- How are outcomes monitored?
- How are standards and outcomes compared nationally and internationally?
- How is this information used to improve standards?
- What processes are in place to ensure that standards are updated?

As the first step in our preparations, an academic risk assessment exercise is being conducted as the basis for review of the University's Quality Improvement Plan.

