



Welcome to the third Planning and Quality newsletter for 2009

This is a special edition for UOW's Planning Forum on 15 October 2009

### Featured in this issue:

- The next UOW Strategic Plan
- Preparations for our AUQA Audit in March 2011
- AUQA Audit Timetable

This newsletter is published by the Strategic Planning & Quality Office.

For further information about items in this newsletter, contact Ext. 4748 [spq@uow.edu.au](mailto:spq@uow.edu.au)

### The next UOW Strategic Plan – your say

The Vice-Chancellor will announce the review and redevelopment of the UOW Strategic Plan at the October 09 Planning Forum and the University community is invited to be involved in the process.

Our 2011-13 Plan will need to affirm and strengthen UOW's position as an international research university, recognised amongst the top 2% in the world. It should identify the opportunities and set the directions that will allow us to take a leading role in a dynamic, performance-driven environment.

To do this, we will need to examine the issues before us (as raised in the Planning Forum program) and articulate a mission that builds on UOW's capacity to:

- open up opportunities for participation and provide a learning experience, recognised for its quality and its outcomes in student and graduate achievement
- undertake and excel in innovative, collaborative and industry-linked research programs
- enhance the two-way relationship with our communities to facilitate individual, social and economic development
- provide the programs, partnerships and diversity that promote international recognition, overseas student engagement and the global perspectives of domestic students
- foster the versatility and achievement of all staff
- sustain our record for capability and enterprise through sound quality, planning and business practices.

### How can you best contribute to the next Plan?

Take a look at the current 2008-10 Plan at:

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

and let us have your ideas on the next Plan - the sort of directions we need to distinguish and how we engage the University community in the journey.

### Involve your colleagues and staff in the discussion.

Please send you comments to the Strategic Planning & Quality Office by 20 November (email: [spq@uow.edu.au](mailto:spq@uow.edu.au)). They will be forwarded to the University Planning and Quality Committee (UPAQ) which is overseeing the development of the new plan.

### The Strategic Plan Development Schedule

The 2011 Strategic Plan will be developed during the first half of 2010. A consultation plan will provide opportunities for feedback along the way from the University Council, the Academic Senate, the major committees and the wider community (both internal and external). The Plan will be submitted to Council for final approval at their October meeting and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

## Quality Improvement



Some of the members of the AUQA Audit Steering Group pictured at a meeting on 7 October 2009

### AUQA Audit Preparation Timetable

<b>Sept-Dec 2009</b>	Self-Review Advisory Panels formed Preliminary self-reviews begin
<b>March 2010</b>	<b>UOW Themes submitted to AUQA</b>
	AUQA Audit Director(s) visit UOW to determine preferred themes and clarify audit scope
	AUQA Board Chair approves two themes and advises UOW
	Full self review of each theme area undertaken via interviews, group workshops etc
<b>March-April</b>	Update review against National Protocols
	Update review against AQF
	Begin drafting outline of portfolio
<b>May-August</b>	UOW asked to review names of potential panel members for possible conflicts of interest
	<b>Audit Panel appointed and dates finalised.</b>
<b>August-Nov</b>	Draft Performance Portfolio
<b>November</b>	<b>Performance Portfolio submitted to AUQA</b>
<b>January 2011</b>	Draft Audit Visit program, requests for further information required, details of offshore sites to be visited sent to UOW
<b>January-Feb</b>	<b>Preparatory Visit:</b> Panel Chair and AD visit UOW to discuss draft Audit Visit program, requests for further information, logistics for Audit visit
<b>Feb - March</b>	UOW sends AUQA any further information requested
	UOW sends provisional list of names and positions of interviewees to AUQA for comment
	<b>Visits to selected offshore partner operations/UOWD</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Audit Visit</b>

### Preparations for our AUQA Audit

#### *When will we be audited?*

UOW will be audited under AUQA's second cycle of audits in **March 2011**. The exact date of the Audit Panel's visit will be advised shortly.

#### *What will be the focus of the audit?*

For cycle 2 audits, the comprehensive review of the last cycle will be replaced by:

- an assessment of action taken to address the outcomes of the last audit, and
- a concentrated investigation of two theme areas.

The University is required to submit up to two to three proposed themes (in early 2010) and AUQA will select two of them for review.

#### *What are our themes?*

Four possible theme areas have been identified (based on a 2008 academic risk assessment) which the University Planning & Quality Committee has approved for development. They are listed below with a note on the action underway:

1. **International Activity** – advisory panel appointed in consultation with PPCI
2. **The UOW Learning Experience** – advisory panel appointed by DVCA
3. The Student Experience – mapped by strategic projects
4. Equity & Diversity – being mapped by Social Inclusion Working Party

#### *How are we preparing?*

**Stage 1- Theme Development:** An AUQA Audit Steering Group (AASG) was established in early 2009 to provide oversight of our preparations for the Audit in 2011. More recently advisory panels have been set up to assist in scoping two of the theme areas (see bolded above) and in conducting a preliminary self-review to identify areas of good practice and improvement, as a basis for submission of the theme area.

#### *What will happen next year?*

**Stage 2 - Self Review:** Once the two theme areas are approved, AASG, with the assistance of two self review panels, will conduct a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis, supported by performance data for each theme area.

**Stage 3 - Portfolio Development:** The self-reviews will form the basis of the development of UOW's Performance Portfolio, which must be submitted to AUQA by the end of 2010 - three months prior to the Panel's visit in March.

#### *How will this involve me?*

Staff and students may be involved in the lead up to and conduct of the audit in various ways: by participating on a self review panel or assisting a panel complete its analysis and gathering of data; by assisting the SPQ Office in collation of evidence and drafting and review of the Performance Portfolio; by participating as an interviewee on an Audit interview panel.

#### *Where can I find out more?*

Contact SPQ staff or visit the Planning & Quality website:

[www.uow.edu.au/planquality](http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality)

You can read reports of other universities' cycle 2 audits at:

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/universities/>