Internationalisation of the Curriculum in Action

Thursday, 3\textsuperscript{rd} November ‘11
12:30 – 1:30 pm
Lecture Theatre 20.5

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Watch out for more on the ASD Staff Development Calendar:

Betty Leask is an Associate Professor in Internationalisation of the Curriculum at the University of South Australia (UniSA), Visiting Professor at Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK and co-editor, with Hans de Wit, of the Journal of Studies in International Education. She is recognised as an international expert in her field in which she has published widely and is frequently invited to provide international lectures, workshops and keynotes. The focus of her work for the past 15 years has been on linking theory and practice in the area of internationalisation in higher education. She has done this is various roles, including as a teacher, a manager (as Dean Teaching and Learning in the Division of Business and as coordinator of international staff and student services at UniSA), a researcher and an academic developer. In 2010 she was awarded an ALTC National Teaching Fellowship focussed on internationalisation of the curriculum ‘in action’ in different disciplinary and institutional contexts. Details of her ALTC Fellowship activities are available at http://www.ioc.net.au.

Betty has been an elected member of the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) Board since 2006. She is the convener of the Association’s Internationalisation of the Curriculum Special Interest Group and Chair of the Research Committee.

In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis in higher education institutions worldwide on how to more effectively ensure that all graduates are prepared for life and work in a rapidly globalizing world, where an understanding of the impact of culture on the construction of knowledge and on professional practices are deemed essential, and the ability to communicate and function effectively in a multicultural environment is highly valued. This trend has emerged simultaneously with rapid increases in student and program mobility. In this context, and in the context of this workshop, ‘internationalisation of the curriculum’ refers to the adoption of strategies to prepare all graduates more effectively for working and living in a rapidly changing, globalising world.

This presentation will explore ‘internationalisation of the curriculum in action’ – the point where students engage with each other and with curriculum content and learning activities focused on achievement of internationalised learning outcomes. The role of teaching academics in this space is crucial. They understand the academic value inherent in gathering information from all over the world and generating innovation on a world scale; and they are responsible for designing curricula, including teaching and learning tasks and activities to develop interculturally competent graduates prepared for life as global citizens and professionals.

In this presentation Associate Professor Betty will lead a discussion of what internationalisation of the curriculum means in the context of different disciplines. The discussion will be informed by her national and international work. The presentation will include a conceptual framework of internationalisation of the curriculum, short ‘vignettes’ of internationalisation of the curriculum in different disciplines, an outline of the process of internationalisation of the curriculum at the course and program level and descriptions of resources designed to assist those wishing to get down to action.