2007 LEARNING AND TEACHING PERFORMANCE FUND

Summary of central funded projects and planned activities

Central Teaching Facilities Refurbishment - Office of Finance and Resources

Allocation: $100,000

This funding is partial funding towards a major refurbishment of the Woolnough and Weatherburn lecture theatres, in particular the grant will be used to:

- improve the visual appearance of central teaching lecture theatres including floors, walls, ceilings, furniture, lighting,
- improve the interiors rating to an acceptable level,
- present to current and prospective students and the wider community quality lecture theatres consistent with the expectations of “world class” facilities,
- provide interior fitting consistent with the audio visual standards implemented in recent years.

The refurbishment will result in a substantial improvement to the two venues and accordingly the quality of the student learning experience.

Student Volunteer Management Project – Guild of Undergraduates

Allocation: $32,895

- The project’s key objective is to improve the UWA student experience through the implementation of a volunteering registration, recognition and accreditation program in accordance with the National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not for Profit Organisations.
- The Student Volunteer Management Project is consistent with the University’s educational principles identified in the University’s Strategic Plan (2007). Specifically that Guild student volunteers at UWA are encouraged and facilitated to develop the ability and desire to:
  - acquire the skills required to learn from a variety of sources and experiences;
  - acquire mature judgement and responsibility in ethical, moral, social and practical as well as academic matters;
  - Acquire cross-cultural and other competencies to take a citizenship and leadership role in the local, national or international community.
Student Leadership Development Programme – Trinity College

Allocation: $7,500

- The aim of the project is to develop a flexible and integrated Student Leadership Development Programme that supports the aims of the College and that:
  - provides leadership development for the College’s Resident Support Staff and Resident’s Club,
  - provides formal leadership opportunities and training for other capable residents within the College,
  - could represent a model for leadership development in the University’s residential environment.
- Consistent with the University’s Operational Priorities Plan for 2006-2008, the Student Leadership Development Programme will enable;
  - the provision of opportunities for residents to develop leadership and related skills relevant to both College life and their future professional life, and will encourage the exercise of self-governance and personal responsibility.
- This funding is provided to trial a modified version of the programme in Semester 2 of 2007, in preparation for a fuller programme in 2008. Additional funds will be provided by the College.

Leadership Programme – Currie Hall

Allocation: $7,500

Further information to be supplied.

Visiting Artist in Residence Programme – St Catherine’s College

Allocation: $7,500

Further information to be supplied.

Computerised Catalogue of Library Holdings – St Thomas More College

Allocation: $7,500

Further information to be supplied.

Joint Submission: UWA Residential Colleges and Hall

Allocation: $17,605

- The aims of this project are twofold. Firstly, to research and substantiate the student learning experiences associated with residence at the University’s residential Colleges and Hall. Secondly, to investigate various existing models of affiliation that exist between non-residential students and university colleges, and how a model may be implemented at UWA.
Postgraduate Online Scholarly Literacy – University Library

Allocation: $78,500

- The project is a joint proposal of the Graduate Research School, the University Library, and Student Services and aims to;
  - build on the experience and success of the IRIS online information literacy WebCT modules for undergraduates,
  - make use of the power of the University's Hive Learning Resources System to enable great flexibility in the use of individual elements of instruction in a variety of teacher-defined contexts,
  - draw on the Library’s IT experience with re-usable learning objects,
  - directly address the needs of postgraduate students for assistance in locating, evaluating and using information as identified in the 2006 survey of research students,
  - respond to one of the recommendations in the 2006 report of the Library Review Panel.
- The project will deliver online learning material to the target audience of UWA postgraduate students and will establish a method of communication to enable postgraduate students to take advantage of the full range of training and learning opportunities available.

Enhancing Community Project – Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning

Allocation: $61,486

- This project aims to examine the culture of the wider UWA community, to gain a better understanding of ways in which it might be enhanced to improve the holistic student experience of university and, by association, the quality of the student learning experience.

Coursework Postgraduate Student Induction – Postgraduate Student’s Association

Allocation: $14,300

- The project objective is to highlight the issue of Postgraduate Coursework student orientation and the need for an induction and associated handbook for these students which could be provided by the Postgraduate Students’ Association, in conjunction with Student Services.
- The Postgraduate Coursework induction will provide valuable information on the issues facing Postgraduate Coursework students to the Postgraduate Student’s Association for communication to the various UWA Committees. It will also enable the Postgraduate Student’s Association to better inform Postgraduate Coursework students of the resources available to them while they study at UWA. It will also assist Postgraduate Coursework students to form a more collegial cohort, with closer ties to each other and the broader UWA community.
- It is proposed that the induction event will be held in Semesters 1 and 2 of 2008.
Increased Student Participation in UWA Extension Programs – UWA Extension

Allocation: $3,900

- The aim of this project is to enhance the contribution that UWA Extension makes to the University community and to encourage the broadest involvement in its programs through the implementation of a pilot student participation programme. The funding will provide for 100 places at major public lectures which will be allocated to students.

Credit-bearing English Language Units for English Language Exchange and Study Abroad Programme – Registrar’s Office

Allocation: $72,380

- The objectives of this project are:
  - to develop all components for two six-point credit-bearing English language units,
  - to base the units on CELT’s Academic English and Study Skills Bridging Course,
  - To provide the basis for representation to relevant UWA Boards and Committees for approval of the credit-bearing units.
- Educational outcomes will be refined through the writing of a Project Initiation Plan. They will include but not be limited to the existence of course documentation for two English language units of 65 hours face to face teaching over 13 weeks. This documentation is to include a full curriculum description with information about rationale, underpinning methodological approaches, prospective students, assessment programme and syllabus of learning outcomes for the development of:
  - academic English grammar, syntax and lexis
  - language skills, especially the productive skills of writing and speaking
  - critical thinking in the context of an Australian university
  - A programme of out-of-class guided learning.
Language development will be content-based and topics from the Academic English and Study Skills Bridging Course will be chosen for their relevance to today’s world and the interests of incoming students.

Developing online, Faculty-specific writing modules delivered via WebCT for UWA first-year students – Registrar’s Office in collaboration with Faculties

Allocation: $50,225

- This project aims to develop on-line, Faculty-specific modules that aim to enhance student writing. The materials will be designed in WebCT for first year students in their first semester and be developed by staff from Learning, Language and Research Skills team (Student Services) in collaboration with teaching staff and students. The online modules will be made available as a recommended resource for students via their first year classes.
Development of an Integrated Postgraduate Research Bridging Course – Registrar’s Office

Allocation: $38,709

- This project will develop a bridging course that aims to help incoming research students acquire the academic and linguistic skills and knowledge of local cultural conventions of postgraduate studies.
- The aims of this project are twofold;
  - to develop a tool to assess academic and English language skills and awareness of Australian tertiary conventions. It is proposed to apply this tool to all incoming postgraduate research students, in this way, entry to the programme is based on educational need rather than nationality and first language background.
  - To develop a Postgraduate Research Bridging Course relevant to proposed disciplinary studies and to promote academic and English language skills and awareness of the Australian tertiary context.

Summary of Faculty major projects and planned activities

Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts

Allocation: $199,967

- Development of alumni database to be used to establish a mentor programme in the lower levels of all degrees with particular emphasis on establishing relations between first year students and recent graduates.
- Refurnishing and re-equipping of studios, intended to re-vitalize the student experience through the provision of aesthetically pleasing, secure, safe and functional working spaces.

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Allocation: $358,182

- Improvements to the first year student experience and retention in relation to Arts students, using the Unite Arts project in order to address student isolation, provide strong academic and pastoral support for first years and provide academic peer group mentoring to students at risk.
- Increase and diversification of experiential learning and learning experiences for students in FAHSS, specifically through the enhancement of a range of practicums, study abroad and diversification of forms of experiential learning in particular the case study approach.
- Development of learning initiatives and strategies for those disciplines and teaching areas with weaker results in CEQ and/or SURF scores. Specifically through dedicated workshops for curriculum development and staff support for developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning.
UWA Business School

Allocation: $366,383

- Improving student engagement in tutorials by providing a greater opportunity for students to participate in tutorial discussions using the following strategies;
  - reducing the numbers of students in each tutorial group;
  - increasing the time allocated to tutorials (from 1 to 2 hour sessions);
  - introducing a 'tutorial plus workshop' model as is currently utilised in the first year accounting unit.
- Peer Assisted Student Study sessions (PASS)
- Revised orientation and transition program to include study skill sessions for all new international students.
- Support for the Faculty-based Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards.
- Grants to support research into teaching and learning.

- Support for staff to attend workshops and forums and other teaching and learning activities.
- Support for staff initiatives aimed at improving teaching.
- Appointment of a Postgraduate student experience coordinator.

Faculty of Education

Allocation: $186,275

- Improvements to the curriculum resource collection in the Education, Fine Arts and Architecture Library.
- Upgrade and replacement of PCs and printers for postgraduate student rooms.
- Appointment of a part-time Partnership Co-ordinator (2 years) for Information and Communication Technology and Art in order to improve the quality of school partnerships.
- Digitisation of videos for use online.

Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Allocation: $448,043

- Partial funding towards appointment of Associate Professor/ Professor in Engineering Education; responsible for teaching and learning leadership within the Faculty.
- Continuation of projects initiated in 2006 round and additional projects, including:
  - expansion of role and activities of the First Year Community Project;
  - expansion of support structures for international students;
  - expansion of support structures for women undergraduates and postgraduates within the Faculty;
  - development of a range of skills training workshops for teaching staff within the Faculty.
  - establishment of mechanisms for improved quality control of Engineering and Computer Science practicum placements;
  - progression of the detailed conceptualisation of the Integrated Learning Centre.
Faculty of Law

Allocation: $225,892

- Enhance the first year experience with changes to curriculum in order to reduce class sizes and to attain consistency with the University of Sydney and Melbourne University. Partial funding for new staff member to develop a new curriculum for Legal Process and to teach in both Legal Process and Criminal Law.
- Development of legal and generic skills through the contraction of external specialists to offer Negotiation and Forensic Advocacy units in both the first and second semester.
- Restructure of the LLB degree in order to reduce expectation that students ‘overload’ in each year in order to complete the degree in the designated time. The content of the curriculum will be modernised and more closely integrated along the lines with leading GO8 law schools.

Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences

Allocation: $553,308

- Enhancing the practical experience for first year students through the following measures;
  o purchase of BMG Fluorescence/Absorbance Plate Readers in order to give students experience with equipment that they are likely to use in their future careers and to reduce the time taken for each experiment;
  o revision of the laboratory courses for first year Chemistry – personnel, equipment and other expenses. Funding of a 0.5 x Level A position to revise the first –year laboratory courses;
  o upgrade of the first year Physics laboratories and improvement to the laboratory experience. Appointment of a 0.5 position to plan and coordinate the introduction of a suite of new ‘back to basics’ experiments;
  o establishment of a teaching facility for generic skills in Human Movement;
  o development of participatory laboratory experiments in first-year Psychology, appointment of a tutor to continue the process of evolving the laboratory series into one of a participatory science and to increase computing resources available to students.
- Projects to develop computer and web-based tools to enhance student learning;
  o appointment of a Research Assistant to develop WebCT based continuous assessment tools for Chemistry;
  o appointment of a programmer to develop the tools to provide a system of on line student learning multiple choice questions as used in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology;
  o trial, implementation and evaluation of the integration of webcam images and the LabVIEW system for recording physiological data.
- Generic skills for science students;
  o appointment of a 0.2 Level C position for a period of 6 months to assess the generic skills training offered at UWA and at other leading Universities within Australia and overseas and to recommend how generic skills can be embedded into existing course structures;
  o appointment of a 0.2 Level B position for a period of 6 months to create WebCT – based modules
• Development of closer ties with the science student body with a view to developing a communal study area for science students;
  o funding of activities of the Science Union including a careers night;
  o appointment of staff member to work with the Science Union to define its role and to strengthen ties with the Faculty.

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Allocation: $416,945

• Support for the Faculty-based Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards.
• School teaching and learning project grants.
• Continuation of 2006 LTPF funded initiatives.
• Masters, Graduate Diploma and Certificate
• Maintain ‘Questionmark’ Perception.
• Staff development of teachers in assessment.
• Peer observation of teaching.
• Using feedback – training staff on giving feedback, and evaluating the success of different models implemented.
• Ongoing curriculum evaluation.
• Maintaining curriculum Map database.

Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Allocation: $212,495

• Support for the Faculty-based Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards.
• Provision of support for teaching and learning initiatives which promote good teaching practices;
  o instigate peer review of teaching;
  o facilitation of adoption of WebCT and iLectures;
  o development of resources for faculty-wide teaching of generic skills.
• Increase faculty CATLyst role to 1.0 FTE with a focus on 1st year teaching, student experience and generic skills;
• Provision of competitive funds to support teaching initiatives.
• Improve the students experience in selected units.
• Support for the salary costs of the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning.

School of Indigenous Studies

Allocation: $32,509

• Provision of grants to improve first year experience.
• Development of Indigenous first year student workshops designed to develop peer support networks to minimise feelings of isolation and alienation.
• Provision of grants to improve the student learning experience.
• Support of the School’s Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards.
• Cultural learning and teaching development retreat, held over 1-3 days to affirm cultural practices and an Indigenous framework in teaching.
• Teaching and learning resources and infrastructure support.

9 August 2007