FACULTY OF EDUCATION: CAPPING OF ENROLMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE UNITS

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description of Version</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Provided To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>W/Prof Helen Wildy Dean, Faculty of Education</td>
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</table>

DOCUMENT APPROVAL

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<th>Date</th>
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The Faculty of Education offers two Broadening units: EDUC1102 Learning Effectively: Improving Your Learning and Teaching and EDUC1103 Education for a Global Knowledge Society. Both were offered in 2012 and 2013. A third Broadening unit, EDUC1104 A World of Mobile Learning, is planned to start in 2014.

I request your consideration for our proposal that the number of enrolments in these three units be capped.

Enrolment data:
EDUC1102: 70 (2012); 230 (2013)
EDUC1103: 90 (2012); 65 already enrolled for Semester 2 2013

We offer four arguments to support our proposal for capping enrolments in the three Broadening units: funding shortfall; limited suitably qualified tutors; lack of access to appropriate teaching spaces; and reduced service learning opportunities (for EDUC1102).

**Funding**
Our estimated enrolments for 2013 budget purposes was a slight increase on 2012. We estimated 100 students in EDUC1102 and a similar increase for EDUC1102 in 2013. Our funding was based on these figures. In the past budget adjustments would have provided funds to meet the expenses of teaching the increased number of students. However, from 2013 there are no budget adjustments. This means that the cost to the Faculty of staffing is borne by the Faculty without the income from the increased number of enrolments.

**Tutors**
With 22 FTE staff in the Faculty, spread across all discipline bases, we are limited in the quantity of staff with suitable expertise in any one area. The case of EDUC1103 with its policy focus, is a good example of an area with a small pool of possible tutors, most of whom are employed on a causal basis. For EDUC 1102 in 2012, 2 staff covered the tutorials but in 2013 6 extra tutors were needed for the 9 tutorials that were offered.

A further aspect of staffing relates to the patterns of enrolments. Provision was made for tutors based on the numbers at the start of the semester but numbers continued to rise up until the final date for new enrolments at the end of the third week of the course, during which extra tutors had to be found.

The administration and coordination of multiple large units has not been a feature of the Faculty of Education staffing profile. If enrolments are to increase uncapped, then additional administration is needed to ensure smooth handling of materials, assessment and support for students. However, there is no budget for this, as our predicted enrolments were far exceeded.

**Teaching spaces**
Classes (lectures, workshops and tutors) for both EDUC1102 and EDUC1103 are held on the Crawley campus. There is no space on the Nedlands campus for any of the classes, where teaching space is fully booked for Education courses and CELT. As enrolments grow, new spaces are sought. However, these are less than ideal
spaces, widely dispersed across the campus making. The model of teaching requires flat spaces with moveable furniture to maximise interaction between students and to provide for stimulating learning activities.

**Service Learning**

Although service learning was incorporated in the first offering of EDUC1102 in 2012, with its 70 students, the increased enrolments and limited staffing made this an unrealistic aspiration for this unit. Therefore we have not sought to register this unit as a Service learning unit in the future.

Setting a cap of 200 students in each of EDUC1102 and EDUC1103 would facilitate planning to provide quality learning experiences for all students, by appropriately knowledgeable staff, in appropriate teaching spaces, with appropriate level of support.

Helen Wildy  
Dean  
Faculty of Education  
May 8 2013