Report of the eLearning Standing Committee to the Teaching and Learning Committee

File Ref: F12640

E-LEARNING AT UWA

This Committee was established by the Teaching and Learning Committee in May 2005 and its purpose and terms of reference were endorsed (R11/05). The main aims of the Committee are to review existing practices and policies at UWA that relate to eLearning and to advise the Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and Teaching and Learning Committee about current needs and requirements, the terms of reference included the following aims:

- To develop appropriate mechanisms for the central support of eLearning, including both mainstream and alternative systems and approaches;
- To examine the student learning experience in relation to online teaching and learning, and the provision of IT and computer literacies that are useful and tailored as appropriate to area of study;
- To develop an appropriate eLearning strategy, incorporating good practice approaches to eLearning based both in the sharing of existing information and experience between and within faculties, and analysis of useful international trends that best fit the UWA context;
- To review cognate policies and guidelines that intersect with eLearning matters, including evaluation of any policies or procedures that may advance or inhibit pedagogically sound innovation in online teaching and learning.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), (Associate Professor Jane Long) - Chair
Nominee of the Chair of the Board (Dr Nick Spadaccini)
Representative of the eLearning Development and Support team (CATL) (Mr Stephen Sheely)
University Librarian (Mr John Arfield)
President of the Guild (Mr David De Hoog),
Nominee of Director of Student Services (Dr Lisa Cluett)
Associate Professor Sally Sandover (Co-ordinator of Regional Programs)
Professor Geoff Hammond (Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences)
Mrs Eileen Thompson (Faculty of Economics and Commerce)
Dr David Glance, (Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics)
Mr Brian Greene (Strategy & Governance Manager, ITS)
Dr Chris McDonald (Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics)

Executive Officer:
Ms Sally Jackson, (Education Policy Services)

By Invitation:
Ms Sue Smurthwaite, (Manager, Education Policy Services)
While there is no fixed schedule of meetings the Standing Committee is guided by its terms of reference and in 2007 it has focused on a number of issues as they have arisen and been referred from other areas, the main outcomes are as follows.

In order to address a number of the objectives stated in the terms of reference, several subcommittees were established during the year and reported back to the eLearning Standing Committee on the following issues:

- **On-Line Course, Distance Education, Blended Learning:**

  **Outcome:** In response to a request from Academic Council, the working party prepared a report and draft policy on distance education, ‘online courses’ and ‘blended learning’. The report and proposed policy was supported in general by the eLearning Committee but it was agreed that further resources be developed before referral to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

  **Future Objectives:** The subcommittee will meet again before the end of 2007 with the purpose of reviewing and updating the Guidelines on Online learning and to review and update the University’s checklists for new units and courses with a view to inclusion of reference to proposed mode of delivery and reference to resources available.

- **eLearning Survey at UWA**

  **Outcome:** The working party undertook two surveys which audited the current practice and the current state of policy in the area of elearning and prepared a report for consideration which was discussed by the eLearning Standing Committee. The Committee agreed on the importance of surveys and regular review of eLearning usage.

  **Future Objectives:** The Chair is to meet with IRU to pursue the possibility of incorporating eLearning questions into the NSSE questionnaires.

During 2007 the following issue has also been considered by the Committee:

- **Information Management Review**

  A number of problematic issues from the IMR report were referred to the eLearning Committee through the Teaching and Learning Policy Unit. To discuss the issues further, members of the eLearning Committee met with the Consultant from the Quadrant Group (who prepared the IMR Report). Feedback from this meeting was given to the eLearning Committee and following discussion it was agreed to refer the Committee’s comments to the Teaching and Learning Committee for its consideration and feedback to the Information Services Programme Committee.

**Future Objectives:**

In 2008, the issues, documents and policy statements raised during the year will be used towards the formulation of an eLearning strategy document; identified as one of the terms of reference for the eLearning Standing Committee.

October 25, 2007