Learning and Teaching Report
January/February 2016

1. Teaching and Learning Forum

Curtin hosted the Teaching and Learning Forum – *Purveyors of Fine Learning since 1992*- on 28-29 February 2016. The Teaching and Learning Forum is an annual Western Australian event which brings together educators from Western Australian universities and colleges to discuss, share and develop their ideas on issues confronting learning and teaching in the Higher Education sector. Celebrating its 25th year of operation, the keynote speakers, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost at Victoria University and Professor Sally Kift, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at James Cook University were thought-provoking. The speakers challenged the 260 participants to look at the lessons learnt since the Dawkins era, focus on providing education for students to obtain meaningful jobs and to develop global and social strategies. More information on the Forum and about the keynote speakers can be found on the Teaching and Learning Forum 2016 website.

2. EcoChallenge Australia

Curtin has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNEP-DHI – Centre for Water and Environment as the Australian organiser for participation in the UNEP-DHI Eco Challenge. This provides an exciting and authentic learning experience for students in Years 7-12 through the online strategic game, *Aqua Republica*, to explore issues and solutions relating to water management and sustainable development. The MOU with UNEP-DHI – Centre for Water and Environment will provide greater participation with learners through the *Aqua Republica* game and work towards improved learning experiences and assessment of learning strategies. See the EcoChallenge 2016 website for more information.

3. High Performing Students Academy

The High Performing Students Academy is a new initiative aimed at developing strong and meaningful relationships with high performing Year 11 school students. Curtin Learning and Teaching launched the first event for the High Performing Students Academy in January 2016.

The event, *Connect the Dots in the Real World*, was conducted by Associate Professor Iain Murray and the CISCO Networking Academy. A group of students, recommended by their school principals, were invited to participate in a series of weekly workshops and an intensive weekend hackathon to:

- Complete the CISCO Internet of Everything training course;
- Learn alongside Curtin staff and students;
- Apply their learning to real world problems during the hackathon;
- Learn with internationally renowned Andrew Smith from Open University (UK); and
- Develop experience with coding and designing networked systems.

Students will have a range of unique experiences on campus at Curtin and will have the opportunity to become familiar with some of Curtin's exceptional and world-class technology and learning facilities.

4. CurtinX MOOCs in 2016

In December 2015 Expressions of Interest were requested from the Curtin community for the development of potential CurtinX MOOCs on the edX platform. A Selection Panel comprising the DVC Academic, Associate DVC Learning and Teaching, Deputy PVC (Health Sciences), Chief Marketing Officer and Head of CurtinX selected the following proposals for development, publication and facilitation in 2016:

- **Reputation Marketing in a Digital World** (Curtin Business School-Marketing) will be led by Mrs Bridget Tombleson and will be the second in a potential XSeries focused on Marketing and Public Relations. In this MOOC students will look at the elements involved in managing an organisation's reputation online. They will learn how to move beyond the traditional media approach to building and protecting an organisation's reputation and will become adept at translating information across platforms and develop a basic understanding of storytelling within a business context.
- **Foundations of Environmental Studies: a Global Perspective** (Science and Engineering) will be led by the Dean, Learning and Teaching, Science and Engineering, Professor Teri Balser and will be a cross-Faculty collaboration. It is also the first MOOC in a potential XSeries focused on environmental studies. In this MOOC, students will be introduced to some of the basic principles in environmental studies, and how those are manifested in urban and rural areas throughout the world. Secondly, through observation, discussion, and creation of geo-referenced digital content, students will explore and share environmental challenges facing their communities and create a global environmental learning and action community.
- **An Introduction to Teaching and Learning Analytics: How Can You Improve Your Course Design by Exploiting TLA** (Humanities-Education) is led by Professor Demetrios Sampson. The MOOC will provide an overview of current best practice in the emerging fields of Teaching Analytics and Learning Analytics and demonstrate how Teaching and Learning Analytics can be used to support evidence-based data-driven reflective educational design. Furthermore, it will also engage students in a set of basic hands-on application scenarios using synthetic exemplary datasets.

The current CurtinX MOOCs, **The Business of Mining** (TBOMx) and **Digital Branding and Engagement** (MKT1x) will also be re-released for student enrolment in 2016.

5. Retention Forum

The Curtin Retention Taskforce held a Retention Forum on Wednesday 3 February in order to gain wider consultation and information to help inform the Taskforce on future student retention initiatives. This was specifically to identify: gaps; initiatives that currently work; initiatives that don't work; and what is needed for the future. Participants (Heads of School, Deans and Directors of Learning and Teaching, Course Coordinators, Students and Student Support areas) provided valuable feedback and insight which will now be collated and used to formulate a draft University retention plan for further consultation.

For and behalf of
Professor Julianne Reid
Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching
5 February 2016