National Teaching Fellowship Awarded

ALTC National Teaching Fellowship — Professor Beverley Oliver—Congratulations

Professor Beverley Oliver has been awarded an ALTC National Teaching Fellowship. The $350,000 Fellowship is one of only five awarded nationally to high-profile leaders from universities across Australia who advocate for excellence in higher education learning and teaching.

Professor’s Oliver’s project is Assuring Graduate Capabilities: Evidencing levels of achievement for graduate employability. Colleagues are encouraged to access an introduction to the project concepts and join a community of practice and scholarship at http://boliver.ning.com/

Professor Oliver’s previous ALTC Fellowship Report: Benchmarking partnerships for graduate employability is available from the ALTC Resource Library.

Professor Mick Healey—Visiting Scholar

Mick Healey is a Higher Education consultant, researcher and Emeritus Professor at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. Until 2010 he was a Professor of Geography and Director of the Centre for Active Learning, a nationally funded Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Queensland and a Visiting Professor at Edinburgh Napier University and at University of Wales, Newport. He was one of the first people in the UK to be awarded a national Teaching Fellowship and to be made a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Details of Professor Healey’s visit and Workshops opportunities are available at: http://otl.curtin.edu.au/news.cfm#news7823

ALTC Grants and Awards

Curtin has submitted seven citations and thirteen grant applications for the current round of ALTC awards. See the OATL website for further details for future submissions.

Student Engagement in Blended Learning Environments Guidelines have been established as a developmental tool for staff to progressively increase student engagement in an online environment. The Guidelines have a rubric which summarises the five elements that characterize effective teaching and learning environments. The Guidelines are accessible from the Policies (protocols and guidelines tab) website.

The Flexible Learning Policy is currently being reviewed and a draft revised policy will be available from the draft policies website by the end of June for staff to provide feedback.

A review of the Graduate Attributes Policy will commence shortly. Any feedback can be provided to: oatl-reception@curtin.edu.au

An iPortfolio Information Flier for staff has been developed to assist staff to incorporate aspects of the iPortfolio into their teaching. See the iPortfolio website.
**What’s happening...**

**Turnitin**

In discussion with CITS the issue of passwords has been resolved and a guideline is being developed which explains how to use Turnitin for a shared class. It is possible to allocate a password for a shared unit and it has been established that this approach is not in conflict with the Password Security Policy. The Turnitin integration with Blackboard should remove this potential issue in the future.

**Academic Integrity**

The staff booklets and the student booklets are now available from the website. Printed copies of the student booklets are available from the Office of Assessment Teaching and Learning. Staff are providing feedback on the online version and once this has been incorporated hardcopies will be printed. This is to allow time for the new academic misconduct processes to be embedded.

**Assessment Centre**

It is anticipated that the Assessment Centre will be relocated (from Level 5 of the Library) ready for Semester 1, 2012. Three projects are associated with this move i.e. the physical aspects; the online booking system; and the assessment software to be used.

---

**Projects and Progress**

**Curtin Research in Higher Education**

Assessment has been nominated as a priority for research in higher education at Curtin for 2011.

Curtin is hosting the Assessment Conference here in Perth in October so this presents a wonderful opportunity to investigate approaches to meaningful feedback, managing feedback and to look at tensions between accountability and assessment efficacy.

Some studies highlighted recently at the Curtin Research in Higher Education Committee were:

- An investigation of Faculty units with a high feedback rate to identify was is being done (ethics application stage)
- An investigation of staff and student perceptions on feedback was conducted in 2010. Read more...
- Research into how students respond more positively to receiving feedback using MP3s as a medium is being undertaken using comments in eVALUate.

**English Language Proficiency**

A Curtin Strategy for Assuring English Language Proficiency was approved by academic Board in February 2011. The Strategy is based on seven key initiatives to ensure English language proficiency at Curtin ie

- English language entry management
- Discipline-based core communication skills units
- Embedding of English language development into discipline-based units
- Elective language-based communication skills units; Academic language and learning programs
- English language assessment through curriculum review
- Tracking performance

A detailed implementation plan is being prepared.