



Learning and Teaching Strategy Consultation

This document articulates some of the key themes that have emerged in initial discussions around a long term learning and teaching framework for Macquarie University. Over the past few months, they have been robustly debated by a working group consisting of the DVC-A, the PVC L&T, the Chair of Senate, ADs L&T, ADs Q&S and the Directors of LTC, PACE and COE.

Many of these ideas have already been communicated through the teche blog, at 2 planning days involving 80 colleagues, and via a number Executive, SLTC, FLTC, Faculty and Departmental meetings.

We are keen to circulate the ideas further for discussion and feedback, but understand that there are immediate deadlines around examinations, research and grant writing, as well as the rapidly approaching holiday season.

But rather than delay circulation for a better time (and there really is no *good* time!!), it was agreed to circulate this paper for consultation with a request that colleagues read, reflect and respond whenever they are able over the next couple of months. You can respond to the entire document, or simply those bits which you find most engaging or problematic - whenever you like between now and January 16th 2015. We will incorporate all feedback in the draft green paper. Your feedback can be submitted in a number of ways

1. As an email to pvclt@mq.edu.au
2. Via this a google form here: <http://bit.ly/1F8bsxf>

(Please note that the google form response is depersonalised - the requirement to login to google docs is merely to ensure that responses are from MQ colleagues)

3. Via your Faculty Associate Dean (they will let you know their preferred method of communication)

Draft Learning and Teaching Strategy

1. Guiding Principles

The Learning and Teaching Strategy will set out our strategic approach for the core business of the University for the next five years. Drawing on the priorities outlined in the University's Framing of Futures document, it articulates a Strategy and Framework for imagining and implementing the future of learning and teaching at Macquarie for a 5-10 year timeframe.

The Strategy is designed to create a culture of transformative learning; enabling and empowering our students to achieve their goals. Our success will be measured in student outcomes - employability and further study; student and staff attraction and retention; and overall satisfaction both during and after completion.

The draft Learning and Teaching Strategy is built around three principles:

A. Students are Partners and Co-creators of their Learning

Employers tell us that they value creativity, collaboration, communication and problem solving skills. By actively engaging our students in their learning experience, we will prepare them for better graduate and employability outcomes.

- Our students will be partners, change agents and leaders in their learning; across the formal and informal activities of the University;
- Our approach will focus on active learning and authentic assessment, emphasising collaboration and the co-creation of knowledge;
- We will build connections between our students, staff, alumni, and industry and community partners

B. Balancing Teaching and Research

We need to think holistically about our academic scholarship, and take a broad, student and learning-centric view of content, delivery and assessment that balances our teaching and our research. We shall seek effective program-level teaching approaches which inspire a passion for research-integrated learning, in its many forms. We shall review program learning outcomes, graduate capabilities and confirm the role of PACE, People and Planet to ensure that our curriculum design and delivery achieve the desired student outcomes effectively - and with the best use of our resources.

- Our Teaching is Research-integrated, our Learning is student-focussed and future-focussed
- Our curriculum will include research experiences, and emphasise research thinking
- Our staff will be empowered, recognised and rewarded for effective learning and teaching
- Our curriculum and delivery will make best use of our resources

C. Design for Digital – Digital by Design

Our programs need to be designed holistically, to ensure that students graduate with appropriate capabilities. There should be opportunities for more collaboration across programs - such as a more common first year. Properly designed and utilised, digital technologies provide tremendous opportunities for better learning. They can also free up time, and allow more effective student interaction in face to face engagements. Fortunately, our student cohorts (like the broader world) are increasingly engaged with digital technologies - to best address them, we need to fully develop emerging digital learning possibilities.

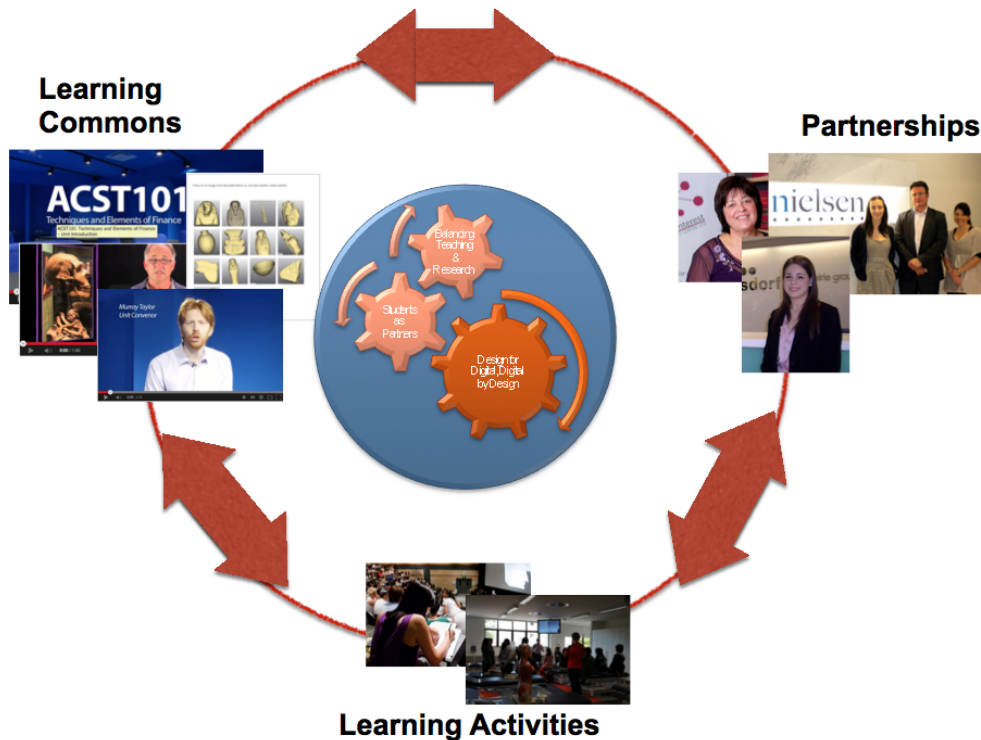
- Our programs will be designed holistically to ensure excellent learning outcomes
- Our program design and delivery will be team-based, analytical and reflective, encouraging interdisciplinarity and broad engagement;
- All of our learning will be an appropriate blend of online and face to face activities; our core curriculum content will be on open, accessible digital platforms – a learning commons
- Our suite of fully online programs will be strategically expanded and strengthened

2. A Learning and Teaching Framework

Whilst the above goals are achievable as individual elements of the Learning and Teaching Strategy, by embodying them in a larger Framework, we can align projects and activities towards a common goal and enable the connections, technologies and approaches required to fulfil our vision. The L&T Framework will provide the overarching structural approach for achieving our strategic goals.

We will build a Macquarie University Connected Learning Community

- Learning is continuous, lifelong and iterative.
- Students, staff, alumni and community/industry partners will be connected, enabling creativity, collaboration and engagement across learning, teaching and research
- The Connected Learning Community be open, accessible, universal and inclusive; physical and virtual; on campus and off
- The Community will have open access to shared learning material, our learning commons



We will build the connected learning community in:

What we learn

By connecting our learning with our researchers and industry partners, we will build a curriculum that is relevant and timely, exposing students to meaningful knowledge that will equip them properly to life after their degrees. We can also properly align that curriculum with the needs (both present and future) of research and industry leaders in our community.

How we learn

In building a community that traverses both on campus and online opportunities, we can offer the delivery of our learning in appropriate and accessible modes. Our learning activities will be collaborative, technologically enabled, and relevant to the learning community and the broader world. We need to develop appropriate resources, physical and virtual spaces, as well as staff and student capacity, to enable the type of learning we aspire to.

Who learns

Our community encompasses schools, local and international students, staff, corporate and community partners, research partners and alumni. Each member of the community will have access to the community's resources, and can contribute to the community in their own way. Formal, accredited courses will form the basis of our learning, providing key content and activities, which link the various community members. But less formal activities will co-exist and build connections and community in a more organic way.