

Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors

May 2-3, 2013: Flinders University (Host)
McLaren Vale, South Australia
Venue: Serafino's McLaren Vale, Kangarilla Road
<http://www.serafinomclarenvale.com.au>

Minutes

Thursday 2 May		Actions
9.30 – Arrival and coffee		
10.00 – Welcome & apologies	Janette Lindesay - ANU Tor Hundloe- Bond Ken McQueen – Canberra University Judith Wake – CQU Andrew Campbell - Charles Darwin Uni Grant Wardell-Johnson - Curtin Guang R. Shi - Deakin Andrew Millington - Flinders Anthony Carol – Griffith Peter Nelson - Macquarie Rick Roush - Melbourne Dave Griggs – Monash Tim Roberts - Newcastle Liam Phelan - Newcastle Bonnie McBain - Newcastle	

<p>Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting (UCan, Canberra: 18-19 October, 2012)</p> <p>President's report on activities since the last meeting</p> <p>Treasurer's report</p>	<p>James Shulmeister - UQ David Gust - QUT Andy Bell - RMIT David Bruce - UniSA Jerry Vanclay- SCU Julia Lamborn - Swinburne Graziella Caprarelli - UTS Geogory Kolt - UWS</p> <p>Apologies Steve Turton</p> <p>Proposal for minutes in the future, each university hosting the meeting to provide an admin staff member to take the minutes. Council supported this approach.</p> <p>Minutes – need to fill in the missing names from the last meeting Steve Turton has provided a report on activities.</p> <p>Actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees – need to discuss the fee level and then the bills will be sent out • Reminder to all members to update your institution details on the website. • Wendy has been acting as treasurer since the start, she is not a member of ACEDD, this needs to be resolved. • There are issues with governance of this group • PD for discipline scholar • Document what is going on at UG and PG level • Online delivery – Steve needs to provide at this at the next meeting • Update on TERN at the next Canberra meeting <p>Report from the president was been tabled.</p> <p>The Council has \$16k in the bank; the main expenditure items for last year were the meetings and the CSG report. Andrew will circulate the CSG report to everyone. Not sure of all universities paid their fees last year. Need to sort out year by year reporting. Bills for 2013 have not been sent out as yet. With the increase in fees, we will have more money to undertake projects with. Need an annual report and have better governance with this level of fees.</p>	<p>All members to update website details</p> <p>Steve Turton to provide information on online delivery</p> <p>Andrew to circulate the CSG report</p>
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<p>10.30 – LTAS Statement for Environment and Sustainability – EOI (presentation) Dr Liam Phelan, Dr Bonnie McBain (University of Newcastle)</p>	<p>Bonnie McBain TESQA is asking institutions to develop their own standards, these are to be minimum standards. Richard Horsefield has done a lot of preparation work on our behalf. Submitted an EOI to OLT and have been asked to submit a full application, if approved will start Feb 2014 and go for the whole year.</p> <p>Issue here is the diversity of the field, and this will require wide consultation. Need this process to provide the opportunity to build a sense of community. This will require a project team –Liam and Bonnie to coordinate project, will need another position or two – project manager and/or communications officer. ACEDD will be supporting and endorsing the process – an advisory group is required – around 5 universities would be suitable. There will also be a reference group – larger group with multi stakeholders covering the range of fields within the sector.</p> <p>Project will be done in 3 stages – Feb-March (prep), April – August (main) Sept onwards (wrap up). This will be based on Richard’s work; however, more is required such as looking at international standards. It will be important to talk to the other discipline scholars and learn from them. Will have to do a detailed stakeholder/discussion plan to ensure we capture everything. Need a database to capture all contacts and data.</p> <p>Stage 2 – engagement and face-to-face consultations with universities. Around 30 of these consultation sessions are likely. We will also be talking to employers and asking the universities to support consultations by arranging meetings at their locations. There will be extensive online consultations as well. It is planned to hold a workshop at an international conference.</p> <p>Stage 3 – revision of consultations and standards. Then pilot at 10 universities to refine, then ACEDD endorsement. Will continue website for 3 years after this. Then in 2015 we will be in a position to be able to start the auditing process.</p> <p>Timing for full OTL grant submission is 2 August. Different roles for the advisory and reference group. Advisory group is biased towards social science. Need EIANZ to be involved. We will need to sort out how these two groups will relate together. Will results be able to be used for AQF work? Will this be too late for 2015 compliance? Some disciplines have done their LTAS statements and others have not. Members were concerned about having to do AQF compliance twice if this work comes in at the end of 2014. Having standards is more work but there are benefits as everyone is on a level playing field and gives assurance to students as well as AQF.</p> <p>Scope of the subject – big difference for education for sustainability and education about sustainability.</p>	
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	<p>Need to look at environmental, social and economic sustainability. Sustainable development and sustainability is coming together.</p> <p>Can send out Richard's H reports again to members.</p> <p>Its worth being aware what eco-Canada is doing. Going through environmental curriculum – looking at accreditation – we need to look at what they are doing as they are 2 – 3 years ahead. Need to follow what's been done and see what can help us. Will be looking at other international standards. Need Australian standards to stand on their own.</p>	
11.00 Coffee		
<p>11.30- LTAS Statement for Environment and Sustainability – EOI (cont.):</p>	<p>Three topics for breakout groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation process 2. Makeup of the reference group and its relationship to the advisory group 3. Scope of environmental sustainability – more than disciplinary – need to have an idea of what it will cover <p>Need a scribe for each group and then reporting back to the Council. Most want the third group. Need a clear identification for the benefits to show to our universities</p> <p>Could merge the first two groups together – Need to know how to address AQF – need a group to go and talk to people in Canberra – merge with the benefits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation and process 2. Benefits 3. Scope <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scope – coherent, beyond discipline, environment, competent environment, professionals need systems thinking, earth systems, biological interactions, economics, social sciences, its about the environment, and not sustainability – this is an emergent property of all of these. These are for degree outcomes – need threshold requirements for each of these areas in any environment, degree <p>Sustainability is much broader and would take you into many other disciplines, it is not common as a discipline at the moment. In some areas you would also need engineering, planning – i.e. built environment – Must have biology and earth sciences, these are the minimum requirements and you can add to these. Issue is courses which have environment, in the title. Suggesting now LTAS with just environment, in title, could say we started looking at environment, & sustainability but this is why we now think that is not the right way to go. Sustainability as a term is often used with respect to money/finances not the environment,</p>	

aspect of sustainability. Must have the AND – environment, AND sustainability. Therefore, we are not endorsing sustainability on its own – only in connection with environment. This is broader than environment, sustainability. It's all about thresholds, defining these thresholds and skill sets.

Need to split sustainability science from environmental science/management. Members thought the first should be environment not environmental science. So some people are talking about sustainability science, can't afford to leave this out. In the USA, some people are backing away from this, as they don't want science in the title.

Council has been asked to endorse something, most degrees don't have sustainability in the title, but it's there. The thing to remember is that OTL has accepted the EOI with sustainability in the title. Sustainability is much broader. Some members didn't think the change in title to OLT would be a problem, so long as we can justify why it's been changed.

Sustainability science is now recognised as a discipline but environment is not

Vote: should we drop sustainability from the title 9 in favour and 10 against

Therefore: leave the title as it is and make it clear its environment sustainability

Something will happen in this area anyway so we need to be involved. Look at standardisation, for students and employers, what skill sets they get from our courses. Talk to other discipline scholars for the impact this has had on their disciplines. In particular what has happened in the geography area.

2. Consultation and reference group –spoke about the requirements for a reference group and added some more categories, didn't name people but looked at roles etc. will need a geographical coverage in each state. Will contact members for contacts of specific people in your state/university to help get this. Therefore there needs a better balance of academics on the reference group.

The advisory group needs to cover the discipline areas, not fully representative but there to help the project leaders. Members slightly uncomfortable with membership of advisory group as there are a number of areas not covered, the OTL requires these projects to be multi-institutional and the advisory group will have a time commitment to the project. Must have a diversity of members for this advisory group. Scope must be covered by the reference group.

Can provide more detail in full application to OLT to cover some of these issues. Cover any degree with environmental in the title. Project leaders can explore this and come back with something. Could end up doing one thing with two parts – i.e. environmental and the sustainability. Council asked the project leaders to move forward on this, keeping our discussions in mind, can send out more emails to Council for further feedback – i.e. for sustainability science.

Report to be provided on progress at the next meeting

<p>2.00 - EARTH DOCTORS Inc (Tor Hundloe, Bond) – discussion</p>	<p>Part of a new group called earth doctors, modeled on the ‘doctors without borders’ and ‘engineers without borders’ concept. There will be a meeting to elect a committee. Tor is currently the interim chair.</p> <p>Our graduates are similar to medical doctors i.e. environmental being a complex system. We are training too many environmental managers. There needs to be internships for our graduates to become better trained graduates. Looking at getting a large grant to get this started, i.e. AustAid etc. This funding will be used for the interim committee to hire staff etc. and get going within a couple of years.</p> <p>Hopeful that we can get enough internships to train our graduates. Often it’s hard for graduates to get jobs without experience. Any organization that increases the number of internships is good, but this is different than talking about limiting the number of students entering our programs. We want more people to know about the environmental not less. We need specialists, but we also want more people in general to know about the environment.</p> <p>Tor will keep the Council informed.</p>	
<p>Friday 3 May</p>		
<p>9.00 – Breakout groups</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Big fish trawlers 2. TERN research and teaching opportunities 3. Intersection of indigenous areas and development 4. Teaching education for sustainability, is there demand from students, industry associations, industry, some universities have done something but others are struggling with this 5. Funding structure changes for universities with a shrinking pools of students 6. Masters level programs 7. Field site/ course inventory database 8. MOOCs / online delivery 9. Next projects for ACEDD to invest in 10. Big issues coming in the future <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is no longer as big an issue as it was previously. 2. Try and get a speaker from TERN to talk to us rather than us discussing it today. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. All universities have to get masters programs up to AQF level 9, particularly with the requirements of volume of learning changes. There are also issues with respect to taught versus research masters. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Seven universities have started the field site inventory, it would be good to get more involved with 	<p>Possible topic for next meeting</p>

	<p>this and look at sharing resources. Carl and Andrew have committed to do something with this and hope to use the IRU data base as a starting point. Andrew has an internal grant at CQU to lift their own game. Don't need to discuss at this meeting.</p> <p>8. ANU is working on 2 MOOCs. This could be discussed at the Canberra meeting. Flinders is also working on a MOOC and could also bring a speaker to talk about this. It would be worth having a discussion the economics of MOOCs.</p> <p>9. Better for the next meeting as this covers some of what we discussed yesterday and there will be lots more information into the future. By next meeting it's possible that we will have a new government, it would be good to get a speaker from the government regarding their ideas and directions.</p> <p>It was decided to concentrate on topics 6 and 10.</p>	Possible topic for next meeting
11.00 – General Business	<p><u>10 Big issues coming in the future</u></p> <p>Looked at environmental hotspots, interaction with the media, profiling ACEDD, big issues/threats and what to do about them. What should be our output i.e. series of papers, getting people together, book? Role of ACEDD – why are we here, why do we meet, environmental education in Australia. Energy security, food security, biodiversity, carbon, fossil fuels, population, Need to strengthen our relationship with the media, get our message out, in particular to politicians. We could fund a project to start looking at some of these issues. This could be targeted at a general audience rather than a technical one. Perhaps creating a regular newsletter/output. Some members though this might be too much at one time, maybe one after each meeting. Carbon will be politically challenging Population is something that we could work on, how does this affect the water supply, food supply etc. If we only do 1 a year, then it would be 10 years to do all these issues. Better to go for a high quality product, the members were divided over paying for this to be done. Some of these issues could be covered by people in our own. We are the peak environmental body for Australia, we want to get the message across that we need to push environmental issues and government and community level. We need to show that we are well organised and get this information into the media. We need a spokesperson to speak on behalf of the Council. We could spend money on getting a media representative for ACEDD. We need some secretariat support for the Council. Many members want to check on our terms of reference, are we a peak body or more about education?</p>	

	<p>CSG: what is the feedback/ reaction from this. We only know what was sent to all members. A reasonable response at the time, but we need to be more organised. There needs to be a policy regarding delivery and follow-up feedback. We need to be able to explain to our universities what the council does, particularly if we raise the fees. For the CSG we should have employed a media representative to get the report in all ministers' offices and in the media.</p> <p>We also need to raise the profile of the environment to attract more students. The Deans of science have an executive director. He has prepared reports, met ministers etc. Their fees are either \$3k or \$5k and that what funds this position. The Deans of agriculture – their fees are \$3k and they have a PT executive type role.</p> <p>Members felt that staff within our faculties would not be interested in helping write a book that was not a peer reviewed/research publication. ERA drives all publications. What counts are citations from journal articles. In some disciplines books don't count. Position papers would have much greater value than anything else we could do. It's all about how to influence politicians and get the message out.</p> <p>We need to relook at our vision statement – it is focused on education. We need to develop strategy on these other issues, how do we go about this? Do we want to employ someone? This is an outcome from the strategy, which needs to be done before we look at raising fees.</p> <p>We are too big a group to become a public debate leader unless it's in education. Becoming another environmental lobby group is outside our remit. The other issue is that there is a continual change of members on this council.</p> <p>With CSG – we looked at the knowledge gaps and education opportunities. This is what we need to be concentrating on. For population – what are the gaps and what should we be teaching our students and what are our research contributions in this area.</p> <p>Revised our mission – environmental education including research, develop strategy, small working group could include redrafting vision statement, peak body for environmental education. This needs this for Canberra meeting. Then we could decide if we want to develop issues papers and if so, how this would be done.</p>	<p>Volunteers to work on this</p>
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6. Masters programs

The discussion revolved around Masters level education in our universities. It is important to look at honours courses and Masters courses, as they are working in the same space. Some universities are stopping honours courses. Others are doing well with honour courses. Generally the demand is dropping, issues from honours focus to Masters focus with a strong research component. It would be good to do a survey of what's being offered around the country and the trends.

Options for Masters:

- 2 year coursework
- 1 + 1
- 2 year research

There is a shift to move from the coursework to 1 + 1. It is hoped that this could increase PhD completion rates, but this is a new approach it's not known as yet. 2 year coursework courses are not always seen as valuable but they can be in some cases. Are the degrees being offered suited society's needs? In other countries they don't know what a honours program is.

Question – do we think that 1 + 1 is a good addition to educational portfolios and is it a significant trend. Preparing students for the market and for research. The issue is the funding.

We want to know trends, is this kind of degree going to address the national needs? If so, then it would be worth talking to other deans groups, and if agreement is reached, then talk to government regarding funding for these degrees i.e. CSPs.

What is the advantage for a local student to do coursework Masters?

We could develop a paper on what PG degrees exist in the environmental area.

The Council seems to be delaying things a lot, i.e. the discussion on raising the fees. Our mission is pretty clear. Do we want an executive director and/or secretariat. We had already agreed to raise the fees to \$2.5k. This needs sorting out so that the invoices can be sent out.

We would need a list of action items for an executive director to undertake – i.e. the survey on masters programs. We could consider combining these two roles, executive officer with minute taking, running projects (a PT position).

It also be good to have an executive group, who meet regularly by phone. Our governance rules are all on the website and these were all agreed. Members liked idea of executive officer as title, someone who is flexible. A council member needs to be the treasurer.

	<p>Set up the role, and leave to the executive group to appoint someone. Start with 0.1 FT and this could increase as we decide to do some of these issues papers.</p>	<p>Executive group to set up role of executive officer</p>
<p>1:30- General Business</p>	<p>1. Need office bearers sorted out Andrew was voted in as Acting President</p> <p>Call for nomination now for president elect. This could be voted by a postal vote.</p> <p>Treasurer needs to be elected at the annual meeting. Call for nominations should be 6 weeks prior to meeting (this is in constitution). The annual meeting is in October.</p> <p>Current issues are that there is no vice president, treasurer or secretary. In the interim till October we will use Peter, Steve and Andrew as executive group and resolve the president elect at the If we appoint exec officer then the treasurer's role won't be as onerous.</p> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New executive group agreed to – passed • Andrew Acting President till Oct – passed • Hold Out of sequence election for treasurer – passed • In principal agreement to appoint an executive officer on a PT basis - passed • The Executive group will come up with duties (PD) and terms of reference – passed • Hold out of sequence election for vice president - passed <p>2. Canberra meeting normally Oct – It will be at ANU this time</p> <p>There will probably be a new minister by then, it would be good if we could get HEd minister, though it may not be likely so close to the election. Need to be very prepared if the minister actually comes</p> <p>Possible topics TERN/ALA, MOOCs/online, Aus Science media centre masters survey</p>	<p>Nominations for treasurer</p> <p>Nominations for president elect</p>

strategy paper
OTL grant progress
Field visit – there is a wind farm nearby or the bioreactor at Woodlawn Landfill

3. Next year's April meeting, Curtin on their Margaret river campus (WA meeting)

4.

With more money in our account, we could have a report done in 12 months and could get better media attention in a regional area compared with Canberra. So what could be likely in attracting the media interest in WA? – knowledge gaps and training needs in the water sector. Look at the whole interaction between water and the environment. Maybe look at what others have done in this field, i.e. water accounting. What we need to do, is find the gaps and education aspects.

In WA there are issues with groundwater and dropping water tables, lack of water flowing into dams. Metro area is ok due to desalination plants. Strong interaction between water and bushfires. Normally in WA this time of year, they are just out of a bad fire period and the rain does not come until later in the year. What sort of cost are we talking about say \$25k and see what we can get for that price.

Should we time the release of an issues paper to a particular event or interest? As our meetings rotate around the states, it's good to look at issues in those states that also have a national interest.

A paper was written 3 years ago for COAG with the knowledge gaps in water. Something has been done in groundwater. Need to draw on this and not start from scratch. This could also identify research areas.

Vote: propose to commission a report on water – vote passed

An idea for next April meeting – a Q&A session with people from Margaret river and ACEDD. People in this area are interested in the environment – Q&A water issues in the south west – could attract a good audience. Council agreed with this.

We need to be clear about what the public would expect to get out of this. It needs to be constrained – but needs to present something. Maybe we could have a facilitator. We would need a local person to help organise the audience. Curtin has good links with the area to help organise this. Have short panel presentations and then open up for questions.

Commission report on water

Q&A session in Margaret river for April 2014

	<p>4.Website Website needs to be revised. The old website contract is now over. We need an active website. We have a quote for \$3800 to maintain and update the website. Any current updates go to Steve Turton.</p> <p>Other Business Possible date next meeting Oct 24 – 25 Oct. – will see if this suits most members.</p> <p>Revisit the discussion from yesterday on environment and sustainability: Issue is sustainability is seen as something wider than the environment, what about change to environment and environmental sustainability. This is about setting learning thresholds and those aspects of sustainability that are involved in teaching about the environment. Do we want to take the sustainability space or are we happy to let others. Next week there will be a report out about sustainability, which covers more than just our areas. The TLO we are going to be audited against must only include things we cover. Critical things might not be the title but the detailed scope. The main focus must be sustainability indicators which fit the environmental sphere.</p> <p>Motion: to rename title as Environment and environmental sustainability - passed</p> <p>Passed vote of thanks for Andrew and Flinders university for organising the meeting</p> <p>Asked for the action items to be circulated next meeting.</p>	<p>Website updates to Steve Turton</p>
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