

Learning & Teaching News: 29 February 2008

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1. Uni to give students an iPod

According to an article in The Age (www.theage.com.au 27/2/08) Abilene Christian University, Texas, USA, will be providing all of its first year students one of Apple's new iPhone mobiles or the wireless-enabled iPod touch. The devices will be used to receive homework alerts and answer in-class surveys and quizzes, plus other applications that have been developed by the University's IT department.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/technology/uni-to-give-new-students-free-iphone-or-ipod/2008/02/27/1203788419734.html>

2. Degree standards 'must be ranked'

Employers would be able to distinguish between university degrees from high- and low-quality institutions under a proposal by a leading Australian vice-chancellor for minimum degree standards.

Australian National University vice-chancellor Ian Chubb has called on the Rudd Government to establish student performance standards to help assess the quality of degrees from different universities.

He said a general "graduate exam" and comparisons of students' work across universities were just some of the options that could be used to measure academic performance.

In a speech in Canberra last night, Professor Chubb said Australia had "danced around the questions of standards" of universities and their graduates for too long and the Government needed to confront reality.

For the full article go to: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23243908-12332,00.html>

3. Call for Responses to discussion paper on impact of voluntary student unionism (VSU)

Dear Colleagues

The Australian Government's consultations on the impact of voluntary student unionism (VSU) have commenced with the release of a discussion paper by the Minister for Youth, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, on 16 February 2008 (Media release).

Minster Ellis will also meet with higher education stakeholders across Australia during February and March.

Findings from the consultations will help inform any future Government response on this issue.

A copy of the discussion paper can be found at www.dest.gov.au/vsu along with information on how to submit a response.

Responses to the discussion paper should be submitted to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) by close of business 11 March 2008.

Kind Regards,

Higher Education Group

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

4. Carrick Communiqué

The latest edition of the Carrick Communiqué is available at <http://www.carrickinstitute.edu.au>

5. Upcoming National and International Conferences

AFR Higher Education Conference
13-14 March 2008
Sydney
<http://www.afr.com/home/events/education/>

Higher Education Summit
3-4 April 2008
Sydney
<http://www.informa.com.au/highereducation>

Quality in Postgraduate Research conference
17-18 April 2008
Adelaide
<http://www.qpr.edu.au/2008>

London SoTL
15-16 May 2008
London, UK
<http://www.city.ac.uk/ceap/sotlconference/index.html>

Learning Through Enquiry Alliance Conference 2008: Inquiry in a Networked World
25-27 June 2008
Sheffield, UK
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/cilass/Ita2008.html>

Higher Education Close-Up 4
26-28 June 2008
Cape Town, South Africa
<http://www.closeup4.uct.ac.za/>

HERDSA
1-4 July 2008
Rotorua, New Zealand
<http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2008/>

Improving Student Learning - Through the Curriculum
1-3 September 2008
University of Durham, Durham, UK
<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocslid/isl/isl2008/index.html>

6. Call for Papers

London SoTL
London, UK, 15-16 May 2008
Call for Papers due: 13 March 2008
<http://www.city.ac.uk/ceap/sotlconference/index.html>

ISSOTL
Edmonton, Canada, 16-19 October 2008
Call for papers due: 18 March 2008
<http://www.indiana.edu/~issotl08/call.html>

WACE
Sydney, 30 September – 3 October 2008
Call for papers due: 31 March 2008
<http://www.abcon.biz/acen.html>

7. Carrick Grants Scheme Information Session

Dr Elizabeth McDonald from the Carrick Institute will conduct an information session on Carrick Grant priorities, guidelines, procedures and timelines at RMIT Storey Hall Seminar rooms.

Date: Wednesday 5th March

Venue: Seminar Rooms 1 & 2, Storey Hall

344 Swanston Street, MELBOURNE

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

RSVP: Ellie Johns by phone 9925 8058 or email ellie.johns@rmit.edu.au no later than 5pm
Monday 3rd March 2008.

8. Employment Opportunities

Bond University

Assistant Professor - Higher Education

<http://www.bond.edu.au/employ/T&L.AsstProf.HigherEdu.0208.html>

Closing Date: 19 March 2008

Bond University

Assistant/Associate Professor - Higher Education (Carrick)

<http://www.bond.edu.au/employ/AsstAssocProf.HigherEduCarrick.0208.html>

Closing Date: 19 March 2008

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor/ Associate Professor - Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research (CLEAR)

[http://perntc.per.cuhk.edu.hk//personnel/jobvacancy.asp?id=08/015\(737\)/2](http://perntc.per.cuhk.edu.hk//personnel/jobvacancy.asp?id=08/015(737)/2)

Closing Date: 31 March 2008