



KOORI CENTRE The University of Sydney



The University of Sydney

Old Teachers College (A22) Manning Road, The University of Sydney NSW 2006
Tel +612 9351 4859 ♦ Fax +61 2 9351 6923 ♦ E-mail koori@koori.usyd.edu.au

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan – 2007-2010

Context:

The Koori Centre commends and actively promotes the core values associated with *the University of Sydney Strategic Directions 2006-2010*:

- Responsibility and service through leadership in the community;
- Quality and sustainability in meeting the needs of our stakeholders;
- Merit, equity and diversity in our student body;
- Integrity, professionalism and collegiality in our staff; and
- Lifelong relationship and friendship with our alumni.

The Koori Centre provides a broad range of academic and support services for The University of Sydney community, including teaching, research, marketing, administrative support, and community outreach.

The Koori Centre's core business encompasses:

- Academically strong and innovative mixed-mode educational programs for Indigenous Australian students;
- Culturally appropriate and relevant academic and social support services for Indigenous Australian students;
- Teaching of Indigenous Australian Studies to a high level of academic excellence;
- Expertise in the area of Indigenous Australian community consultation and liaison;
- Indigenous Australian student recruitment; and
- Culturally relevant, collaborative and ethical research and consultancy.

The Koori Centre is a leading Indigenous Australian centre that provides innovative dynamic programs in Indigenous Australian Studies. Indigenous Australian students are provided with relevant and appropriate high quality training.

The seven priorities as outlined in The University of Sydney *Learning and Teaching Plan 2007-2010* are to:

1. Continue to attract the best students and to provide them with incentives and support through bursaries and scholarships;
2. Provide quality environments that encourage independent learning, peer interaction and effective skill development;
3. Offer academically challenging and professionally relevant programs;
4. Continue to adapt and respond to student feedback and employer and community needs;
5. Support articulation of our undergraduate programs with graduate-entry professional programs;
6. Cultivate cultural diversity through curriculum development; and
7. Recognise and reward teaching excellence.

In consideration of the University's Learning and Teaching goals and in acknowledgment and support of the University's *Learning and Teaching Plan 2007-2010*, the Koori Centre has adapted its own specific set of priorities:

1. Continue to attract Indigenous Australian undergraduate and postgraduate students and to provide them with academic and cultural support, including access to bursaries and scholarships;
2. Continue to offer academically challenging and professionally relevant programs on Indigenous Australia to all students;
3. Continue to adapt and respond to student feedback and employer and community needs;
4. Continue to develop and support articulation of our undergraduate programs with graduate-entry programs;
5. Cultivate cultural diversity through curriculum development, and through knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australia;
6. Recognise and reward teaching excellence;
7. Ensure Indigenous Australian community engagement in the Learning and Teaching of the Koori Centre;

These priorities form the basis of the *Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan 2007-2010*.

The University of Sydney Learning and Teaching Plan

Goal 1: *Ensure the distinctiveness of the Sydney graduate.*

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan

Objective 1: *Attract and support high-achieving Indigenous Australian students.*

Strategies:

1. Enhance the learning community to better support student-to-student learning interactions;
2. Embed Graduate Attributes in teaching and assessment practices;
3. Identify and promote opportunities for interdisciplinary and inter-professional learning;
4. Promote international accreditation and recognition of programs;
5. Establish links with professions, community and other key stakeholders;
6. Ease the transition to university for first year students and provide on-going support for all students;
7. Negotiate with Faculties to develop pathways for postgraduate Indigenous Australian students across the University.

Initiatives:

- Develop and promote relationships with secondary schools for student recruitment;
- Develop mentoring programs for Indigenous Australian first year students;
- Strengthen the on-campus social, educational and cultural experience for all Indigenous Australian students;
- Encourage student participation and peer network opportunities through the Indigenous Australian Students Association (Klub Koori) and Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME);
- Review and update “students at risk” support processes;
- Enhance communication with prospective students, parents and teachers;
- Provide an efficient and effective marketing campaign;
- Monitor and evaluate the attainment of graduate attributes through the SCEQ;
- Increase the number of scholarships available to attract and support students, including effective promotion of financial assistance;
- Expand and maintain Indigenous Australian community networks and partnerships;
- Maintain liaison with University’s Research and Scholarships Office to ensure current information is available;
- Expand Indigenous Australian student alumni database;
- Increase and maintain regular links with Faculty advisors and co-ordinators in relation to Indigenous Australian students;
- Further develop academic skills programs for prospective and First year students;
- Evaluate Indigenous Australian student progression and academic success outcomes.

Targets:

- Increase undergraduate and postgraduate student enrolments by 2% each year;
- Improve first and second year retention rates;
- Increase and maintain the number of internationally accredited programs specifically related to Indigenous Australian studies;
- Enhance student access to relevant and up-to-date information pertaining to study at the University;
- Improve Student feedback opportunities.

The University of Sydney Learning and Teaching Plan
Goal 2: Support Quality and Innovative Teaching.

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan
Objective 2: Ensure quality, innovation and best practice in all Koori Centre teaching programs.

Strategies:

1. Maintain systematic processes for Quality enhancement;
2. Enhance opportunities for the dissemination of best practice within teaching;
3. Continue to develop and support student-centred teaching;
4. Develop and monitor workload guidelines for academic and administrative staff;
5. Recognise, support and reward quality teaching;
6. Foster a culture of teaching excellence within the Centre.

Initiatives:

- Establish a Learning and Teaching Committee;
- Revise assessment strategies within teaching programs;
- Apply for TIF and other relevant grants to enable revision of quality assurance procedures;
- Encourage and support staff to apply for University Teaching Awards;
- Encourage students to nominate staff for teaching awards;
- Increase opportunities for students to formally evaluate teaching practices;
- Establish Koori Centre Teaching Awards;
- Improve support for casual staff and explore staff exchange options with relevant faculties;
- Improve Koori Centre performance on the University's Teaching Performance indicators;
- Develop educational programs consistent with appropriate pathways from undergraduate to postgraduate level;
- Evaluate and review all units of study;
- Expand benchmarking of learning and teaching and curriculum development and assessment practices with other local, national and international institutions;
- Utilise PM&D process to develop evidence-based recognition of good practice in teaching and curriculum development;
- Ensure that all students experience consistency and quality in the delivery and assessment of programs and the communication of relevant information to support their studies;
- Continue to promote and implement integration of Graduate Attributes in all programs within the Centre.
- Encourage staff to integrate research and teaching;
- Encourage staff to conduct research and publish outcomes in relation to teaching practices.

Targets:

- Increase number of staff applications for internal and external awards;
- Maintain provisions for SSP;
- Enhance student assessment of Learning and Teaching practices;
- Increase number of undergraduate, honours and postgraduate courses on offer;
- Increase incorporation of student feedback in course reviews;
- Utilise and publish student feedback in our publications and promotions, including our website;
- Improve retention rates and increase enrolments of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University of Sydney Learning and Teaching Plan

Goal 3: *Promote Internationalisation, cultural diversity and equity.*

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan

Objective 3: *Promote the value of diversity, including the cultural diversity of Indigenous Australia in curriculum content and learning experiences of all students.*

Strategies:

1. Identify opportunities to incorporate international and intercultural dimensions to the student experience beyond the University of Sydney learning context;
2. Provide student support programs that are inclusive and support equity and diversity principles;
3. Provide professional development for staff in a diverse environment.

Initiatives:

- Increase and maintain the proportion of Indigenous Australian students enrolling in Away-from-Base programs;
- Ensure opportunities to contribute further to the development of Indigenous Australian research methodologies and communicate findings to the wider university;
- Increase opportunities for Indigenous Australian governance across the University;
- Encourage and participate in research and policy which effects and contributes to improving the lives of Indigenous Australians;
- Provide best practice in research, ethics and policy development in relation to the Indigenous Australian community;
- Enhance links with Faculties to promote activities and services within the Centre;
- Sustain Indigenous Australian community involvement in all relevant areas of the Koori Centre and the wider University;
- Benchmark practices with appropriate International institutions;
- Market fee-paying courses and on-line units of study to international students;
- Encourage and support the participation by Indigenous Australian students in a wide variety of courses;
- Assist with incorporation of Indigenous Australian perspectives into curriculum in consultation with Faculties across the University.

Targets:

- Expand culturally appropriate learning and teaching material and promote where relevant;
- Increase awareness of the Koori Centre as a leader in Indigenous Australian Education;
- Increase number of students with knowledge about Indigenous Australia;
- Increase proportion of curriculum that values cultural diversity and inclusive teaching practices within the Centre and across the University;
- Ensure DEST equity indicators are maintained and enhanced.

The University of Sydney Learning and Teaching Plan

Goal 4: *Embed research –enhanced Learning and Teaching.*

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan

Objective 4: *Promote and encourage research that reflects the scholarship of research-led teaching*

Strategies:

1. Recognise and reward staff who contribute to the scholarship of teaching;
2. Build opportunities for students that reflect the strengths of a research-intensive university through research-enhanced learning;
3. Explore and promote opportunities for students at the undergraduate and postgraduate coursework level to be involved in research.

Initiatives:

- Cultivate a Centre-wide culture recognising the research-teaching nexus and the opportunities of research-led teaching and inquiry-based learning;
- Develop and expand current Research Committee and its activities;
- Identify training needs and research capabilities, expertise and interests;
- Increase the research capabilities and output of the Koori Centre;
- Support and encourage academic staff in their scholarly and creative endeavours;
- Develop strategies for academic staff to attain relevant qualifications to enable student supervision opportunities;
- Further develop Koori Centre Indigenous Australian research ethics guidelines;
- Undertake independent and collaborative research within and external to the Centre;
- Keep abreast of new policy and initiatives within existing industry links;
- Establish complementary partnerships with Indigenous Australian communities and organisations to identify research needs and participate in community-based projects;
- Maintain strong working relationship with the University's Research Office and other state and non-government agencies;
- Encourage and support Koori Centre academic staff to act as postgraduate supervisors and associate supervisors;
- Facilitate staff training and development in research supervision.

Targets:

- Increase number of Koori Centre staff who are research-active;
- Engage with senior research mentors;
- Increase number of research grant applications;
- Identify potential research partners and monitor outcomes through the Research Committee;
- Increase research funds received by the Centre;
- Increase number of Koori Centre staff participating in University's compulsory supervision workshops.

The University of Sydney Learning and Teaching Plan

Goal 5: Enhance Learning in an information rich environment

Koori Centre Learning and Teaching Plan

Objective 5: To maintain a significant IT presence in the Learning and Teaching practices of the Koori Centre which directly relate to student support, research and community engagement.

Strategies:

1. Provide a vibrant, creative and innovative on-campus experience;
2. Ensure the development and maintenance of flexible physical and virtual teaching spaces;
3. Provide access to quality information resources.

Initiatives:

- Implement increased online course delivery and support services;
- Improve access to Web-based and digital resources;
- Develop AV/ICT standards for all teaching spaces, including their support and usage;
- Develop and establish a strategy for e-learning and flexible delivery within teaching programs, based on best practice in on-line learning;
- Ensure opportunity for Koori Centre staff training around the establishment of an active and responsive community of e-learning practitioners within the Centre;
- Regularly maintain and expand Koori Centre web site;
- Ensure all Koori Centre staff receive adequate Information Technology training, through the PM&D process;
- Source funding opportunities to assist with update of teaching spaces;
- Enable the use of technologies in innovative Research practices.

Targets:

- Develop sustainable IT equipment renewal policy and budget;
- Increase number of staff familiar with IT programs relevant to the activities within the Centre;
- Increase student satisfaction in SCEQ with technology that assists their learning.

— — — — || — — — —