SYDNEY TEACHING COLLOQUIUM 2014

Research and evaluation
Professional development for academics: Introducing a personalised app to learn from student feedback

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Abstract
This Office for Learning and Teaching-funded project has developed a world-first app for supporting academics’ professional learning from their student evaluation of teaching (SET) results in the key area of assessment. A traditional approach to supporting academics involved individual face-to-face consultations, which is labour- and time-intensive, and does not necessarily provide all academics with sufficient support (Marsh & Roche, 1993). The app anticipates academics’ learning needs and personalises recommended assessment strategies and video resources by harnessing SET database information. The app also provides networking opportunities for peer interaction, a key strategy recommended in the literature for enhancing traditional SET consultation (Penny & Coe, 2004). The project draws on design-based research methods to examine academics’ experiences of using the app and changing their practice over time to enhance student learning, and findings to date will be presented. Participants will be able to trial the app; they will view a set of student evaluation results and recommended resources. This trial will assist participants to consider how they can use their own SET results to identify how to improve their teaching, particularly the assessment for their unit of study. Participants will be invited to provide feedback on further development of the app, for example, whether including additional data could enable course directors to use the app to contribute to a program level review of assessment.

References

Theme
Innovative examples of departmental, school, or faculty approaches to using assessment data for curriculum change and renewal (theme 6)