SYDNEY TEACHING COLLOQUIUM 2014

Symposium
The Thesis and Examination of Higher Degrees by Research Policy: A forum

Rachel Symons, Office of Graduate Studies; Peter McCallum (Chair) and members of the Thesis and Examination of Higher Degrees by Research Policy Working Party

Abstract
This symposium will discuss the nature of higher degrees by research assessment, the thesis and examination. The Thesis and Examination of Higher Degrees by Research Policy Working Party consists of academic and professional staff involved in the assessment of higher degrees by research, together with representatives from Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA). The Working Party is developing a new policy which will bring together and update existing policies on thesis examination, processes and practices. While the essential character of higher degree by research examination is unlikely to radically change, this is an opportunity to improve the efficiency, transparency, consistency and quality of examination. It will include a more flexible approach to the inclusion of creative works, previously published material, oral examinations, joint degrees etc. The Colloquium will provide the Working Party with a forum to workshop research higher degree thesis and examination issues whilst the policy is still in development phase. It is envisaged that the symposium will consist of a short presentation of 15 – 20 minute and a longer open discussion. The presentation will outline the reasons for developing a new policy, the consultation process, and the evidence-based, collegial approach used by the Working Party. Information on the current status of policy development, and the framework of examination, will conclude the presentation. The open discussion with members of the Working Party, chaired by Peter McCallum, will inform development of the policy. Dialog between the panel and participants will take the form of a Q and A session, with questions either from the floor, or sent to the panel prior to the symposium.

Developing the Thesis and Examination of Higher Degrees by Research Policy
Rachel Symons, Office of Graduate Studies

Open discussion
Peter McCallum, with members of the Working Party

Theme
Ways of enhancing thesis examination, processes and practices (theme 5)