AAGLO Newsletter 2

Introduction

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Assessing and Assuring Graduate Learning Outcomes (AAGLO) project. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide our Reference Group, key stakeholders and project participants with information about the project. An overview of the project is available here.

Previous newsletters are available on our website.

Project Progress

Ethics approval has been granted The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, and RMIT University.

The research phase of the project is well underway with more than 40 interviews already completed with academics from the disciplines of Business, History, Law, Engineering, Drama and Performance Studies, Veterinary Science and Chemistry. We have aimed at broad coverage of the disciplines included in the recently completed Australian Learning and Teaching Council (LTAS) funded Learning and Teaching Academics Standards (LTAS) project and our interviewees have been selected with the assistance of the LTAS Discipline Scholars. We have also attempted to include academics from a range of institution types and locations and those with teaching and curriculum leadership responsibilities. Our interviewees have included some of the LTAS Discipline Scholars and leaders of related projects. This has been useful in identifying the complementary nature of AAGLO and other projects as well as providing useful opportunities for cross-project dissemination.

We are asking our interviewees about assessment practices at the course and program level as well as mechanisms that are in place to ensure their quality. This information is providing a rich data source for identifying the features of effective assessment practices and the features of effective quality assurance processes. This information will be used to develop guidelines for effective practice that are supported by exemplars from a range of disciplines.

We are grateful to the many academics who have so generously contributed their time and expertise to the data collection phase of the project and have added their names to our mailing list so that they are able to follow our progress.

AAGLO Summaries

As part of our project activity we are producing a series of summary documents of key issues and trends emerging from ongoing review of the literature, data collection from a range of sources, and consultations and discussions with our reference group and teams from related projects. The second and third summaries are now available on our website.

AAGLO Summary 2: Assurance of graduate learning outcomes through external review

AAGLO Summary 3: Challenges of assuring Graduate Learning Outcomes (GLOs) in work-based contexts

We are currently working on AAGLO Summary 4 with expert contributions from our Reference Group. This paper considers the role of standardised testing in assessing and assuring graduate learning outcomes and will soon be available on our website.

We are planning the focus of future AAGLO Summaries and invite you to suggest topics of interest.

Consultative Activities

The Project Team attended the November meeting of the LTAS Discipline Scholars in Melbourne and also engaged in a number of other activities aimed at keeping up to date with discipline projects and national and international movements in the area of assessment and assurance of graduate learning outcomes. These activities have included monitoring papers presented at relevant conferences and consultations with representatives of Alverno College, the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) and the Organisation for Economic Development (OECD).

We have established productive relationships with several other project teams and Fellows whose activities have strong connections to the AAGLO project. We would welcome information about of opportunities you are aware of to further our communication with others working in this area and for broadening the basis of our consultation.

AAGLO Project Team

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