Capstone Units: Capping-Off Grad Caps

Goals and Challenges
+ Providing a close-to real-world experience to prepare them for life after graduation.
+ Managing groups – ensuring groups are heterogeneous and balanced, handling conflict, calibrated/fair marking across groups and equitable distribution of marks within groups.

Questions?
1. How to ensure the individual opportunity to gain each of the graduate capabilities is not limited by the team or the nature of the project which can vary considerably?
2. How to provide an authentic and personalised experience for each group and still go home at night?
3. How to provide the right balance of open-ended problems and self team management with the right level of support and guidance for each team.

Authentic experiences
- Internships, industry-based group projects, changing and evolving requirements, dealing with ambiguity
- Domain or industry-relevant problems
- not toy or over-simplified
- important – worth solving

Authentic artefacts
- Deliverables, reports, models, portfolios, artworks, case studies, etc.

Authentic activities
- E.g. working in teams, project management (incl. resource, risk and change management)

Authentic skills
- People skills – team work, communication, conflict resolution, leadership, time management
- Technology skills – consolidating, reviewing and applying previously learnt theory and tools
- Life long Learning skills -Identifying what skills are missing, self-study to acquire missing skills

Graduate Capabilities Sought
- Self awareness, knowledge of own abilities, strengths, weaknesses, self discipline and motivation, independent learning skill
- The ability to perform time management for themselves and to meet deadlines
- Teamwork and cooperative learning skills (to cooperate with one or more other people to achieve a goal, to manage the efforts of each and report effectively on individual progress to the group, leadership to motivate and manage a successful outcome, to build networks)
- The ability to read, analyse and understand written material (ranging from technical to descriptive writing)
- Written communication skills (to convey ideas clearly, concisely, logically at a suitable level for technical or general documents)
- An awareness and appreciation of ethical issues and professional standards and conduct
- The ability to carry out advanced and broad problem solving (problem analysis and breakdown; graphical, verbal, mathematical formulation of a problem as required and interpretation of the solution; model building; ability to apply skills to familiar and unfamiliar problems)

Image from: http://www.nineplanets.org/pxearth.html

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