

Sydney-basin Network of University Science Educators (SNUSE)

12.00 - 2.00pm Friday 25th November 2005

Room 2715 on level 27 of Building 1 (the Tower), University of Technology

Attending: Robyn Beirman (MQ), Ken Brown (UTS), Jacky Cranney (UNSW), Kelsie Dadd (MQ), Helen Dalton (UNSW), Simon Housego (UTS), Les Kirkup (UTS), Michelle Kofod (UNSW), Elizabeth May (USYD), Bronwyn O'Brien (UTS), Anita Piper (UTS), Pauline Ross (UWS), Kathy Takayama (UNSW), Charlotte Taylor (USYD), Will Rifkin (UNSW), Curtis Rigney (MQ), David Van Reyk (UTS), Noel Whitaker (UNSW)

Apologises: Sharon Frazer (MQ), Mary Peat (USYD), Deidre Tronson, Michele Scoufis (UNSW)

Purpose: To finalise details of the proposed workshop / clinic which SNUSE will be holding in July 2006.

Background: In preparation for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) 2007 conference, SNUSE will be holding a workshop/clinic in 2006 to provide structured opportunities for lecturers in the Sydney region to: i) introduce the scholarship of teaching and learning to those new to the field; and ii) develop strategies and opportunities for reflection, review and dissemination of projects for those who have been investigating their students' learning.

General Discussion:

What do we want participants to get out of the day?

What should be achieved by the workshop/clinics?

- Understanding the Scholarship in Teaching and Learning (SoTL). Defining SoTL. What is the SoTL? Defining and Redefining of SoTL.
- Moving forward and promoting SoTL in Science Education
- Help with developing ideas for papers for ISSoTL 2007.
- Assist with applying for funding in grants such as the Carrick e.g., SNUSE could work together to develop a proposal for grants such as Carrick
- Encourage mentoring in SoTL
- Problem based workshops: What research projects people are designing which they could then present at the 2007 conference. Participants bring along or forward a problem and the workshops help to redefine these projects. The American Microbiology Society held a similar session where people with similar problems or areas of interest were linked together. They worked in groups with a facilitator as well as in pairs to redefine their research projects.
- Looking at barriers that research in learning and teaching presents which are not present in discipline specific research.
- Examine how, as a group, we could effect the cultural change.

How to get Funding?

- Richard Johnstone from Carrick was recommended for this section. Les Kirkup can contact him to see if he is interested in participating once the date has been finalised.

Ideas for research – A Scholarly Approach to Teaching and Learning

- How to do qualitative data / research methods: Appropriate research methods - Angela Brew from USYD was suggested to facilitate a workshop on this topic
- Making contacts and collaborations
- Formalised interest groups to develop the networks

How to write education papers – How and where to get published?

- Suggested getting both experienced and new people together to map out the pros and cons. i.e., what you need to get published in particular journals?
- Education Journals are often ISI ranking
- This could include discussions on: “Which journal do you go for? Journals you want to publish in or the ones that have ranking?”
- Simon suggested Davis Boud for a section on “How to get published?”. He presented a similar session at HERDSA.

How to entice people to be involved and attend the workshops? (The carrot)

- The benefits to their career, local and international contacts, how education research is of value to them, how research can lead to funding
- Panel of Deans to discuss the politics and possible funding
- HERDSA had large numbers in Sydney so more are likely to attend
- Research funding in American grants are starting to have a % tied to evidence of teaching – which may include research training of postgraduates. Similarly the CRC grants now have to address education.

Turning what you are doing into publications

- Linking SoTL to getting promoted.

Overall focus:

- Do we want to focus on RESEARCH of L&T or HOW to get published?
- Probably two target groups
 - Those who want to get published
 - Those who research L&T in Science

OTHER CONFERENCES:

- One of the main aims of this was to develop a similar network to the conferences which are run in Brisbane – Effective teaching.... And Perth
- Planning and preparation for the 2007 ISSoTL conference.

Discussions on SNUSE

- **Listserv or Online discussions:** Could we have a listserv set up to communicate with each other. Michelle will look into setting this up.
- **Defining SNUSE:** We need to define SNUSE for people to better understand what this group is about, Who is it for? Who can be invited? Is it open to everyone?
- **Next SNUSE meeting:** Will be held in either late February or March and will be hosted by Macquarie University.

Proposed details of the SNUSE –SoTL forum:

Topic	Discussion	Action item
Aim for the workshop/ clinic	The primary goal for this event would be to develop and promote opportunities for sustaining the regional scientific community in the scholarship of teaching and learning, with the SNUSE group and associates as a centre for that part of the community focussed on university science teaching.	
Theme and Title	Suggested titles were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Teaching Practise to \$cholarly Publishing (in T&L) • Research Quality and the Scholarship of Teaching 	We need to decide between these.
When	Proposed date will be Friday the 21st July 2006.	Everyone in the group will check their diaries for likely clashes within the next week and notify Michelle if this is not suitable
Venue	UNSW will host this. Both MQ and UTS have also offered if cost becomes an issue.	UNSW to check availability and cost
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily Science but could include Engineering & Medical sciences • Should also extend the invitation to Education departments • Academic developers 	
Anticipated number of participants	20 – 50 (maximum 80) however we don't want to limit who is wanting to attend	
Promotion:	The forum will be primarily advertised by the members of SNUSE to their colleagues at the respective universities.	What other mechanisms could be used to promote this conference?
Budget, Cost, & Payment	What should be the cost of this event be for us to run (<i>i.e.</i> , our budget and where that money comes from) and for each participant to attend? Suggested that \$50 – 100 would be reasonable for a 1 day conference it would be dependant on the costs. It would be on a cost recovery basis which includes: Food, printing costs, guest travel, etc.	How would we organise for participants to pay?

Format	The following outline was derived from suggestions that came from the last SNUSE meeting. It was suggested that the day should model best teaching practices, i.e., it should have different types of activities, aside from straight presentations; thus it might comprise predominantly of workshops. The details and allocated volunteer roles are outlined below.	
Duration of FORUM	1 day	
Sessions	Plenary – see suggested topics below 2 – 4 parallel workshops: morning 2 – 4 parallel workshops in afternoon Final closing statements	See schedule below
Final Session	At the end of the day have the convenors of each of the sessions to report back as a summary of what went on in each so that you don't miss out on the various streams.	

Proposed Schedule for Friday 21st July

Time	min	Plenary	WHO	TOPICS	ACTION ITEM
9 – 9:20	20	Introduction to SNUSE and Understanding SoTL	Noel / Kathy		
9:20 – 9:40	20	Aligning interests / people			Robyn / Will
9:40 – 10:00	15	What are the Barriers / Bridges / Challenges			Richard Johnson (Carrick)
10:00–10:30	30	Panel of the Deans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding the balance between teaching and Research Advising new academics 	
10:30 -11:00		Morning tea			

Workshops

				ACTION ITEM
	1	Workshop 1: How to get funding	<i>Richard Johnstone (Carrick)</i>	Les Kirkup to contact Richard
	1	Workshop 2: Researching the Literature on SoTL	<i>TBA</i>	Jacky Cranney to contact Denise
1– 2pm		Lunch		
	1.5	Workshop 3: Research Methods	<i>Angela Brew</i>	Charlotte Taylor to contact Angela
3:30- 4:00		Afternoon tea		
	1.5	Workshop 4: How to write and get published	<i>TBA</i>	Simon Housego to contact David
5:30 – 6pm		Closing comments: Where to from here?		
6:00 – 7pm		Sponsored? - Reception – any ideas?		