

Sydney-basin Network of University Science Educators (SNUSE)

12.30 - 2.00pm Wednesday 28th September 2005

Room 535 Carslaw Building, University of Sydney

Attending:

Jacquelyn Cranney (UNSW), Helen Dalton (UNSW), Simon Housego (UTS), Michelle Kofod (UNSW), Elizabeth May (USyd), Mary Peat (USyd), Will Rifkin (UNSW), Curtis Rigney (MacQU), Pauline Ross (UWS), Kathy Takayama (UNSW), Charlotte Taylor (USyd), Deidre Tronson (retired UWS) and Noel Whitaker (UNSW).

News from SNUSE members:

Mary Peat: Mary presented the SNUSE members with packages containing information on:

- The launch of the book *Teaching in Science*, which includes a chapter written by Mary, Sue Franklin, and Charlotte Taylor. This book was available at the UniServe Science conference at the end of September at a reduced price.
- Call for papers for *CAL-laborate* for both Physical Sciences (October 2005 Edition) and Life Sciences (June 2006 Edition). For further details: <http://science.uniserve.edu.au/pubs/callab/>
- Life Long Earning website: a resource for students regarding the skills required to get a job in science.
URL: <http://www.lifelongearning.science.usyd.edu.au>

Will Rifkin: Will gave an overview on the World-Wide Day in Science Project.

- On April 15th, university science students worldwide shadow scientists in the field and in laboratories to report on what is happening in science. Using video, voice, and photos, scientists at work are observed and recorded, and then the material is presented on a website. Simultaneously, volunteer professionals in science are recording their activities on 15 April and submitting diary entries, a biographical sketch, and relevant images. Over 100 students and scientists participated representing 20 nationalities. Will gave out fridge magnets to the group containing the website where more information could be found.
URL: www.science.unsw.edu.au/worldwide.

Kathy Takayama: – International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) 2007 conference.

In July 2007, ISSoTL conference will be held in Sydney Australia. This organisation currently has approximately 400 members world wide, thus enables

the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to be discussed in an international forum across all disciplines. The call for papers for this conference is anticipated to be around October 2006. In preparation for this event, we would like for SNUSE to hold a mini conference in 2006 to assist lecturers in our region in the publishing and presenting as a form of 'scholarship of teaching'. This effort was the focus of the remainder of the SNUSE meeting.

ISSoTL mini conference 2006:

The focus of this gathering was to discuss SNUSE's involvement in organising a forum in 2005 or/and 2006 on 'scholarship of teaching'. The forum would be a practice run, in preparation for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference, which will be held in Australia at UNSW in 2007. We will discuss:

- Possible topics for a 'scholarship of teaching' forum
- When and where and what format?

General ideas:

- Mary noted that, having just been involved in the UniServe conference preparation, we should aim for something low key without all the 'bells and whistles' as they require a lot of time and effort.
- SNUSE could use the gathering, though, to develop the regional community on scholarship of teaching.
- The best time to hold this mini conference would be in the session break during July 2006.

The following were some of the suggestions that came out of discussions:

- It was suggested that the 2006 conference involve workshops or clinics on:
 - How to write education papers.
 - How to get published. – Assign a mentor to help.
 - How to ask questions, gather information and what to do with the results? What constitutes data? Qualitative vs quantitative.
 - Literature reviews: How to do a literature review in teaching and learning - Where do you go?
 - What others are doing rather than reinventing the wheel?
 - How to get funding and support.
 - Changing the culture: Panel of associate dean's (education) to discuss changing the universities acceptance of Scholarship of teaching and learning.
- Plenary session suggestions:

- Is ISSoTL important?
- Pay offs for individuals and the institutional benefits
- Support of strategies and from the coal face – does it work?
- Reasons to publish: How to prove what you are doing is having an effect.
- Other suggestions:
 - The day should model best teaching practices, i.e., It should have difference types of activities, aside from straight presentations.
 - Could get students to come along to the workshops / clinics.

Plan for the Workshop / CLINIC:

- It would be for 1 day. Any longer becomes difficult to schedule.
- Plenary – see suggested topics above.
- 2 – 4 parallel workshops: morning and then afternoon sessions.

Future Plans:

- Sydney workshop clinics: Such gatherings could be run each year with each university taking on organising for 2 years, i.e., UNSW 2006 and 2007. Then another university from SNUSE would continue in 2008. This strategy follows that employed – apparently successfully -- in the Teaching and Learning Forum in Perth.

Other SNUSE business and action items:

- Kathy would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in assisting in the organisation for the 2007 conference.
- Mary would like to hear from anyone in the area of Biology as they are involved in a Carrick project with Centre for the Study of Higher Education (U of Melbourne) and other Australian universities looking at assessment in biological science, what is currently employed and what is new an interesting.
- Need to get contacts from Newcastle University and the Australian Catholic University to join SNUSE. If anyone has contacts from these universities, please forward their details to edsquad@unsw.edu.au.
- Simon Housego will try to organise a time and place for the next SNUSE meeting, which will be held at UTS. This meeting will take place some time in late November. The date and time are to be confirmed.
- SNUSE website will be updated soon. If anyone has information to be put on the site, please forward it to edsquad@unsw.edu.au.