

Discipline Support Strategy for Business, Management and Economics

The Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) has been funded to prepare and implement a Discipline Support Strategy for Business, Management and Economics. The strategy involves the strategic development and furthering of the Teaching and Learning Network of the ABDC and outlines how the activities of the network can partner with developments through the ALTC.

Background

The finalisation of the ALTC-funded Discipline-Based Initiative business education scoping study and the commencement of the three follow-on projects will provide a solid foundation for the implementation of an innovative national strategy for disciplinary-based development of learning and teaching in the field of business. Such a strategy provides the ABDC with a strengthened inter-organisational network – the ABDC T&L Network – enabling a means of delivering cost-effective, nationally embedded project outcomes and innovations to business higher education.

The ABDC T&L Network has two main aims:

- To provide opportunities for professional development and resource/idea sharing built around embedding good practice T&L in business higher education. This will involve establishment of a professional development and biannual face-to-face meetings to strengthen trust and collaboration and facilitate links between members and key stakeholders.
- To facilitate a national, collaborative approach to systemic change that will improve T&L in business higher education. This involves: Professional; External Networking; Project Management and Leadership.

The Discipline Support Strategy

Through the strategic development of the ABDC T&L Network, the ABDC aims to achieve the following outcomes in respect of learning and teaching over the period 2009-2011.

Outcomes

1. ABDC/ALTC partnership

- Further positioning of the business discipline as a leading discipline, through collaboration with ALTC (website, Exchange and national dissemination strategy)
- Appropriate integration of earlier project learning within existing and future projects
- Refinement of a national embedding and dissemination strategy built into all ABDC T&L Network projects and future applications
- Liaison across and between other relevant business projects, the ABDC T&L Network members and ALTC

- Reduction in non-sustainable cross-subsidisation of ABDC and ALTC activities by individual universities

2. External networking

- Appropriate liaison, integration, coordination and management of relationships with key external stakeholders established during scoping study i.e. industry and professional associations such as the BCA and AIG, and where possible international stakeholders such as the UK Higher Education Academy
- Engagement of industry and professional associations in standing reference group within the 3 follow on projects and increasingly other relevant business projects where possible
- Leadership/mentoring of project leaders, project teams and managers employed within each of the 3 follow on projects and increasingly other relevant business projects where possible and appropriate

Strategies

The following strategies are proposed in order to achieve the intended outcomes.

1. ABDC/ALTC partnership

- **Inclusion of ABDC in ALTC recruitment and oversight of the Discipline Scholar.** The ABDC T&L Network representatives will be involved in encouraging appropriate applicants for the Scholar position and participating on the selection panel.
- **Inclusion of the Discipline Scholar in ABDC governance.** The Discipline Scholar will be issued with a standing invitation to attend and contribute to ABDC T&L Network Executive meetings as an ex officio member.
- **Further development of accountability structures for projects funded as stage 2 of the discipline projects.**

2. External networking

- **An ABDC national workshop or symposium** focused on each of the three follow-on projects arising from the Discipline-Based Initiative business education scoping study and other projects focused on or relevant to business education. The symposium would also target academic, industry and professional leaders and would provide an additional forum for engaged dissemination and formative feedback for those project teams. ***One workshop or symposium each year for 2009, 2010, 2011***
- **Promoting cross utilisation of services in areas such as professional development.** One international or expert business education scholar per year presenting seminars across states at ABDC member institutions; this could be tied to one of the biannual meetings where possible and would involve a visit of approx one month in Australia. ***One visit per year for 2009, 2010, 2011***
- **Coordinating efforts of national ALTC-funded projects to engage with relevant stakeholder groups.** Collaboration and engagement with industry, professional and academic associations such as UK HEA, AACSB and EQUIS, including representation on project reference groups. This could include a shorter visit to Australia (than the international expert scholar visit) for example by a UK HEA representative. This engagement builds on the relationships already established at high levels during the scoping project. ***Ongoing engagement activities for 2009, 2010, 2011***
- **Promoting engagement with ALTC Exchange.** In conjunction with ALTC Exchange/Discipline Scholar: Identification of exemplars and resources relevant to business education; Development of process for peer reviewing of exemplars and resources; and Assist with identification of peer reviewers. ***Ongoing 2009-2011***

Evaluation of Outcomes

Outcomes will be monitored by the ABDC T&L Network. An informal progress update will be included as a standing item at ABDC T&L Network Executive quarterly meetings.