



Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Program Assessment Report 2007

Introduction

After the first round of applications in 2006, the Carrick Institute identified the challenge of developing proposals that are designed to achieve a demonstrable enhancement to learning and teaching through building leadership capacity. To respond and provide support to applicants, the Institute provided some resources and encouraged discussion at a number of events.

Two occasional papers were prepared:

- *Issues in the development of leadership for learning and teaching in higher education* (Stephen Marshall)
- *Ideas of leadership underpinning proposals to the Carrick Institute* (Don Anderson and Richard Johnson)

The Institute also held a colloquium in November 2006 and followed that with a forum and a workshop for current project holders in February 2007. Materials from these events and the occasional papers are on the website.

Applications in 2007

A total of 25 applications in the form of 22 expressions of interest and 3 full proposals were received. From the expressions of interest, the Board Standing Committee has approved 6 applications to submit full proposals. One full proposal has been approved for funding.

The assessment of full proposals was based on the following criteria defined in the program guidelines using a scale of 1- 5:

- Project outcomes and rationale
- Approach
- Value and need for the project
- Value for money and project management
- Capacity of project team to deliver proposed outcomes

The assessment of expressions of interest was based on the following criteria defined in the program guidelines using a scale of 1- 5:

- Proposed outcomes and rationale
- Approach of the proposed project
- Value and need for the project

General Comments regarding the applications:

- There was a strong dedication to improving teaching

- The collaborative nature of the better applications was very evident and the early preparation done by these applications strengthened the applications and influenced decisions.
- A good range of priority topics were covered
- The overall quality of applications was rated medium
- The weaknesses identified in proposals included:
 - lack of understanding of approaches to leadership and clear definition of leadership outcomes;
 - lack of explicit focus on leadership;
 - too much jargon;
 - poor development of project thinking;
- Applicants need to think clearly about the category in which they are applying and ensure that the outcomes are in line with the program outcome.
- Expressions of interest need to go beyond a good idea to demonstrate a clear approach to the proposed project including explicit outcomes, coherent approach and an engaging explanation of the need for the project.
- Project leaders need to be able to give substantial time to the project and there needs to be adequate time and expertise allocated to project management.