College Synergy Newsletter Teaching and Learning Edition

What are the new academic roles and what do they do?

Teaching Program Directors

- Health Sciences: Chris Barr
- Health Professions: Stacie Attrill

The Teaching Program Director works with the Dean (Education) to drive the development, implementation and review of learning and teaching initiatives within a particular College Teaching Program and its courses. The Teaching Program Director works with other College Teaching Program Directors to review College course offerings and student experience initiatives to ensure alignment with the College, Portfolio and University’s strategic plans and targets.

Teaching Program Directors work with the coordinators of courses within the program to ensure the quality of the courses in the teaching program and effective running of the courses and topics. They facilitate innovation, collaboration and synergy across courses, topics and Colleges for the benefit of student learning and experience.

They are responsible for ensuring effective student representation mechanisms are in place in the courses within the Teaching Program.

The Teaching Program Director will oversee monitoring of design and delivery and regular reviewing of the teaching program and ensure that learning outcomes and accreditation requirements are met and that courses enable all students to develop the university graduate qualities and maximise employability. They will also contribute to the development of relationships that promote the college teaching program between the University and the wider community, working with any Head or Dean of a discipline for accreditation purposes.

Source: Role Statement – Health Professions Teaching Program Director, College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Heads of Teaching Sections

- Applied Gerontology: Ruth Walker
- Audiology: Christopher Lind
- Clinical Rehabilitation: Stacey George
- Disability: Caroline Ellison
- Exercise Science: Claire Drummond
- Health Sciences: Jessie Gunson
- Midwifery: Linda Sweet
- Nursing: Pauline Hill
- Nutrition and Dietetics: Kaye Mehta
- Occupational Therapy: Sandra Mortimer
- Optometry: Paul Constable
- Palliative Care: Kim Devery
- Physiotherapy: Belinda Lange
- Speech Pathology: Sebastian Doeltgen
The purpose of the role of Head of Teaching Section, College of Nursing and Health Sciences is to represent a particular educational activity externally where it is required by an external body for course accreditation or other purposes.

The Head will be an active educator who focuses on the integrity of the course(s) for the purpose of their external recognition.

The Head will engage with student, community and professional stakeholders to promote a strong, positive profile for the College’s educational endeavours within the University and externally, with the expectation of participation in local and international activities that promote education programs.

In addition, it is expected that the Head will work collaboratively with the College Leaders, Professoriate, course coordinators, academic and professional staff to effectively promote the identify and academic strengths of the relevant course(s), particularly their recognition in the external community.

Source: Role Statement – Head of Teaching Section, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

What about professional staff involved with teaching and learning?
As you know, the Teaching and Learning Team have been supporting the academic staff in all teaching and learning matters for the past few months and this will continue over the coming few months. The shared email CoNHSTL@flinders.edu.au has been working well and we encourage you to keep using it.

Emma Mackenzie and Tania Steinhoff continue to provide support around course and topic approvals, course review, accreditation, teaching and learning initiatives etc. as set out below.

What is the College Education Committee? Do we have one yet? Who is on it?
The College Education Committees are standard across the university and the inaugural Nursing & Health Sciences College Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st October. The committee will be chaired by the Dean (Education), Associate Professor Chris Brebner and is responsible for assisting the College Executive to develop, implement and review learning and teaching initiatives, including current course offerings and student experience initiatives, which align with and contribute to the achievement of the University’s strategic plan and College target.

The College Education Committee will be an integral part of the College’s course and topic approval processes and will have a broad strategic membership that will include:

- Teaching Program Directors
- an academic staff member with expertise in internationalization (nominated by Dean (Education))
- at least two student representatives
- other co-opted members as required
- In attendance:
  - PVC (Learning & Teaching) or delegate
  - PVC (Student Life) or delegate
  - VP & PVC International or delegate
  - University Librarian (or delegate)
  - The Executive Officer (Tania Steinhoff)
When will the Course Management Committees be established?
Course Management Committees should continue to operate as they did before the college structure was implemented. These committees will provide strategic advice and make recommendation to the Education Committee regarding programs and pathways in their portfolios – they are a key component of the college’s course and topic approval structure. The committees are to be chaired by Course Coordinators or Heads of Teaching Sections and standard Terms of Reference will be developed over the coming months. Committees are responsible for documenting any meeting actions or decisions and are to work closely with the Teaching and Learning Team to progress these matters.

If the restructure has resulted in uncertainty around your particular course committee, please consult your Course Coordinator and Head of Teaching Section.

What about Course Advisory Committees? We need to organise one.
Course Advisory Committees are an essential component of course development and review and will continue to meet at least once per year. These committees advise on local and national professional and community issues and are a key component in strengthening the relationship between the university, the broader community and health care professionals. Professional staff support is available for these meetings. Please contact Mel Pearson for further advice.

What is happening with Course Reviews?
During the interim period, Emma Mackenzie will be coordinating the Course Review work for the college. The college has submitted revised timelines for the 2017 reviews and when approved, these will be rescheduled for 2018. Over the next few weeks planning for the Course reviews will begin in earnest and Course Coordinators will be contacted to discuss progress reporting regarding existing Course Review Implementation Plans.

I need to change my topic/course – what form do I use?
During the interim period, the Teaching and Learning Team are still your one stop shop for commencing any documentation relating to course or topic proposals. Our college is currently involved with a central pilot project that is using OneDrive collaboration for course and topic proposals and the feedback has been generally positive.

So, to begin any topic or course change please email CoNHSTL@flinders.edu.au to obtain your template.

How are course and topic proposals approved?
The university is currently reviewing its Course and Topic approval processes (and delegations of authority) and this information will be made available when once it has been approved and released. For now, the chart below provides a simple explanation of how proposals will be progressed and/or approved through in the College.
I have heard that all SAMs are going into the online FLEX system in 2018. Is that true?
At the moment, 6 disciplines’ SAMs are managed in FLEX – DISH, EXSC, HLTH, MIDW, NURS, SPTH. The Dean (Education) is working with the College Executive and CILT to investigate the feasibility of having all SAMs managed in FLEX by the start of the 2018 academic year however a decision has not yet been made.

Accreditation is due for my course. What support is available to help us with the submission?
Please consult with the Dean (Education) regarding this matter.

How do I get involved in new initiatives?
The college is interested in hearing your ideas for innovative College wide educational projects. One page EOIs can be emailed to CONHSTL@flinders.edu.au and should outline the:

- Link to the University’s Agenda 2025 strategic objectives
- Intended outcomes and how these will be measured
- Time frame