Students as partners for cultural competence

Amani Bell
31 October 2018

Interactive google map of IRU campuses

This slidedeck available at http://bit.ly/FlindersCC
Vice Chancellors’ Fellow

Inspired by UIA Fellows

Inaugural Fellow 2016-2018, Professor Jess Vanderlelie

New Fellow 2018-2020
Why cultural competence?

Awareness of the societal benefits of cultural competence
Need for greater diversity on boards
Graduates likely to work in diverse teams serving diverse communities
Increasing diversity of student cohorts, incl. international students
Calls to decolonise higher education & include Indigenous knowledges
Response to polarisation of attitudes in Trump / Brexit era
Cultural competence - definitions

To work productively, collaboratively and openly in diverse groups and across cultural boundaries. (University of Sydney, 2016, 32)

Student and staff knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australian cultures, histories and contemporary realities and awareness of Indigenous protocols, combined with the proficiency to engage and work effectively in Indigenous contexts congruent to the expectations of Indigenous Australian peoples. (Universities Australia, 2011, 6)

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Flinders - Graduates who connect across boundaries

We expect our students to engage positively with people and ideas beyond the limits of their own geographical, disciplinary, social, cultural or other boundaries, and to span the boundary between the world of study and the world of work.

http://www.flinders.edu.au/graduate-qualities/descriptions.cfm
Students as partners

#studentsaspartners is about viewing students as members of a community, not commodities #usyd

4:23 PM - 9 Oct 2016

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Bovill and Bulley (2011)
Benefits of involving SAP in curriculum design

More likely to meet needs of students
Improve student experience
Make changes immediately
Change thinking about curriculum (staff & students)
Make course more relevant to students’ lives
Students feel more invested in their education
Students take responsibility for their learning
Keg de Souza (2018)
Curriculum frames / makes space

‘...curriculum frames knowledges in particular ways. Some frames are visible, while others are not.’ (Anwaruddin, 2016, 433).

‘curriculum makes space like nothing else I know in education. It can be a mighty tool of social justice for the marginalised’ (Kovach, 2010, 6).
Background & context

Cultural competence is a new graduate Quality at USyd

Student ambassadors for CC in 2015

In 2016-17 a new project explored:
What does CC look like at unit / discipline level?
Walking the line

CULTURAL COMPETENCE IS OUR BUSINESS TOO!
STUDENT AMBASSADORS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
The initiative

Geology (Gulnaz & Tom)

Education (Jodie & Jonnell)

Project management (Roman & Ehssan)

Physiotherapy (Daniel & Susan)

History (Steph, Natalie & Mike)
Process - Teach the University (Williams, 2008)

1. Induction
2. Progress meeting
3. Critical friend meeting
4. Conclusion

Conference presentations
Book chapter
Evaluation
Geology

The Inspired Dream' - Margie K.C. West

This slide deck available at http://bit.ly/FlindersCC
All students surveyed (n=15) agreed that CC was important, & most thought it was relevant to first year geology.

*It’s more useful in practical situations rather than just in the lectures. When it comes up in a lecture not everyone tunes in. But once we’re out on the field in a practical sense where we are exposed to cultures and ideas, that’s where the real benefit will come in rather than just sitting in a classroom and going over some content.*

More here
Education
Project management

Game-based tutorial activities

Most diverse team wins
Project management

Playing trivia was lots of fun, and I happened to be in a very diverse group of not only obvious diversities of gender and race, but diversities of personality and interests. This allowed us to work together very well and allowed all members of our group to contribute and answer questions, resulting in our team winning the game!

More here (including instructions)
Physiotherapy

Lecture & tutorial activities on CC
Pre and post survey showed improvement in the level of CC

Pre: To be able to understand the value and attitudes of a culture. Understand how it influences their actions and decisions.

Post: Being culturally competent refers to the ability to understand, be aware be sensitive to other people’s values attitudes and beliefs. Also understanding how your own culture can unconsciously influence your interaction with patients.
History

Survey, conducted at two points of the semester; two follow-up semi-structured interviews; and analysis of students’ public blog posts.

I mean, I think I saw that it’s all good and all to talk about how we could be helpful or aware and, like, careful about how we approach people [when conducting historical research], but I didn’t realise how real that was until I went out and did this community research.

More here
Overall, did it work?

For the academics
A more nuanced, mature and broader view of how to teach in a more culturally competent way. (TH)

For the student ambassadors
I gained the satisfaction of successfully promoting cultural competence to a large (100+) cohort of students as well as ...becoming a more culturally competent person myself. On top of this, I learnt about the specific ways the university is promoting cultural competence as well as the privilege of working with other well minded students and academics. (RE)
Other SAP initiatives - WSU

More here
Other SAP initiatives - Murdoch

Students as Change Agents in Learning and Teaching
New IRU student & graduate success projects

1. Reimagining work integrated learning

1. How does / might graduate feedback inform curriculum renewal and learning and teaching practices?
Webinar!

Hear more about the Murdoch University student change agents, and a Western Sydney University unit where students & a professor are redesigning a fieldwork experience:

Tuesday 20th November, 11.30am-12.30pm

Register here: http://bit.ly/WILweb1
National Innovation Case Study Collection

Please continue to contribute case studies for the National Innovation Case Study Collection - email suggestions to me or submit via the link:

National Innovation Case Study Collection
Please keep in touch

amani.bell@iru.edu.au

Twitter @AmaniBell

LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/in/amani-bell/

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References 2/2


The University of Sydney (2016). *2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.
