

An Academic Leadership Study: Learning and Teaching Challenges and Trends in the Australian University Sector

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About us

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Di Salter and Caroline Steel @ HKU

2010 – Exploring active learning for collaborative learning spaces





<https://tinyurl.com/yafscpar>

Learning and Teaching Challenges
in Higher Education in Australia:
A View from the Top.

Outline

- Australian Higher Education context
- Hong Kong Higher Education context
- Teaching and learning challenges
 - HKU Priorities
 - Australian University findings
- Teaching and learning trends
 - HKU Priorities
 - Australian University findings
- Further discussion



Australian Higher Education Context

- 1.3M Higher Education students
 - 1M Australian domestic students
 - 300,000+ full fee paying overseas students (mostly from China and India)
- \$\$\$\$ on-campus infrastructure (blended learning environment)
- Australian Federal Government
 - a 2.5% efficiency dividend in 2018 and 2019
 - a 7.5% contingency funding based on as-yet defined KPI's (e.g. student retention, student satisfaction and employability)
 - yet to be voted on in parliament

Hong Kong Higher Education Context



Australian Academic Leadership Study



Methodology

Secondary data

Delphi Technique

Survey

Interviews

15/40 universities; 9 interviews



Teaching & Learning Challenges

10 Learning & Teaching Challenges (un-ranked)

- Student attrition
 - Student career development and employability
 - Technology-enhanced pedagogical practice
 - Assessment and feedback
 - Academic adoption of educational technologies
- Student engagement & satisfaction (on-campus & online)
 - Academic misconduct
 - Personalised adaptive learning
 - First year experience and transition
 - Improving work-integrated learning

Question ...



Please rank the challenges in your order of importance?

HKU: Learning & Teaching Challenges

- Student attrition
 - 3 Student career development and employability
 - Technology-enhanced pedagogical practice
 - 2 Assessment and feedback
 - 1 Academic adoption of educational technologies
- 4 Student engagement & satisfaction (on-campus & online)
 - Academic misconduct
 - 1 Personalised adaptive learning
 - First year experience and transition
 - 1 Improving work-integrated learning

Teaching & Learning Challenges

Academic leadership perspectives



Australia: Learning & Teaching Challenges (ranked)

1. Student career development and employability
2. Student engagement & satisfaction (on-campus & online)
3. Assessment and feedback
4. Technology-enhanced pedagogical practice
5. Student attrition
6. Improving work-integrated learning
7. First year experience and transition
8. Personalised adaptive learning
9. Academic adoption of educational technologies
10. Academic misconduct

Challenge

1

Student career
development and
employability



<http://www.freestock.com/free-photos/happy-group-students-arms-outdoors-74199697> Image used under license from Freestock.com

Australia: Graduate Employability



What jobs won't exist in
10 years' time?



<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/jun/15/robot-doctors-online-lawyers-automated-architects-future-professions-jobs-technology>

21st Century employability skills

Foundational Literacies	Competencies	Character Qualities
Literacy	Critical thinking/ Problem Solving	Curiosity
Numeracy	Creativity	Initiative
Scientific Literacy	Communication	Persistence/Grit
ICT Literacy	Collaboration	Adaptability
Financial Literacy		Leadership
Cultural & Civic Literacy		Social and Cultural Awareness

World Economic Forum (2015)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/03/21st-century-skills-future-jobs-students/>

Interview findings

Career development & employability

‘The employment outcome is very, very important and if we can’t offer something meaningful to these people in terms of their future careers then we’re not offering a very good product.’

Professor Liz Johnson

PVC (Teaching & Learning) Deakin University



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Interview findings

Career development & employability

‘Universities change so slowly, and the external environment is changing so fast. The top challenge of all is how to prepare students for an uncertain and unknown future.’

Professor Gilly Salmon
PVC (Education Innovation), University Western
Australia



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Challenge

2

Student engagement
and satisfaction



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2016 National Report

Australian Student Experience Survey

	Focus areas					Questionnaire item
	Skills Development	Learner Engagement	Teaching Quality	Student Support	Learning Resources	Quality of entire educational experience
2011 ⁱ	–	–	–	–	–	79
2012	82	58	81	53	82	80
2013 ⁱⁱ	79	57	79	53	83	79
2014	81	61	82	73 ⁱⁱⁱ	85	80
2015 ^{iv}	81	60	82	72	86	80
2016	81	62	81	72	85	80

https://www.qilt.edu.au/docs/default-source/gos-reports/2017/2016-ses-national-report-final.pdf?sfvrsn=14e0e33c_5

Interview findings

Student engagement & satisfaction

‘It’s a complex construct, it’s not about participation. It’s got at least 3 parameters that we can observe: behavioural parameters, a cognitive parameter and an affective domain parameter. So the challenge is for us how do we then create the educational conditions that will trigger emotion and motivation so that students are engaged?’

Professor Karen Nelson

PVC (Students), University of Sunshine Coast

Interview findings

Student engagement & satisfaction

‘I think universities are going to be under increasing pressure with competition from third-party providers ... and i think these third-party providers are actually going to go into the areas that are most profitable to universities’.

Professor Geoff Crisp
PVC (Education), UNSW



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Teaching & Learning Trends

Learning & Teaching Trends (un-ranked)

- Digital examinations
 - MOOC's
 - Open Education Resources (OER's)
 - Learning analytics
 - Mobile-enabled learning
- Teaching quality standards
 - Students as partners
 - Fully online courses
 - Adaptive learning technology
 - Unbundling qualifications

Question ...



Please rank the trends
in your order of
importance?

HKU: Learning & Teaching Trends

- Digital examinations
 - MOOC's
 - Open Education Resources (OER's)
 - 2 - Learning analytics
 - Mobile-enabled learning
- 6 - Teaching quality standards
 - 1 - Students as partners
 - Fully online courses
 - 3 - Adaptive learning technology
 - 1 - Unbundling qualifications

Teaching & Learning Trends

*Academic leadership
perspectives*



Australia: Learning & Teaching Trends (ranked)

1. Learning analytics + Unbundling qualifications
2. Students as partners + Teaching quality standards + Fully online courses
3. Mobile-enabled learning + Adaptive learning technology
4. Digital examinations
5. MOOC's + Open Education Resources (OER's)

Interview findings

Learning analytics

‘Lots of industries, as we know, are underway with using analytics in their systems and in their businesses.

Higher education is late to that story. Once we’re really able to use analytics in a very meaningful way in our learning and teaching and student experience that will be a trend-setter for changing learning.’

Professor Jill Downie

DVC (Education) Curtin University)

Interview findings

Learning analytics

‘There’s enormous potential in learning analytics, but we’re not even close to being there yet. Because we’re looking for the cause and effect relationships within extremely limited datasets.’

Professor Martin Carroll
PVC (Education & Student Success)
Charles Darwin University



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Interview findings

Unbundling qualifications

‘I want universities to be more open. If you want that, then that cage of systems for degrees is actually a problem. I want a porous cage, I don’t want the cage to go away because it helps us with quality assurance, but I do want the cage to be porous enough to allow leaning from other streams to come in and to go out. Hence the unbundling of qualifications and the idea of micro-credentialing..’

Professor Liz Johnson

PVC (Teaching and Learning), Deakin University

Interview findings

Unbundling qualifications

'I think we've got to find different ways of providing learning in ways that don't require people to give up 3 hours a night, twice a week for four years to get a master's degree.'

Professor Karen Nelson
PVC (Students), University of Sunshine Coast



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What did you find most interesting?

What did you find most surprising?



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