

## Terms of Reference

### Infrastructure support for major course redesign

#### Background

UTS has a significant track record in innovative uses of new technologies in higher education. The approach used at UTS to adopt and embed Learning Management Systems for example, has been widely recognized, and resulted in the award of both national (AUTC) and international (Educause) awards. Both of these awarding bodies made particular note of the ways in which UTS had focused on the use of e-learning strategies which provided qualitatively different learning experiences for students rather than simply automating existing practices.

A range of new technologies has emerged over the past five years and the time is now opportune to review the value of these to enhance learning opportunities for students at UTS.

This project complements two other concurrent projects. The first is a Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) project “*Supporting Curriculum Renewal*”. This committee will draw upon current research on learning, and the range of learning activities students need to engage in, to result in high quality learning outcomes. This work will underpin the development of innovative approaches to the design of curriculum at the course and subject levels.

The aim of the project described here on infrastructure support is to determine the optimal ways in which new and emerging technologies might support new developments in the design of curriculum and learning activities to enhance the student experience of learning.

A third project “*Design of Learning and Teaching Spaces*” builds on the two projects described above. Given changes in the design of the curriculum and teaching together with the use of a range of current and emerging technologies, this Working Party will report on the range of both physical and virtual spaces needed to support student learning, the optimal mix of these spaces, and their detailed design.

A total of \$500,000 has been set aside for this project to be conducted in 2 stages.

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### Stage 1 (\$100K)

The Working Party will:

- undertake a broad ranging review of the range of new technologies which might support high quality learning for students at UTS;

- undertake a range of pilot studies of a selected range of new technologies which might support high quality learning for students at UTS;
- provide advice to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity) on: the optimal mix of technologies for the support of high quality learning at UTS; the projected cost of their implementation; current impediments to, and likely drivers of take-up of these technologies; potential policy solutions to identified challenges; and any other issues that are likely to emerge.

The committee should take into account:

- the need to focus on those technologies that benefit the majority of students at UTS rather than the needs of more specialised courses and subjects;
- the learning benefits that might be achieved through the use of the new technologies (rather than the use of technologies for their own sake or because they are new)
- equality of opportunity for students to make use of those technologies;
- the cost of procuring, implementing and maintaining the technologies.

Stage 1 of the project should be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

## **Stage 2 (\$400K)**

The Working Party will oversee the procurement and implementation of the new technologies, with particular regard to developing evaluation and dissemination strategies.

Where possible, procurement will take place during October 2007, and implementation will begin in November 2007.

## **Working Party Members**

TLC Members	David Lowe (Chair) Di Slade
TLC Nominations	Simon Housego (IML) Conrad Frankland (ITD) Reg Collins (AVS)
ADTL/Faculty Nominations	Bernhard Wieder (BUS) Michael Er (DAB) Elaine Lawrence (FIT) Lynette Schaverien (EDU) James Hurley (HSS) Ken Brown (SCI) Theresa Anderson (HSS) Darrall Thomson (DAB) Colin Hawes (LAW)