

## Faculty of Pharmacy Teaching and Learning Plan 2006

### Context

The Faculty of Pharmacy was established on January 1, 2000 as the eighteenth Faculty of the University of Sydney. It is located in the College of Health Sciences as it currently exists. The Faculty of Pharmacy currently offers 4 year Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Pharmacy (Rural) Degrees and a 2 year Master of Pharmacy all leading to professional registration. In addition the faculty also offers post-graduate courses in Herbal Medicines and research degrees.

This Teaching and Learning Plan has been designed to articulate with the University and College of Health Sciences Strategic Plans, and should be considered within the context of the relevant goals and values described in these Plans. Responsibility for review of the Plan, and evaluation of progress in implementation of strategies and achievement of performance measures, lies jointly with the Teaching and Learning Committee, chaired by the Associate Dean (Undergraduate) and the Programs Committee, chaired by the Associate Dean (Admissions and Administration) and the Pharmacy Education Unit (Director, Associate Professor Greg Ryan).

The Teaching and Learning Committee is responsible for issues relating to teaching and learning at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and the Programs Committee is responsible for administrative and organisational aspects, Associate Professor Greg Ryan is a member of both committees and The Pharmacy Education Unit is responsible for facilitating the curriculum review and a number of specific projects in collaboration with academic staff.

### Objective 1: Strengthen Undergraduate Programs

- 1.1 *Review the existing undergraduate programs and ensure that all courses exceed relevant University standards and that content meets the needs of contemporary pharmacists.*

Continue the systematic process of curriculum review, focused initially on the BPharm. A set of broad graduate attributes has been drafted, clustered under potential themes of Basic and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Personal and Professional Development, Professional Practice, Community and Pharmacist, and incorporating the University's generic graduate attributes. Consultations with all stakeholders, including staff, students and members of the profession and professional bodies will take place. Prepare a complete set of UoS specific graduate outcomes so that the development of a curriculum for year 1 can begin in 2007 for implementation in 2008.

- 1.2 *Enhance the teaching skills of staff involved in delivering undergraduate programs, through participation in professional-development activities, mentorship of junior teaching staff, and the introduction of mechanisms for monitoring and improving the quality of teaching*

Continue to encourage strong participation in Graduate Certification (Higher Education).

Provide UoS coordinators with support and guidance through the PEU for integration of PBL and lectures.

Provide staff development and guidance through the PEU in the expanded use of upgraded WebCT for more interactive online learning.

Establish a working group of the Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee to investigate the recurring problem of consistently low SCEQ data, and to recommend to the Dean immediate strategies for implementation (particularly at the USE level) from Semester 2, 2006.

*1.3 Improve the experience and satisfaction of students taking undergraduate programs by structuring teaching programs and administrative procedures to give students more flexibility.*

Establish and trial a series of interactive, online, case-based modules, in the BPharm(Rural) and MPharm programs for development during Semester 1 and trial during Semester 2, 2006.

Assist with development and expansion of peer mentoring opportunities for promoting student self-support.

Review the aims and activities of the Talented Students Program (TSP) to ensure its long term viability.

Establish a program to identify and assist "At Risk" students before they need to "Show Cause"

*1.4 Support increased enrolment in undergraduate programs by meritorious students from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially Indigenous students, and those from rural Australia.*

Initiate discussions with the Koori Centre on ways to attract Indigenous students to pharmacy, and how best to support those students already in the Faculty.

**Objective 2: Strengthen graduate-entry programs**

*2.1 Consolidate newly-introduced graduate-entry coursework programs in the Faculty of Pharmacy.*

Undertake full Review of the Master of Pharmacy course in semester 2, 2006 as is required for all new degree courses.

*2.2 Improve the experience and satisfaction of students undertaking graduate-entry programs by means of a range of initiatives.*

Establish and trial a series of interactive, online, case-based modules, in the BPharm(Rural) and MPharm programs for development during Semester 1 and trial during Semester 2, 2006.

*2.3 Develop and implement processes for identifying, selecting and attracting a diverse range of outstanding graduate-entry students locally, nationally and internationally.*

Continue to monitor student applications, progression and feedback in the MPharm course.

**Objective 3: Improve staff performance, efficiency and satisfaction with regard to teaching**

*3.1 Systematically identify and address staff development needs, particularly in teaching and in management, cultural competency, and use of information and communication technology.*

Consolidate and help implement the collaborative learning and teaching projects currently under way.

Identify key areas/topics/themes in pharmacy education for future grant applications.

Identify ways to streamline support for our current use of WebCT for course delivery.

Convene a series of Faculty forums – to discuss aspects of the curriculum review process and to promote scholarship of learning and teaching.

Identify key areas/topics/themes in pharmacy education for future grant applications, eg professionalism/interprofessional learning; interactive case-based online learning.

3.3 *Enhance the staff mentoring scheme, having particular regard for the needs of junior staff and new staff.*

Continue to encourage staff to participate in the mentoring scheme both as mentors and mentorees. Seek feedback from participants to ensure program is successful.

3.3 *Enhance the existing scheme of awards for excellence in teaching, and ensure that those who receive awards are duly recognised throughout the Faculty.*

Develop new Faculty teaching awards to bring the timing and requirements into alignment with University and Carrick awards.