

“WHY RECOGNISING AND REWARDING TEACHING IS CRITICAL TO ACHIEVING AN EXCELLENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE”



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University Hall Auditorium, Lee Kong Chian Wing

Synopsis

All universities want their students to have a successful and positive learning experience. Fewer universities consider that rewarding and recognising teaching is critical to achieving this. But how and what to recognise and reward is just as critical. What is quality teaching and how can universities build a culture to achieve and sustain it?

There is a growing focus on the quality of higher education teaching and how we reward teachers and teaching. There are questions from governments about the quality of teaching in universities and a desire to identify indicators of quality and excellence. Universities recognise they need to reward quality teaching better but are not always sure of how to identify it. In Australia, as elsewhere, universities have been working towards clarifying their criteria and expectations as to what constitutes quality teaching, as well as clarifying their research and service expectations and criteria. They are reviewing their policies and practices to enable their teachers to access development and support to build quality practices and to provide a pathway for teachers to be rewarded through promotion, with a number of universities now promoting their excellent teachers through to professor level.

This presentation will provide an overview of the work that is taking place in Australia on defining criteria and standards for excellence in teaching, research and service, and will consider their impact on students' learning and engagement. However, these on their own are not sufficient to achieve lasting change if they are not embedded into institutional systems and processes, and monitored using powerful indicators of impact. Strategic academic leadership at different levels within the university is required if a whole-of-institution culture change is to be achieved.

Related Resources

Chalmers, D. Recognising and rewarding teaching: Australian teaching criteria and standards and expert peer review. *Recognising & Rewarding Teaching* (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://recognisinguniteaching.edu.au/>. Australian University Teaching & Criteria & Standards (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://recognisinguniteaching.edu.au/>.

Chalmers, D. (2011). Progress and challenges to the recognition and reward of the scholarship of teaching in higher education. Special issue: Institutional approaches to SoTL, *Higher Education Research and Development Journal*. 30(1), 25–38.

About the Speaker

Denise, Emeritus Professor in the field of higher education teaching and learning at the University of Western Australia, was awarded an Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) National Senior Teaching Fellowship in 2015 and an Australian Awards for University Teaching: Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in 2014.

She has over 25 years of demonstrated leadership in higher education. She led two university Centres of Teaching and Learning as Director and was the Foundation Director of the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (later renamed the Australian Learning and Teaching Council and subsequently the Office for Learning and Teaching in 2012) with responsibility for Awards, Fellowships and International Links. She served as President (2008-2013) and then as Vice President (2014-2015) of the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD). She has initiated and led several institutional, national and international initiatives and projects including developing and embedding teaching quality criteria and indicators and promoting the use of teaching and learning performance indicators to guide decision making and resource allocation.

Since August 2015, Denise has worked as a higher education consultant with institutions, organisations and individuals on aspects of teaching and learning that she has the expertise and experience. In recent years, she has been an evaluator, reviewer, presenter and advisor to organisations, universities and projects in Australia and internationally.