Connectedness: Engaging students through collaboration within and across the Higher Education sector

Lynn Burnett, The University of Queensland, Tilly Hinton, University of the Sunshine Coast, Dr Alf Lizzio, Griffith University, Dr Janet Taylor, University of Southern Queensland, Alan Calder, James Cook University

This session will focus on how student engagement can be enhanced through adopting a learning approach. Discussion will be seeded with brief explanations of how a group of practitioners from higher education institutions within Queensland, work together, communicate and enhance student engagement through collaborative approaches. The specific themes which we will discuss are student collaboration (learning from students); staff collaboration (learning with staff); and professional collaboration across Institutions (learning with colleagues). The session, delivered by the Queensland FYE Network, presents a fledgling model of practice which values productive collaboration. Participants in the roundtable will leave with a sense of viable models for collaborative practice, and having explored the efficacy of collaborative practice in enhancing student engagement.

Discussion Approach
Discussion will be organised around the three themes:
- student collaboration (learning from students);
- staff collaboration (learning with staff); and
- professional collaboration across Institutions (learning with colleagues)

For each theme, a member of the Queensland FYE Network will seed discussion by outlining a practical example of that theme in action. Participants will then discuss their experience, and the benefits and challenges encountered. The discussion will be guided by a member of the Queensland FYE Network.

A PowerPoint presentation, depicting the themes as jigsaw puzzle pieces, will visually scaffold the discussion (see example slide at right).

There will also be an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the FYE Network members, to facilitate collaboration and learning in the sector.

The Queensland FYE Network consists of
Lynn Burnett, The University of Queensland
Alan Calder, James Cook University
Dr Felicity Coffey, The University of Queensland
Peter Hanley, James Cook University
Tilly Hinton, University of the Sunshine Coast

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We have been in communication with Assoc Prof Sally Kift with regards to running a longer session over two 45 mins slots. Please see attached email to confirm this communication.

**Discussion Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and overview of session focus, purpose and structure.</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiarising exercise: Chat briefly to another participant, listing name, institution and an interesting issue/experience relevant to the roundtable topic of connectedness and collaboration.</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus discussion A: Student collaboration (learning from students)</td>
<td>5 minute vignette, then 10 minutes facilitated discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus discussion B: Staff collaboration (learning with staff)</td>
<td>5 minute vignette, then 10 minutes facilitated discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus discussion C: Professional collaboration across Institutions (learning with colleagues)</td>
<td>5 minute vignette, then 10 minutes facilitated discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refocus and summary</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of Queensland FYE Network; general discussion and questions</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Email correspondence with Assoc Prof Sally Kift

Sent: Tue 14/03/2006 6:31 PM
Lynn

This is fine to send - good luck with it. You sound further advanced than me.

Bye

Sally

Sally Kift
Associate Professor
QUT Faculty of Law
CRICOS No 00213J

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Telephone: +61-7-3864 1098
Facsimile: +61-7-3864 4253
e-mail: s.kift@qut.edu.au
Location: Room C322, Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane. QLD.

At 05:33 PM 14/03/2006, you wrote:

Hi Sally

Sorry to bother you the day before the deadline … would you mind if I attached this email (or something of your choice) to the FYE QLD Network application to run a session over two 45min slots as a means of confirming our communication?

Many thanks
Lynn

From: Sally Kift [mailto:s.kift@qut.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2006 1:23 PM
To: julia.humphreys; Lynn.Burnett
Cc: k.dopson@qut.edu.au
Subject: Re: FYE Conference Update and Call for Papers

Dear All

This is what I understand to be the case from the Conference Committee - they were approached by another group who had suggested that the conference might like to include a slot where several presenters could talk about a single theme - such as your various FYE programs (or whatever bent you wanted to take). It was discussed that this sort of a slot would need to be longer than a single paper slot and it was suggested that it could be accommodated by allowing two 45 minute slots to run together. Doing so would - of course - depend on the quality of the submissions.

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The message I got was that we would try to accommodate you in some way - but you still do need to be careful about the quality of your submission.

Hope that is clear and I think, by the way, that this would be a very valuable contribution in which many attendees would be most interested.

Looking forward to it

Bye

Sally

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At 10:17 AM 8/03/2006, julia humphreys wrote:

Hi Lyn,
Re my last email - Sally is very happy that I forwarded it on to everyone and has told me that she has had verbal approval that the 90 minute session will be fine. It has been suggested to me by a few people that it is a great idea for us to have a forum-type situation about our group and so I think if you want to be explicit and say that you would like a 90minute slot and that you understand from Sally Kift that it will be ok that it will be fine. I am copying this to Sally so she is in the loop and she may want to comment.
Regards, Julia.