LEADING TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING AND TEACHING

ACode

australasian council
on open, distance
and e-learning

annual report **2016**

CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2016 has been an exciting year for ACODE. As the new President, I have enjoyed meeting many colleagues at the different events through the year. The organisation has established a tempo of activities that continue to be well-received and to stimulate ongoing work aimed at improving the impact and value of technology in our universities.

I particularly want to acknowledge the new relationship ACODE have established with Pearson Education. This has allowed us to offer in 2016 the inaugural ACODE and Pearson Awards for Technology Enhanced Learning. This was a phenomenal success with 40 submissions describing a range of excellent initiatives undertaken by ACODE member universities. The judging panel, Professor Geoff Scott, Peter Nikoletatos, Helen Carter and myself were greatly impressed by the work represented by these submissions. The standard was so high we eventually were forced to award two projects as winners – "Connecting4Success" from the University of Southern Queensland, led by Associate Professor Helen Farley and colleagues and the "Kickstart student transition system" from Macquarie University, led by Dr Yvonne Breyer and colleagues. Three additional projects received honourable mentions for the quality of their work. I very much want to thank my fellow judges for their service and many hours spent carefully reviewing the applications, and Pearson CEO David Barnett and colleague Ella Kapernaros for sponsoring and supporting the process. The awards were such a success that we're looking forward to the next one already.

The ACODE benchmarks continued their highly successful renaissance under the leadership of ACODE Vice-President Associate Professor Michael Sankey with the second biannual benchmarking workshop held at the University of Canberra. This was a great event attended by a mix of ACODE member universities, international universities, and also by TEQSA Chief Executive Anthony McClaran who opened the event for us. The frosty mornings were well-offset by the energy and engagement over the three days. An exciting development is the decision of the Open University UK to partner with ACODE and offer a UK version of this activity in 2017.

ACODE workshops continue to provide a forum for in-depth engagement with the ongoing impact of technology on higher education. March's ACODE 70 workshop at Charles Sturt University in Orange focused on the important area of analytics and was notable for the attendance and engagement of Vice-Chancellor Andrew Vann. ACODE 72 saw us at the University of Sydney exploring the evolution of virtual learning environments and the complexity of large systems change in universities. This will be a topic we will continue to explore as our tools evolve. ACODE greatly appreciates these universities for their support of the workshops and particularly thanks the convenors, Associate Professor Philip Uys and Colin Lowe, for their hard work in organising these events for the members.

The Executive of ACODE are an excellent team of colleagues who are actively working to ensure ACODE continues to deliver important and effective activities for the member universities. We are constantly reviewing and assessing how we can add further value to member universities and I am always interested in hearing from colleagues across the sector of ways we can continue to improve. I particularly want to thank Associate Professor Michael Sankey for his ongoing work on the benchmarks and the Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (planned for 2017). These are substantial activities of the organisation which he has led collegially and delivered excellent outcomes for the membership. Executive member Sheila McCarthy worked with energy on the ACODE Pearson Awards helping establish an important partnership and an opportunity to deliver a tangible reward to the sector and a celebration of excellence by members in their use of technology. Her contribution and hard work is greatly appreciated. The work of the rest of the executive members, Nigel Robertson (ACODE Treasurer), Philip Uys and Deb Jones is also very important to the success of ACODE and I want to thank them for their service. Our Executive Officer Karen Halley continues to provide ACODE with sterling service, helping the executive remain focused, working with members to help them gain the best value from their membership and providing continuity to the organisation across its various activities.

This has been an exciting year with some great developments building on the work of previous years and adding useful new initiatives. I look forward to further growth in 2017 and wish all member universities great success in their endeavours within the open, distance and e-learning sphere.

Dr Stephen Marshall
ACODE President

ACODE WORKSHOP SERIES 2016

Each year ACODE runs a series of Workshops and related activities on key topics relevant to higher education. These workshops provide a forum to explore implementation issues associated with new flexible and online learning initiatives and offer opportunities to review institutional resources, practices and policies. One of the substantial benefits is that staff from different universities share newly developed resources and ideas, which can be used in all institutions to save considerable development time. The workshops are rotated around Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific so that each university has the opportunity to send extra staff for professional development in attendance at the Workshops.

- Analytics and Adaptive Learning- Charles Sturt University
- Benchmarking Summit 2 – University of Canberra
- VLE for the Student Experience, Where to Start – University of Sydney

ACODE 70

The aim of the workshop was to explore some of the key elements of an institutional strategy to ensure that learning analytics contribute directly to adaptation in learning and teaching design, delivery or the learning environment. The workshop took place on Thursday 17th March 2016 on the Orange Campus of the host institution Charles Sturt University. The workshop was designed and hosted by Assoc Prof Philip Uys from Charles Sturt University and was attended by 42 participants from 27 institutions. The proposed key elements of such a Strategy to be explored in this Workshop were:

- Formats and approaches to providing learning analytics
- Professional development
- Engaging stakeholders
- Learning and teaching design, delivery and the learning environment.

From the presentations and group work it was clear that the use of learning analytics in higher education has matured significantly over the last five years. Analytics can go beyond tracking abstract representations of learning. Increasingly they have the potential to analyse student work such as writing, as an indicator of actual learning. Such tools can assist staff analysing student work and providing effective feedback.

A wide-ranging dimensions were covered in the presentations by Assoc Prof Michael Sankey, then USQ; Dr Linda Corrin, University of Melbourne; Sheila McCarthy, Griffith Uni; Dr Garry Allan, RMIT; Assoc Prof Cathy Gunn, Auckland Uni; Assoc Prof Deb West, Charles Darwin Uni; Dr Danny Liu, Macquarie Uni & Sydney Uni; Dr Lucy Webster, CSU; Prof Barney Dalgarno, CSU; Simon Welsh, CSU; and Dr Jenny McDonald, University of Otago. There was also a general address about the history of ACODE from Prof Sandra Wills, PVC (Student Learning).

After a traditional Welcome to Country the opening address was from Vice Chancellor Andy Vann, who stayed and participated for the day.

ACODE 70

Left to Right: Michael Sankey (ACODE Vice President) Anthony McClaran (TEQSA) Stephen Marshall (ACODE President) Nick Klomp Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) University of Canberra
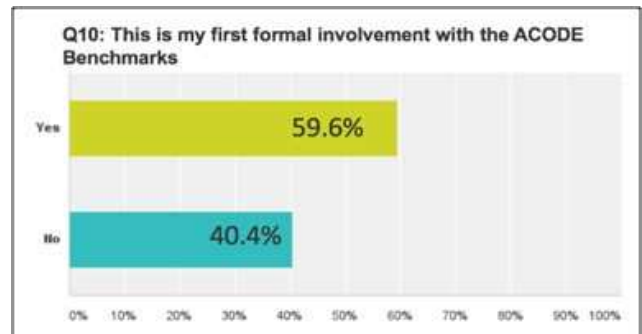
ACODE 71

Benchmarking Summit 2

Hosted at the University of Canberra 29-30 June 2016

Despite the cold in Canberra in June the level of enthusiasm for the Summit was incredible.
The summit was again hosted by Michael Sankey.

We had 50 participants representing 27 institutions. Of the 27 institutions involved, there were:

- 20 Australian universities
- 4 New Zealand universities, and
- 3 other universities, from the UK, South Africa and the South Pacific

In 2014, 69 benchmarks where undertaken by the 24 institutions involved, an average of 2.8 each. In 2016 this rose to 100 benchmarks used, an average of 3.7 per institution. Importantly this was the first time many of the participants had formally used the ACODE Benchmarks.

The Summit started on the evening of 1 July with a series of activities designed to provide participants with a context for all the activities they would be engage with over the next two days. After the official welcome by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, the open address was provided by Anthony McClaran the Chief Executive Officer of the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

As in 2014, to participate in the event, each institution had to first undertake a self-assessment of their capacity in TEL against the Performance Indicators in the Benchmarks and submit their self-assessments into the new online tool developed for this event. Each institution was then asked to share that self-

Anthony McClaran addressing the Benchmarking Summit

assessment with the other institutions involved at the Summit. Each institution had to undertake a minimum of the two of the eight benchmarks, with some institutions doing three, four or five, and with three institutions choosing to do all eight.

During the event each institution then took it in turns to briefly describe how they came to give themselves their particular rating. This, in many cases, generated quite lively discussion. But more importantly, each institution was then able to review their self-assessment.

An activity like the one we recently experienced in Canberra has again provided the opportunity for many of us to build stronger relationships and ties with our colleagues. In the broader context it has also provided our institutions with some of the wherewithal to meet the unique challenges of building a strong digital future. And we demonstrated that, yet again, the issues we face in our institutions can be remediated simply by taking the time to self-assess against a set of quality indicators, like those found in the ACODE Benchmarks. Importantly, when we then look to further extend our self-reflection, by sharing our current practice with those in similar circumstances, this provides the impetus for a truly dynamic learning activity.

There is a formal evaluation of the Summit available on the ACODE website. In simple terms, the data presented in that report clearly indicates the value of this form of activity, to the institutions involved, and ultimately the sector. It is clear that the ACODE Benchmarks for Technology Enhanced Learning have provided a unique catalyst to help make this happen. To that end ACODE is committed to the ongoing use of this tool to help institutions establish the regular use of these Benchmarks as one way of ensuring the quality of their technology enhanced learning practice.

Dr Carol Russell facilitating a session at the summit.

ACODE Educational Technology Snapshot

The ACODE benchmarking tool now includes the capability for all ACODE members (not only those participating in the benchmarking) to share and learn from others about their educational technology landscape. The ACODE "Educational Technology Snapshot" lists a set of common educational technologies and require ACODE member institutions to provide a description, indicate whether it is "hosted" or not, whether alternatives are considered, and whether piloting is planned for this year. This facility replicates a Snapshot earlier used in ACODE. ACODE member institutions will be encouraged to complete this Snapshot in early 2017 so that a valuable resource for all can be created and used to compare and plan institutions' educational technology landscapes. The ACODE "Educational Technology Snapshot" is accessed via the "Benchmarking tool" at http://www.acode.edu.au/mod/page/view.php?id=497, and by selecting "Technology Snapshot" after selecting one's institution.

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Universities have an ecosystem of e-learning services and facilities including video management, collaboration tools, micro-credential systems, personal learning environments, academic integrity systems, student advice systems. The modern VLE is now so much more than an LMS.

By the end of this workshop you will have designed a framework that will enable you to ask the questions suitable to your institution to evaluate a part or all of your institution's VLE.

You will be able to determine if your VLE is still meeting the needs of your stakeholders or is it time to re-evaluate?

Benchmark 2 Summit Group participants

ACODE 72 workshop

Workshop hosted by Colin Lowe University of Sydney, workshop designed by Colin Lowe and Shane Nuessler 38 registrations from 25 Institutions.

As a result of the workshop the teams each produced very different initiatives for their made up universities. Challenges inherent in the process varied from team to team. These included some dominant team members in different teams having very fixed ideas around what the problems were and what the solutions to those involved. It was difficult for these people to step back and try to look again at the VLE problem through the lens offered by the workshop. In some cases the resulting team outputs were solutions, rather than questions they could ask to help better understand the problem. For other teams however, they managed to design questions that would be very useful for understanding the environments people want to work in from an affective view point, and therefore help them design a more unified and coherent experience across the many systems involved in students and staff workflows.

ACODE WORKSHOP SERIES AND EVENTS FOR 2017:

- 2-3 March 2017 Monash College Melbourne
  - Digital Badges and Credentials

- 13-14 July 2017 James Cook University, Cairns
  - Next Generation Learning Technologies

- THETA: 7-10 May 2017 Auckland New Zealand
  http://theta.edu.au/

- 20-24 August 2017 Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (LTLI): Mantra Mooloolaba
  https://www.acodeltli.com/

- 2-3 November 2017 University of Newcastle - Topic to be advised Joint ACODE/CADAD

Seeking TEL innovators   Apply now ▶

The ACODE & Pearson Award for Innovation in Technology Enhanced Learning

REPORT ON THE ACODE & PEARSON AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING 2016

2016 saw ACODE partner with Pearson Education to present the inaugural Award for Innovation in Technology Enhanced Learning. This valuable partnership was formalised in 2015 (with many thanks to ex ACODE President Helen Carter) and the Awards and partnership implemented by the new ACODE Executive across 2016.

A first of its kind across the Australasian landscape, the 20k Award for Innovation in Technology Enhanced Learning puts focus on the wider implementation of TEL, including criteria around evidence, application, re-adaptability and sustainability.

The 2016 Award has been a great success. A total of 40 Nominations from across the Australasian Higher Education Sector were received and reviewed by the Award Committee.

And the winners are… a joint success.

Connecting4Success
Associate Professor Helen Farley & Colleagues, University of Southern Queensland

Kickstart Student Transition System
Dr Yvonne Breyer & Colleagues, Macquarie University

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following nominees:

REVIEW: Software to Improve Assessment
Dr Darrall Gene Thompson, University of Technology Sydney

HSP* LTI Integration: A Recipe for Success
Mick Sturmey, Dr Suneeti Rekhari, Dr Sonia Wilkie, Victoria University

Quitch Mobile Learning Platform
Dr Grainne Oates, Swinburne University of Technology

ACODE would like to thank all nominees, who took the time to tell their story and represent their Institutions.

We are proud to support the innovative achievements of our Member Institutions, and look forward to showcasing your good work well into the future...watch this ACODE space!

Read more & watch the videos at the 2016 Award for Innovation in Technology Enhanced Learning.

Report prepared by Sheila McCarthy (ACODE).

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ACODE 2016 EXECUTIVE

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Executive Member 2016-18
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INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Institution	Institutional Nominee	Alternate Nominee
Australian Catholic University	Dr Veronica Hendriks	Ms Rebecca Goodway
Auckland University of Technology	Mr Mark Northover	
Australian National University	Mr Richard Robinson	Ms Aliya Steed
Bond University	Prof Shelley Kinash	
Central Queensland University	Prof Josua Pienaar	Dr Julie Fleming
Charles Darwin University	Assoc Prof Deborah West	Prof Martin Carroll
Charles Sturt University	Assoc Prof Philip Uys	Prof Barney Dalgarno
Curtin University	Assoc Prof Vanessa Chang	Mr David Gibson
Deakin University	Assoc Prof Marcus O'Donnell	Prof Liz Johnson
Edith Cowan University	Ms Leitha Delves	
Federation University	Mr Brian Martin	Assoc Prof Nina Fotinatos Mr John Supple
Flinders University	Prof Clare Pollock	Mr James King
Griffith University	Prof Alf Lizzio	Ms Sheila McCarthy
James Cook University	Prof Angela Hill	Mr Danny Munnerley
La Trobe University	Mr Matt Riddel	Mr Logan Balavijendran Ms Monika Cimolin
Lincoln University	Ms Sue Clemes	
Macquarie University	Prof Sherman Young	Dr Tanya Rose
Massey University	Mr Duncan O'Hara	
Monash College	Dr Kulari Lokuge	
Murdoch University	Mr Michael Fardon	Dr Rick Cummings
Open Universities Australia	Mr David Cummings	
Queensland University of Technology	Ms Frances Eden	Ms Liz Greener
Royal Melbourne Institute of Tech.	Assoc Prof Zosh Pawlaczek	Mr Garry Allan
Southern Cross University	Assoc Prof Gail Wilson	Dr Steve Turner

Institution	Institutional Nominee	Alternate Nominee
Swinburne University	Prof Mike Keppell	Dr Elizabeth Branigan
University of Adelaide	Ms Liz Heathcote	Mr Travis Cox
University of Auckland	Assoc Prof Cathy Gunn	Dr Steve Leichtweis
University of Canberra	Mr Shane Nuessler	Prof Jonathan Powles
University of Canterbury	Mr Nick Ford	Ms Donna Thompson
University of Melbourne	Ms Deborah Jones	Assoc Prof Gregor Kennedy
University of New England	Dr Greg Winslett	Ms Sue Whale
University of New South Wales	Mr Patrick Stoddart	Prof Stephen Marshall
University of Newcastle	Prof Carol Miles	Mr Luke Boulton
University of Notre Dame	Dr Kathie Ardzejewska	Ms Sally Robertson
University of Otago	Dr Sarah Stein	Mr Emerson Pratt
University of Queensland	Dr Simon Collyer	
University of Southern Queensland	Prof Helen Partridge	
University of Sydney	Mr Colin Lowe	Ms LizDevonshire
University of Tasmania	Mr Gerry Kregor	
University of Technology, Sydney	Prof Shirley Alexander	Assoc Prof Jo McKenzie
University of the South Pacific	Mr Dhiraj Bhartu	Mr Javed Yusuf
University of the Sunshine Coast	Mr Ian Wright	
University of Waikato	Mr Nigel Robertson	Mr Stephen Harlow
University of Western Australia	Prof Gilly Salmon	Mr Andrew Hu
University of Wollongong	Prof Maarten de Laat	Assoc Prof Alisa Percy
Victoria University	Mr Michael Sturmey	
Victoria University of Wellington	Dr Stephen Marshall	
Western Sydney University	Dr Carol Russell	

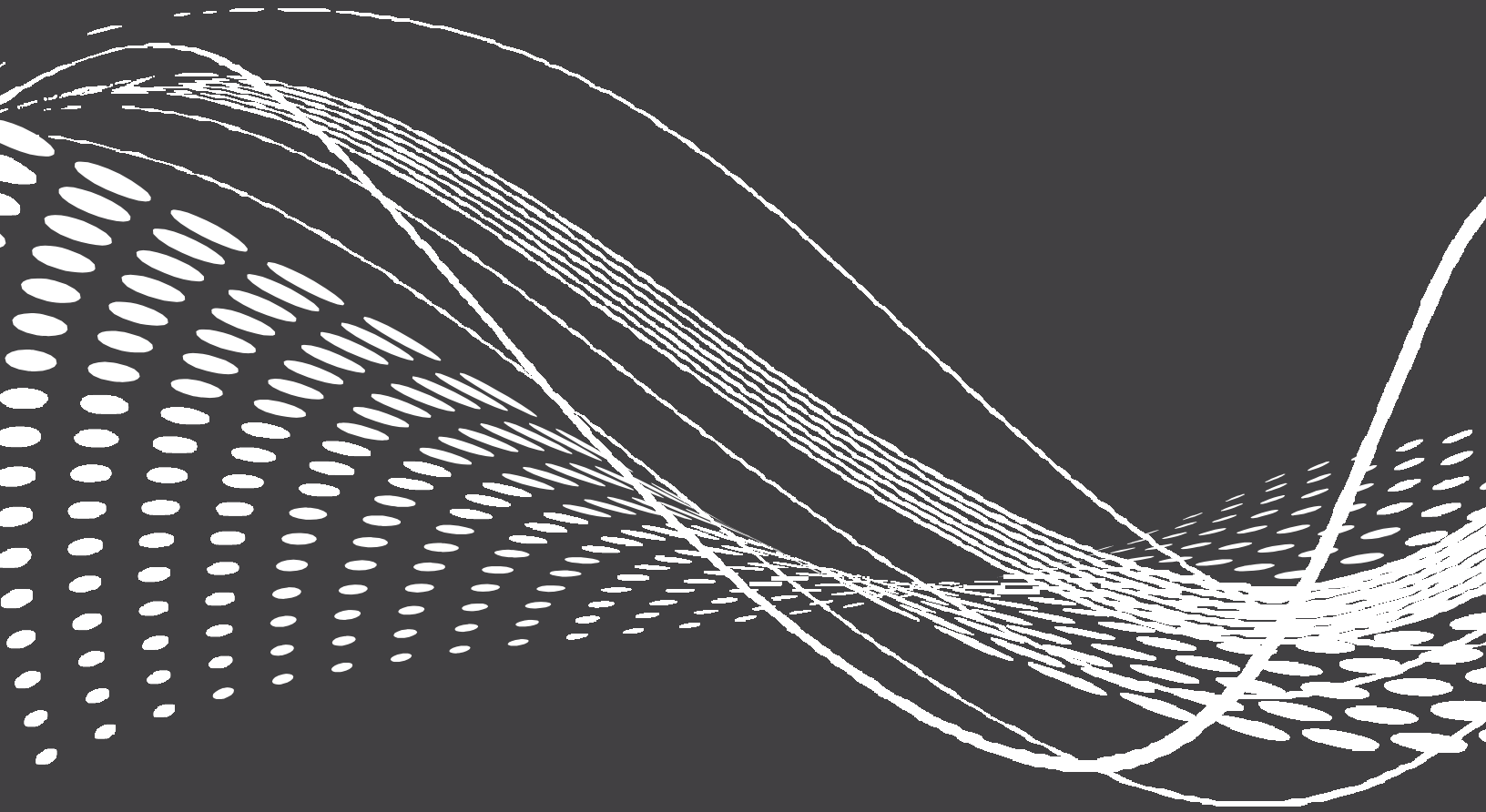# AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL ON OPEN EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 $	2015 $
Revenue		
Learning Technologies Leadership Institute	25,300.00	111,738.64
ACODE Membership fees	179,029.25	172,261.19
Interest		
Bendigo Bank	3,026.49	3453.60
	207,355.74	287,453.43
Expenditure		
Advertising	6,940.78	5634.14
Auditors – Audit & Review of financial reports	3,500.00	2,750.00
Bad Debts Written off	4,550.00	
Bank Charges	110.39	313.27
Computer Expenses	539.08	2,467.34
Conference fees	29,192.00	54,169.70
Depreciation	1,939.00	1480.00
Directors Fees LTLI		24,349.91
Honorariums &Gifts in Lieu of payment	1,649.46	13,305.94
Insurance	2,036.36	1,981.82
Printing Postage and Stationery	1,757.71	1,793.84
Service Fees Executive officer	76,832.23	96,000.00
Travelling Expenses	11,630.39	17,267.87
Website Maintenance		
	140,677.89	221,513.83
Profit before income tax	**66,677.85**	**65,939.60**

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL ON OPEN EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	$	$
Equity		
Retained Profits	386,712.95	320,035.10
Total Equity	**386,712.95**	**320,035.10**
Represented By:		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank-Cheque Account	243,950.53	224,315.81
Bendigo Term Deposit 149314007	55,754.73	54,332.17
Bendigo Term Deposit 152589495	31,763.69	30,945.12
Trade Debtors	48,640.00	9,020.00
	385,670.95	**256,092.50**
Non-Current Assets		
Plant and Equipment	5,721.00	5,721.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	4,679.00	2740.00
	1,042.00	2981.00
Total Assets	**386,712.95**	**321,594.10**
Current Liabilities		
Provision for GST	-	1,559.00
Total Liabilities	**–**	
Net Assets	**386,712.95**	**320,035.10**