



annual report 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Gordon Suddaby
ACODE President



Alan Farley
Former ACODE
Vice President



Helen Carter
ACODE Treasurer/
Vice President



Sarah Lambert
ACODE Treasurer



Stephen Marshall
Executive member

From the President – Gordon Suddaby

2009 was another busy and eventful year for ACODE. Our many contributors are acknowledged for their efforts throughout the year along with the achievements of the Executive in maintaining the ongoing aspirations of ACODE.

ACODE EXECUTIVE members for 2009 were:

Gordon Suddaby	President (Massey University)
Alan Farley	Vice President (till March 2009) (Deakin University)
Helen Carter	Treasurer to April & elected Vice-President from April (University of Canberra)
Sarah Lambert	Elected Treasurer in May (University of Wollongong)
Stephen Marshall	Elected Member (Victoria University of Wellington)
Amgad Louka	Elected Member (RMIT)
Beth Cavallari	Co-opted to September (The University of Queensland)

Thanks

During 2009 we farewelled Alan Farley after an impressive contribution to ACODE as Executive Member and Vice-President. His work for ACODE is acknowledged and appreciated by all.

I congratulate both Stephen Marshall and Ric Canale. Stephen has been re-elected as Executive Member for 2010 and 2011 and Ric Canale has been elected for an initial 2010/2011 term. Helen Carter took on the role of Vice-President in April, succeeding Alan Farley and leaving the role of Treasurer. We consequently welcomed Sarah Lambert back to the Executive on her nomination and appointment as Treasurer in May. The Executive 2 year terms that came up for election included the role of President and I was pleased to be re-elected for 2010/2011 term.



I would like to acknowledge Amgad Louka's work and thank him for his contribution to the ACODE Executive during 2008 and 2009. Amgad did not seek re-election. He has been a great asset and will be missed.

Amgad Louka
Executive member

Beth Cavallari was a key member of the team responsible for bringing ACODE 50 together and her contribution as a coopted member on the Executive during 2009 has been invaluable.

Beth Cavallari
Executive member



Australasian Secretariat hosted by the University of Canberra

The ACODE Secretariat continues to be hosted by University of Canberra. We are very grateful to Helen Carter who oversees the hosting role and to the University of Canberra who have undertaken to host the secretariat until the end of 2010.

Anita Clarke
ACODE Executive Officer



In 2009 the Executive met 12 times, with face to face meetings on 19 March (in conjunction with ACODE 49 in Melbourne), 28 July (in conjunction with ACODE 50 in Brisbane) and 18 November (in conjunction with CCA Joint Executive in Melbourne). Teleconferences were also held on 20 January, 17 February, 16 April, 20 May, 6 July, 11 September, 8 October, 5 November and 14 December.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

Advocacy and alliance relationships

ACODE continues to build working relationships with external organisations. We have maintained positive and constructive relationships with Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC), Ako Aotearoa and education.au. Due to recent elections in both NZ and Australia, we have not visited official Government Agencies but these are scheduled for 2010.

Strategic Plan 2009-2012

The ACODE Executive has been working on a revision of our Strategic Plan for 2009-2012. The revision and development process progressed and culminated with its formal release at the ACODE 51 AGM where it was available to members. The plan focuses ACODE's mission more explicitly as an organisation of Australasian universities, promoting, facilitating and supporting the attainment of excellence in teaching and learning in Australasian higher education through the enhancement of policies and practices for learning and teaching enabled by technology. We now look forward to working together to develop an Action Plan that will align our work with the strategic plan.

Constitutional Review

During 2009, the Executive has also been considering the ACODE Constitution. There are a number of areas which we believe need to be fine-tuned including ensuring that our Executive elections are in sync as intended. We will conduct a full review of the Constitution over 2010 fully involving the membership and bringing a revised Constitution back to the 2010 AGM in Palmerston North in November.

ACODE Institute: Summary

The second ACODE Institute was held from 30 August to 3 September 2009 in Coolangatta. Dr Jim Millar was Institute Director and developed a stimulating program for this event. He led an experienced Institute Faculty including Associate Professor Helen Carter; former ACODE President, Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (PVC, Learning Teaching and Quality at The Open University, UK), Emeritus Professor Tom Prebble (Foundation Director of Ako Aotearoa, who with Andrew Higgins, co-produced resources to assist senior NZ leaders in strategic management of e-learning); Dr Geraldine Lefoe (University of Wollongong, Project Leader ALTC project on "Distributive Leadership"); and Mr Garry Putland (education.au) - along with guest speaker Mr Neil Thelander (Director of Information Technology Services at Queensland University of Technology and President of CAUDIT).

The ACODE Institute 2009 focused on leadership in relation to learning and teaching and the use of technologies to support this. It was a very positive experience for delegates where participants developed an understanding of effective leadership in the Higher Education context. They applied this knowledge to case studies focused on approaches to leading the introduction and use of learning technologies in educational settings as well as undertaking a major project.

We are delighted that **Ako Aotearoa, ALTC, NetSpot, education.au** and **Campus Review** were able to support this event and we thank them for this. See page 4 for full report.

Gordon J. Suddeth

ACode
australasian council
on open, distance
and e-learning

Our members in action



ACODE INSTITUTE REPORT

The Learning Technologies Leadership Institute ran from Sunday 30 August to Thursday 3 September 2009 at the Twin Towers Resort in Tweed Heads. The program was designed to broaden perspectives and develop leadership skills and abilities enabling participants to assume effective leadership roles in relation to learning and teaching, with an emphasis on the use of learning technologies. In order to realise these goals, participants were required to be involved in many ways:

- Bring their experience(s) to bear on the institute activities;
- Contribute and interact widely;
- Collaborate with their allocated team and see what other teams propose;
- Enjoy themselves and gain new perspectives; and
- Establish a network and identify opportunities to lead.

The 2009 Institute Faculty comprised Dr Jim Millar (Director), Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Open University, UK), Dr Geraldine Lefoe (University of Wollongong, Au), Professor Tom Prebble (Massey University, NZ) and Associate Professor Helen Carter (University of Canberra, Au).

Participants were highly involved in the 'Making the Case' model and supporting sessions were well received. Overwhelmingly the sessions regarded as most helpful were the case studies presented by Tom Prebble and the presentation about the role of ICT units given by Neil Thelander, Director ITS from QUT.

Comments relating to the most useful session included the following:

Tom's case studies - these were very useful as it allowed for discussion and insights into how other institutions do things. Influencing decision makers - great insight ...

Neil's speech/rant was well done. I've never heard an IT director or any director speak so freely. He made me realise that differences have to be sorted out before anyone can move on.

Overall participants endorsed the Institute as a valuable, in-depth professional learning experience with comments such as:

Thank you - this has been a great opportunity to have time to network and also reflect on my own issues and challenges in the workplace.

Thanks for a wonderful experience. Being able to interact with colleagues from other institutions and gain some insights (and advice) from them has been invaluable.



OTHER ACODE ACTIVITIES

NBN Symposium and launch of the Australian Horizon Report @ Griffith University in September

The President and Vice-President attended on behalf of ACODE. Amgad Louka's contribution to the report on ACODE's behalf was acknowledged. This was the inaugural Australian Horizon Report and ACODE will be looking to enhance the level of input from member institutions. To that end the Executive will work to ensure a greater representation from our membership on the Horizon Reference Group. <http://www.nmc.org/publications>

Inaugural Tertiary Education Associations Forum in Melbourne

The L.H.Martin Institute initiated the first Australian Tertiary Education Associations Forum in Melbourne in October. Ric Canale reported that the groups intend to work more closely together through alliances and that there was general interest in the groups coming together again around a common theme. It was suggested at the meeting that Universities Australia may be a suitable group to convene the next TEA Forum.

Benchmarking and the eMM Project

ACODE received from Stephen Marshall of Victoria University Wellington the final report *Evaluation Report on Workability of the Framework* on the ACODE funded eMaturity Model (eMM) project. The objectives of the project were to pilot the eMM with a number of ACODE member institutions in order to assess the suitability of the model for wider application in Australia, and to analyse the relationship between the eMM and the ACODE Benchmarks.

Each institution has been provided with a confidential detailed report analysing their own capability and making suggestions for how it might be strengthened. These have been very positively received.

The eMM Project reports are available at <http://hub.acode.edu.au/course/view.php?id=2>.

Stephen Marshall spoke to this at the ACODE 50 Business & Networking Meeting in Brisbane.

Following completion of this initial project, a proposal has been prepared, in association with Geoff Mitchell, of QUT, for submission to ALTC to fund a larger scale eMM project within Australia.

Letters of support

During the 2009 year ACODE submitted letters of reference/support for:

- The University of Southern Queensland for the hosting of the ACODE secretariat over a number of years;
- The Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) in relation to an education.au hosted visit by the Argentinean ICT in Education expert, Professor Alejandro Piscitelli; and
- the AAHESIS study project initiated by education.au.

Initiatives with Joint CCA—CAUL, CAUDIT, ACODE Executive

ACODE chaired the CAUL, CAUDIT, ACODE joint meeting of Executives held in Brisbane on 29 July. The second CCA meeting for 2009 was held on 18 November in Melbourne. The ACODE Executive also took this opportunity to hold a face to face meeting. A main item of business at the November 18 meeting was to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Collaborative links with CAUL and CAUDIT are guided by the MoU which was signed in 2002. A revised agreement will be presented to the membership for ratification in 2010. CAUL and CAUDIT members were invited to attend ACODE workshops in March in Melbourne and in November in Perth and are keen to continue this arrangement.

Communications and the ACODE Hub

The ACODE hub has evolved since it was launched in 2008 in conjunction with ACODE's website and communications strategy. Our communications strategy is aimed at enhancing collaboration within and beyond ACODE. Background and operational information on ACODE organisation as well as information and guidelines on administrative matters are accessible via various spaces within the hub. 'Continuous improvement' is expected as our members increasingly incorporate hub communication and collaboration into their daily activities. An important part of the website are the Institutional Profiles which can now be downloaded and updated by members.

ACODE WORKSHOP REPORTS

MEETING REPORTS - ACODE WORKSHOPS

The ACODE workshop program continues to be extremely successful and ACODE thanks those speakers who have contributed to the program over the past year by sharing their expertise and experience. We appreciate the contributions these speakers make to the ACODE goal of developing and sharing principles and practices of quality learning and teaching in distributed and e-learning environments. ACODE workshops are based on the underlying principle that collaboration is fundamental to the ongoing development of pedagogy and progress in technology-enabled learning and teaching and contributes greatly to providing insights into e-learning in the higher education sector.

ACODE 49: *Student expectation/experience using Web 2.0*

Held on 18-19 March at Victoria University's Flinders Street conference venue; jointly hosted by Victoria University (VU) and the University of Melbourne (UM); attended by 64 delegates, including CAUL and CAUDIT members, from 42 member institutions.

The workshop was opened by Gregory Baxter, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning) VU. Grainne Conole, Professor of e-Learning, Open University – UK, joined the workshop via Elluminate Live and lead a discussion on the ways in which today's students are interacting with technology. Jenny Millea of education.au; Philip Kent, Librarian, UM; Phil County, Director ITS, VU; David Cummings, Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching, VU; Kerri-Lee Harris Centre for the Study of Higher Education, UM and an engaging student panel all made significant contributions. Thanks go to Alan Farley, member of the Blackboard Advisory Board, for organising the Blackboard hosted companion event to this ACODE workshop.

ACODE 50: *Lost in Space - Learning and Teaching Spaces*

Held on 13-14 July; hosted by the University of Queensland (UQ); attended by 44 delegates from 35 member institutions.

Participants explored the dynamics of learning and teaching space design and how the development of the physical environment can synergise with effective technology use and other resources. Speakers included Paul Greenfield, Vice-Chancellor and President of UQ; Keith Webster, UQ Librarian and Director of Learning Services; Geoff Mitchell, Director of the Integrated Help Services Department at Queensland University of Technology; Caroline Steel, Christina Gitsaki, Dominic McGrath and Helen Farley of UQ; Michael Keniger, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UQ; Phillip Long and Mark Schulz, Centre for Educational Innovation & Technology UQ; Mike Keppell, Director of The Flexible Learning Institute, Charles Sturt University and Terry Clark, Academic Director Higher Education at Southbank Institute of Technology who facilitated a panel discussion that included Con Graves from Griffith University who spoke on 'Meeting Multiple Needs'.

The Business and Networking Meeting Agenda included multiple presentations, hot topics and project information of interest to ACODE members. It was followed by a presentation from SBLi, interactive educational software developed at UQ which enables educators to develop engaging multimedia scenarios based on Problem Based Learning.

Student expectation/ experience using Web 2.0



Lost in Space—Learning and Teaching Spaces



ACODE WORKSHOP REPORTS continued

ACODE 51: *Online Assessment*

Held on 16-17 November; hosted by Edith Cowan University (ECU); attended by 39 delegates from 31 member institutions.

Speakers explored issues associated with assessment of online learning and included Kerry O Cox, Vice-Chancellor and President of ECU; Geoffrey Crisp, Director of the Centre for Learning and Professional Development at the University of Adelaide; and Rob Phillips, from Educational Development at Murdoch University. Trish Popov, Team Leader of University Preparation and Student Development at ECU and Derek White, Team Leader of Waikato Centre for eLearning at the University of Waikato, led an interactive software session. Ron Oliver, PVC, Teaching & Learning, Education and Arts at ECU, presented a session on the *Strategic Imperative of e-Assessment* and facilitated a Student Panel Session with Jenna Rogers, Tim Oliver and Sebastian Luxa. The Agenda for the next day's AGM Business & Networking Meeting included presentation of the eMaturity Model Project reports and a report on the IMS DEEWR Global Learning consortium (SIEL Project). Hot Topics included a Roadmap to Echo360, where Michael Fardon joined the meeting from the USA via a Skype hookup.

Online Assessment



2010 WORKSHOP PROGRAM

ACODE 52 with the theme '*Learner Profiles*' is being hosted by the University of Tasmania on 15-16 March. Gary Williams is the program convenor and this workshop will explore the varied learning requirements of the different cohorts of students who enter universities.

ACODE 53 with the theme '*Blended Learning*' will be held at Queensland University of Technology on 8-9 July. The workshop will be convened by Elizabeth Greener and will provide insights around the latest scholarship on good blended learning teaching practice.

ACODE 54 with the theme '*Open Educational Resources*' will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North in New Zealand on 11-12 November. The workshop, convened by Gordon Suddaby, will draw on recent work done around this theme.



RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite)

Following an initial meeting with the ACODE President the Executive met with ascilite President, Mike Keppell in Brisbane on 13 July to discuss potential future collaboration. This process will aim to agree on the signing of a MoU between our two organisations. Areas of collaboration potentially include combined regional events, state-wide organisation and joint project work.

International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE)

ACODE President Gordon Suddaby met with Professor Frits Pannekoek, President of ICDE and the President of the University of Athabasca, in Maastricht in mid-2009. Synergies and mutual support between ACODE, as regional peak body, and ICDE, as international peak body, are currently being considered. The next ICDE conference is in Bali in 2011 and ACODE is interested in exploring how we might support that event.

Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)

AUQA approached ACODE asking for the names of potential auditors with knowledge and expertise in the area of online and distance education. As a result a number of ACODE-nominated representatives are now on the AUQA Auditors Register, including Stephen Marshall, Gordon Suddaby and Alan Farley.

Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD)

There has been communication with the CADAD regarding a closer working relationship. With the approval of the ACODE membership, Executive will explore possible co-operation between our two groups as it is agreed that we have interests and members in common.

ACODE ANNUAL REPORT

New Members

We are delighted to report that our 2009 membership increased to 46 Institutional Members. Current institutional membership of ACODE can be found on the website under Membership at <http://acode.edu.au/membership.php>. Participating member representatives' details can also be accessed via the hub – after login, check the Participants' listing.

Affiliate Memberships

During 2009 we welcomed new affiliate members *Alphacrucis College* (formerly Sydney College of Divinity) with contacts Shane Clifton and Jacqueline Grey and *Tabor Adelaide* with contacts Don Owers and Trudy Stoddard.

Farewell to Representatives

Over the 2009 year we had occasion to farewell a number of nominees and alternates. ACODE thanks the following people for their support and for their contribution as institutional nominees:

Alan Farley, Victoria University; Bill Rosenberg, University of Canterbury; Rupert Collister and Ian Macdonald, University of New England; Allan Herrmann, ADFA@UNSW; Markus Buchhorn and Deborah Veness, Australian National University; David Jones, Central Queensland University; Trevor Billany, Charles Darwin University; Jenny Bird and Sharon Parry, Southern Cross University; Beth Cavallari and Alan Holzl, University of Queensland; Rob Ellis, University of Sydney; Jennifer Evans and Eileen Tuimaleali'ifano, University of the South Pacific; Sandra Jeffries, University of the Sunshine Coast; and Stephen Sheely, University of Western Australia.

Educause

Amgad Louka was ACODE's representative on the Educause Australasia Conference 2009 organising committee. Educause 2009 '*Innovation and Emerging Technologies*' was held in Perth in May. Vice-President Helen Carter attended and spoke at the opening as ACODE's official representative. Planning has now commenced for 2011 Educause and Ric Canale, together with Janne Malfroy and Marie Gosper are ACODE representatives on the planning group.

ACODE Mission

ACODE will promote, facilitate and support the attainment of excellence in teaching and learning in Australasian higher education through the enhancement of policies and practices for learning and teaching enabled by technology.

ACODE Guiding principles

ACODE is underpinned by the following principles:

1. The promotion of excellence in learning and teaching in higher education.
2. The maintenance of a clear focus on enhancing the student learning experience.
3. The fostering of leadership and research-informed policy and practice in learning and teaching enabled by technology.
4. The encouragement, support and dissemination of innovative approaches to learning and teaching enabled by technology.
5. Supporting and encouraging collaboration and partnership and the development of communities of practice in learning and teaching enabled by technology.
6. Being responsive to the diverse needs of member institutions and the tertiary education sector.

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