

**australasian council
on open, distance
and e-learning**

annual report **2011**

ACODE SECRETARIAT

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It gives me great pleasure and some sadness to present my final annual report. I have now completed my final term as ACODE President and my time as an ACODE nominee, as I have retired from my full-time position at Massey University and thus will no longer be Massey's representative.

In finishing my term, however, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Associate Professor Helen Carter from Macquarie University as President for 2012/2013. Helen has a long involvement as an ACODE representative and her recent role as Vice President will mean she comes to the presidency with a great deal of ACODE experience behind her.

ACODE has been well served by the Executive over the past year and I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all Executive members. I am delighted to congratulate Kevin Ashford-Rowe (Griffith University) on being elected onto the Executive and Stephen Marshall (Victoria University, Wellington) on his re-election. Sarah Lambert (University of Wollongong) continues on as the Treasurer. This gives ACODE an Executive which has both strength and a sense of newness and one which will keep up the momentum that has been generated over the past few years. I would like to acknowledge the great contribution of Ric Canale (La Trobe University) during his period on Executive. Ric did not seek re-election to the executive this year.

The past year has been one of considerable upheaval for some of our members and colleagues. Institutional restructurings and reorganisations seem to be endemic to our world and we have had more than our share of natural disasters, such as the floods and earthquakes which have impacted on our members' communities and lives. Compounding these factors have been the ongoing financial constraints and the structural and policy changes instituted by the Australian and New Zealand Governments. In Australia there was the disbanding of the ALTC¹ and the establishment of TEQSA² and in NZ, the challenges of capped rolls and the current changes to Ako Aotearoa's future. These continue to make our environment 'dynamic', to say the least.

I am pleased to say that ACODE is in a good financial position as the financial statement overleaf shows. Despite a year of hectic activity, we have managed well within our budget and have not yet had to raise our membership fees. The fees have been stable for the past five years, which in the current environment is an achievement and one I am pleased with. The Executive has worked hard to keep the costs of our operation down and this has been achieved in a number of ways. One significant way is by 'practicing what we preach' by using internet technology for our regular Executive meetings. For this we must thank Ric Canale and

La Trobe University for their support in organising and hosting our 'Collaborate' meetings. These sessions have replaced the expensive conference calls via traditional telephone lines. Also, by meeting virtually on a regular basis, we have significantly reduced the need for face-to-face executive meetings. As well most of our face-to-face Executive meetings have been held in conjunction with our regular workshops, further reducing costs.

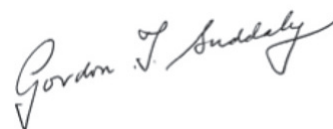
We have also been successful in retaining our membership numbers. Over the past year, all New Zealand Universities, the University of the South Pacific and moving into 2012, all Australian Universities, are ACODE members. The organisation is only as strong as its membership and to retain the support of the membership it needs to provide the support and the leadership in the areas of endeavour that the members need and expect. It must also be responsive to the needs and expectations of the membership. We have worked hard to meet these goals over the past years and we believe that we have been successful in this.

More than two years ago we set out to review the ACODE constitution. This proved to be a major undertaking but we did achieve a successful outcome when the revised constitution was adopted. Subsequently we have retained 'The Constitution' as a standing item on our agenda. The fact that there have been no further amendments suggests that the work that was put into the revision was worth the time and effort. ACODE now has a robust and a living constitution.

The focus of ACODE's activities lies in its Operational Objectives. These include a strong emphasis on developing leadership, supporting professional development, and enhancing student learning experience relative to the Open, Distance and eLearning domains.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all those people who have contributed to ACODE's success in 2011. There are many staff, both Academic and Support staff who have contributed to the various programmes, projects and events that ACODE has facilitated and their work is greatly appreciated. I would also like to say thank you to all who support ACODE and attend the events. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with this dynamic organisation and greatly value the collegiality and friendship of ACODER's. I look forward to seeing ACODE go from strength to strength in the future.

Regards



Associate Professor Gordon Suddaby

1 Australian Learning and Teaching Council

2 Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Association

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ACODE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, 2011

ACODE's major leadership initiative, the ACODE Learning Technologies Leadership Institute was held in Coolangatta between 21–25 August. It was attended by 27 participants from a wide range of staffing roles and from 24 Institutions from NZ, Australia and Fiji. The Institute was successful on all fronts. The qualitative comments at the end of event plenary were extremely positive as were the results of the overall evaluation. The programme was well structured, engaging and 'full-on' and the participants took the "Making the Case" exercise very seriously.

The difficult task we were set has given me the confidence to tackle issues within my own university. I have a greater appreciation of the scale of problems faced by university administrators in introducing technological change. The holistic approach of the task we undertook required us to be accountable in our thinking. I valued the realism of the task.

Participant feedback from survey.

Professor Tom Prebble did a great job as Director and the Faculty he invited including: Professor Gilly Salmon, Professor Belinda Tynan, Professor Shirley Alexander, Professor Geoff Scott, Dr Halima Goss, Peter Nikolettatos, Associate Professor Gordon Suddaby and Associate Professor Helen Carter were excellent and gave stimulating and provocative presentations, which are available on the ACODE website. The administrative support provided by Susan Brosnan and Karen Halley was superb and was greatly appreciated by all involved. In addition ACODE made a small profit which is a very satisfactory outcome.

Overall the Institute was successful in achieving its objectives. ACODE has developed a highly effective model for intensive leadership development in the use of learning technologies and Professor Prebble recommended that, with very few modifications, ACODE should repeat the exercise at least biennially.



INAUGURAL ACODE INNOVATION ADDRESS

We were all shocked by the untimely passing of Professor Alan Smith, a long-time ACODE representative and a former ACODE President as well as a holder of all the other Executive offices. The organisation resolved to recognise Alan's contribution and after considerable deliberation and discussion we introduced a new initiative into the ACODE Calendar, the 'ACODE Innovation Address', and to honour Alan's memory the first innovation address was named as The Alan Smith Memorial Innovation Address. Professor Jim Taylor, a colleague of Alan's from University of Southern Queensland was invited to give the address at ACODE 56 held at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Alan's partner as well as the Vice Chancellor of USQ and other colleagues from USQ also accepted invitations to attend what was a stimulating and challenging address, which is also available on our website.

WORKSHOPS

Each year ACODE runs a series of Workshops on topics decided by the group. For the first time this year, we arranged a joint workshop with CADAD, to explore the synergies that exist between our two organisations (which is almost inevitable as we share many institutional nominees in common!). This was a most successful initiative, well attended and clearly demonstrated a need for further shared enterprises. Following is a summary of our workshops, including theme, venue and brief description.

ACODE 55: Enhancing the quality of student learning: Systems in place to monitor, evaluate and review Macquarie University, March 2011

Maree Gosper and Ian Solomonides from Macquarie University organised and led the workshop involving 58 attendees. 36 of these attendees were ACODE members representing 30 institutions.

Professor Judyth Sachs, DVC (Provost) at Macquarie, welcomed CADAD and ACODE members and discussed the new regime of accountability affecting universities. Gordon Suddaby and Denise Chalmers (CADAD) welcomed attendees and emphasised their support for the combined ACODE/CADAD meeting.

Presentations were given by; Dr Bruce Chaloux, Ex-President of Sloan-C, The Sloan Consortium, Professor Stephen Towers (QUT) and Dr Michael Sankey (USQ). Other sessions were led by: A/Prof Maree Gosper (Macquarie University), Janne Malfroy (UWS), Lynnae Rankin, Rhonda Leece (UNE) and Derek White (University of Waikato).

ACODE 56: Building Capacity in the Academic Community Griffith University, July 2011

Kevin Ashford-Rowe from Griffith University facilitated and led the Workshop which was held at Griffith's Gold coast campus and attended by 32 participants from 27 institutions.

Professor Linda O'Brien (Pro Vice Chancellor, Griffith University) welcomed attendees to Griffith. Presentations were given by: Kevin Ashford-Rowe (Griffith University), Ron Kordyban (Bond University), Cath Moore (Swinburne), Cathy Gunn (Auckland), Garry Allen (UTAS) and Janne Malfroy (UWS). They discussed how their individual institutions are tackling the development of staff capabilities in the use of ICTs to enhance student learning. These presentations were complemented by discussions throughout the day on enhancing staff capabilities.

The evening networking dinner included the Inaugural ACODE Innovation Address in memory of Professor Alan Smith and was given by Professor Jim Taylor AM from the University of Southern Queensland. Professor Taylor's lecture can be listened to at:

<http://hub.acode.edu.au/course/view.php?id=5>

ACODE 57: Sustaining eLearning innovations: From Conception to Maturity Charles Sturt University, November 2011

Philip Uys (CSU) led and facilitated the workshop which was held at CSU's Bathurst campus with 28 attendees from 22 Institutions.

Representatives were welcomed by Shirley Oakley (DVC-Administration) and Aunty Gloria Dindima Rogers gave a welcome to country.

Presentations were given by: Cathy Gunn (Auckland University), Alan Bain (Charles Sturt University), Rob Phillips (Murdoch University), Alan Arnold (University of Canberra), David Green (Flinders), Shirley Rueshle (USQ) and Sarah Lambert (Wollongong).

ACODE WEBINARS

Over the past year, we have introduced pre-workshop webinars where the workshop organiser is able to introduce the theme and to discuss and/or present issues of importance relating to the workshop. While these have been successful from the perspective of meeting their theme objectives, the participation rates have not been high. However, we believe this is a way in which we can add value to the workshops so we will continue to offer the webinars and are looking for ideas about ways in which we can enhance the level of participation.

NATIONAL NETWORKING INITIATIVE (NNI) PROJECT

The disbanding of ALTC was a shock to the whole HE sector and while DEEWR stepped into the breach in establishing the Office of Learning and Teaching after some lobbying by the HE Community, the loss of ALTC's capability will be felt for some time. Following Siobhan Lenihan's presentation at ACODE 55, it became obvious that one of the gaps arising out of the closure of ALTC was the capacity to facilitate networking and collaboration between organisations engaged in supporting the HE Sector, such as ACODE and our kindred organisations and indeed supporting the Universities themselves. ACODE took the lead together with ascilite (courtesy of our MoU with them) in developing a collaborative proposal for a 'National Networking Initiative'.

Together with ascilite we were able to secure the support of the other groups in this space, HERDSA, CADAD, ODLAA, as well as engaging with NetSpot and AARNET in the proposal which has now been funded. We are currently in the process of finalising our plan for the initial roll-out. This is a really exciting initiative and winning it we believe reflects the credibility that ACODE and our partner ascilite have established across the sector. The project will be establishing a website where ACODers are able to keep abreast of the initiative (when they are not actually involved in NNI activities!) as well as ensuring a regular flow of updates through our regular digest.

ACODE INITIATIVES

This year has been one of considerable project activity. Earlier in the year ACODE was asked by AUQA to participate in a proposal with AUQA, INQAHE, and the DEHub Consortium to explore Regulatory Frameworks for Distance Education in our part of the world for the ICDE. This project was funded and is almost complete. At the recent ICDE conference in Bali, a paper on the findings was presented.

ACODE has also funded two projects from its own resources. The first is through commissioning Alistair Inglis to write a paper on the ACODE Benchmarks suitable for publication in an appropriate journal. This is a somewhat belated initiative as although the benchmarks are widely quoted in the literature, the only published paper about them is a paper presented at ascilite in Auckland a few years ago. It is intended that this be the precursor to a revision and updating of the benchmarks.

The second project arose out of ACODE 54 in Palmerston North in November last year and involves a consortium led by Cathy Gunn exploring issues related to the sustainability of elearning innovations.

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ACODE has continued to work hard to enhance the level of our engagement with other organisations working in the higher education field and which have some objectives in common with us. To this end we have confirmed MoU's with organisations such as asclilite, DEANZ, ODLAA, CAUL and CAUDIT. We have collaborated to share a workshop with CADAD and hopefully will be able to repeat this in the future. We also have a constructive relationship with Netspot (who host our website) and AARNet, both of whom are involved with us in the NNI. Through the NNI we will also have the opportunity to work more closely with the State-based Promoting Excellence Networks (PEN's), something which we see as being of real value to our organisations and our client groups. The positive relationship with Netspot is further reflected in the invitation to ACODE to provide a member of the panel selecting the successful proposals submitted for Netspots Innovation Funding.

In the New Zealand context, as noted earlier, all NZ Universities are members of ACODE. The significance of ACODE in the NZ context is reflected in the invitation for ACODE to be represented on NZ's Tertiary eLearning reference Group (TeLRG).

ACODE is again a prime mover in ensuring that there is an antipodean version of the Horizon Report for 2011. This year the report will be NZ focussed. The Australian version has been delayed until 2012. The NZ launch took place in both Auckland and Wellington at the end of November/early December and involved workshops as well as the launch.

CCA EDUCAUSE

Earlier this year the final CCA Educause Conference under the Educause name took place. This Australasian conference is co-sponsored by ACODE, CAUL and CAUDIT, although it is CAUDIT that manages the overall logistics of the event. However, Educause in the US no longer want us to use the Educause name, so the three organisations have come up with the new name of THETA (The Higher Education Technology Agenda). In developing the new agreement between the organisations for the running of this conference, ACODE has established a stronger role in the development of the programme and the general organisation of the event. We are looking to ensure that it caters more appropriately for academics as well as the IT professionals although we are also mindful of the potential of overlap with the conferences of collegial organisations such as asclilite, DEANZ and HERDSA.

We would like to thank Maree Gosper, Ric Canale and Janne Malfroy who served on the 2011 CCA-Educause committee and also thank Helen Carter and Simon Housego (UTS) for their involvement in the CCA-Educause renaming workshop.

ACODE SECRETARIAT

A real strength of ACODE is the administrative support that the Executive and the organisation receive from the Executive Officer. Essential to the provision of this support is an Institution that is willing to host the Executive Officer. I would like to acknowledge and thank the University of Canberra and Professor Gerlese Akerlind for the support they provide ACODE by hosting the Executive Officer. This is greatly appreciated. Not only do we receive tremendous support from the host University, but we also receive wonderful service from our Executive Officer and I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge Karen Halley for the great work she does. I would also like to mention and acknowledge the excellent support we received from Sue Holland who was Karen's predecessor who resigned earlier in the year.



AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL ON OPEN EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	2011	2010
Revenue	\$	\$
Learning Technologies Leadership Institute	89,950.00	-
ACODE Membership Fees	109,745.45	171,977.00
Interest		
Bendigo Bank - Cheque Account	3,152.26	4,352.14
Bendigo Bank - Institution Account	1,924.03	-
Reimbursements Received	1,936.55	2,012.60
	206,708.29	178,341.74
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	1,360.00	1,320.00
Advertising	2,286.13	-
Auditor's Remuneration		
Audit & review of financial reports	4,705.00	2,101.80
Bank Charges	217.10	116.23
Conference Fees	44,315.14	-
Consultants LTLI	27,907.48	-
Depreciation	166.00	391.00
Insurance	2,177.27	2,155.45
Legal Costs	-	2,594.55
Presentations & Gifts	4,098.93	100.00
Printing, Postage & Stationery	2,196.39	975.00
Research Costs	15,773.62	-
Service Fees - Executive Officer	82,000.00	78,500.00
Teleconferencing	2,512.77	1,405.60
Travelling Expenses	26,854.32	27,679.95
Web Site Maintenance	277.70	327.13
Workshop Expenses	674.53	3,716.62
	217,522.38	121,383.33
Loss before Income Tax	(10,814.09)	56,958.41

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached.

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CURRENT ACODE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

	Institutional Nominee	Alternate Nominee
Auckland University of Technology	Mr Mark Northover	Dr Stanley Frielick
Australian Catholic University	Dr Veronica Hendriks	Mr Andrew Hill
Australian National University	Ms Beth Beckman	Ms Danielle Anderson
Bond University	Dr Shelley Kinash	Mr Ron Kordyban
Central Queensland University	Prof Rob Reed	Ms Nona Muldoon
Charles Darwin University	Prof Deborah West	Ass Prof Martin Carroll
Charles Sturt University	Ass Prof Philip Uys	Ass Prof Marian Tulloch
Curtin University	Dr Tony Herrington	
Deakin University	Prof Colin Mason	Dale Holt
Edith Cowan University	Prof Susan Stoney	Ms Trish Popov
Flinders University	Ass Prof David Green	Prof Andrew Parkin
Griffith University	Mr Kevin Ashford-Rowe	Ms Di Selzer
James Cook University	Ms Heather Gordon	
La Trobe University	Dr Ric Canale	Dr Kay Souter
Lincoln University	Ms Sue Clemes	
Macquarie University	Ass Prof Helen Carter	Mr Andrew Burrell
Massey University	Prof Mark Brown	Duncan O'Hara
Monash University	Ms Alison Whitley	
Murdoch University	Ass Prof Rob Phillips	Dr Rick Cummings
Open Universities Australia	Dr Darien Rossiter	Mr Amgad Louka
Queensland University of Technology	Ms Wendy Harper	Ms Elizabeth Greener
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Dr Garry Allan	Mr Rob van den Akker
Southern Cross University	Prof Janet Taylor	Dr Diane Newton
Swinburne University	Ms Catherine Moore	

University of Adelaide	Prof Denise Kirkpatrick	Pending
University of Auckland	Prof Lorraine Stefani	Dr Cathy Gunn
University of Ballarat	Ass Prof Neil Trivett	Ass Prof Lorraine Bennett
University of Canberra	Prof Gerlese Akerlind	Dr Alan Arnold
University of Canterbury	Dr Herbert Thomas	Mr Gregor Ronald
University of Melbourne	Ms Deborah Jones	
University of New England	Melanie Fleming	
University of New South Wales	Mr Patrick Stoddart	Dr Stephen Marshall
University of Newcastle	Prof Carol Miles	
University of Otago	Dr Jenny McDonald	Mr Emerson Pratt
University of Queensland	Dr Trish Andrews	Ms Deidre Seeto
University of South Australia	Prof Margaret Hicks	Dr Ben Kehrwald
University of Southern Queensland	Dr Michael Sankey	Mr Eric Robertson
University of Sydney	Mr Colin Lowe	Ms Liz Devonshire
University of Tasmania	Dr Gary Williams	Mr Gerry Kregor
University of Technology, Sydney	Prof Shirley Alexander	Ass Prof Jo McKenzie
University of the South Pacific	Dr Theresa Koroivualono	
University of the Sunshine Coast	Ms Maxine Mitchell	Dr Margaret Barnes
University of Waikato	Mr Nigel Robertson	
University of Western Australia	Dr Shannon Johnston	Ms Yvonne Button
University of Western Sydney	Ass Prof Janne Malfroy	Dr Carol Russell
University of Wollongong	Ms Sarah Lambert	Dr Christine Brown
Victoria University	Dr Lisa Germany	Mr John Supple
University of Wellington	Dr Stephen Marshall	

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ABOUT ACODE

Operational Objectives

ACODE will:

- 1 Develop and foster individual leadership and management capability within member institutions.
- 2 Provide leadership through policy and professional development initiatives reflective of teaching and learning changes enabled by technology.
- 3 Identify and share successful processes and frameworks for evaluating new and recurrent educational technologies.
- 4 Facilitate sharing of methods for bringing the student experience into the centre of our planning, deployment and evaluation of educational technologies.
- 5 Provide and support effective professional development activities.
- 6 Undertake the ongoing review and improvement of the effectiveness of its communications mechanisms.
- 7 Further develop and enhance relationships with key bodies and agencies.
- 8 Conduct and support a program of research and development relevant to open, distance and e-learning.
- 9 Gather and disseminate evidence regarding the Australasian and international environment that impacts upon our members.
- 10 Affirm and demonstrate its value to its membership.
- 11 The ACODE Operational Plan was again updated in 2011 to include recommendations for action from ACODE workshops.

See more details at:

<http://acode.edu.au/council.php>

Membership

48 universities were Institutional members of ACODE in 2011. This is all New Zealand universities, the University of the South West Pacific and all but three Australian universities. Information relating to membership and representation can be found at: <http://acode.edu.au/membership.php>

Affiliate Membership may be available to other higher education organisations in Australasia which are interested in open, distance and e-learning but which are not publicly funded universities. See details at: <http://acode.edu.au/membership.php>

Associate Membership may be granted to such other associations and service agencies in Australasia interested in open, distance and e-learning as may be determined from time to time by resolution of the Executive.

