

BEPP Newsletter

APRIL 2011

Head of School Report

I am writing this month's 'editorial' while in Brisbane at the WEAL Conference hosted by QUT, having enjoyed a relaxing Easter break. I hope you all had a good break too.

I know many of you have now completed the initial Moodle training and for those of you who are teaching in second trimester, thanks for the extraordinary work you have been doing in getting these units ready. The staff of the GSB, combined with the ed. development team in BEPP, have done an amazing job in leading the University in sorting out the 'teething' problems with Moodle and preparing for the launch of Moodle. I have found the process of developing my unit challenging, and appreciate the hands-on support Sue Whale has provided as I have worked through ways to interact more with students through my site. I have heard similar comments from other staff as they have prepared their units. The team work has been important to this project of implementation. I am sure this will continue through the preparation of the units for second semester.

Another of the activities requiring the attention of a number of staff over the past few weeks has been the preparation of the School's Self-Review. Thanks to those who attended the brief meeting last week. Your suggestions as to what to include were helpful. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2 May 2011 for our SWOT analysis.

I am heading to China on the 14 May 2011, to visit some of our partners, including WSOC, where Judy McDonald and I will be working with the staff to consider how to roll out their model to a wider set of colleges. It is early stages of this project and I will keep you informed about its progress.

With respect to the 'trimesterisation' project, I believe the dates for the third teaching period have been agreed, so we should now be in a position to formally follow the Managing Change process. I will follow up with you about this in the near future.

Alison Sheridan



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Research Outcomes

Journal Articles

Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B. "Love Thy Neighbour: A Social Capital Approach to Local Government Partnerships", Australian Journal of Public Administration, June, 2011 (in print).

Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B. "Financial Sustainability and Financial Viability in Australian Local Government", Public Finance and Management, 2011 (in print).

Dollery, B. E., Grant, B. and Crase, L. "Not What They Seem: An Analysis of Strategic Service Delivery Partnerships in Local Government", Australasian Canadian Studies, 2011 (in print).

Conference Papers

Omar Al Farooque (2011). 'Corporate Governance and Accounting Practice: Culture vs. Law Dominance of Literature', British Accounting and Finance Association Conference, 12-14 April, Birmingham, UK.

Dollery, B. E. "The Local Capacity, Local Community and Local Governance Dimensions of Local Government Sustainability", paper presented to Commonwealth Local Government Research Colloquium, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, 14 March, 2011.

Kramol, P., Villano, R., Kristiansen, P. and Fleming, E. 2011, Explaining the adoption by smallholders of sustainable practices in vegetable production in Northern Thailand, Contributed paper to the Ninth Pacific Rim Conference of the Western Economic Association, Brisbane, 26-29 April.

Villano, R.A., Fleming, E. and Mariano, M.J. 2011, Decomposing productivity change in Philippine rice farming: a non-parametric approach, Contributed paper to the Ninth Pacific Rim Conference of the Western Economic Association, Brisbane, 26-29 April.

Mahinda Siriwardana and Luz Stenberg. 'Effects of Global Trade Liberalisation on Forestry Products and Forest Sustainability Using the GTAP Model' paper presented to the Global Accounting, Finance and Economics Conference, 14-15 February, 2011, Monash University, Melbourne.

New Honorary Appointments

Professor Garry Griffith

Adjunct Professor – Economics Discipline
14 March 2011 – 14 March 2014

Ms Kay Hemsall

Adjunct Lecturer – Management Discipline
1 May 2011 – 1 May 2014

Dr Kirrily Pollock

Research Fellow – Primary Industries Innovation Centre
1 March 2011 – 1 March 2014

Dr Fiona Wood

Adjunct Senior Lecturer – Management Discipline
25 February 2011 – 25 February 2014

Harvard Business School: Art and Craft of Discussion Leadership Workshop

This one-day workshop was essentially an overview of how to structure and deliver case study based subjects such as those in the Harvard MBA. It was attended by approximately 60 academics from Australian universities.

Key issues in this workshop included class room management practice; class preparation; and pedagogical tools for teaching case studies.

Participants in this workshop explored issues pertaining to the above issues including assessing class participation in the face to face method that Harvard favours.

There was little in the way of on-line teaching methods discussed although participants noted this as a critical issue from the start. It was not resolved as Harvard mostly do face to face. However, I did gain some insights in to engagement that may translate to on-line teaching. For example, preferring warm calls (24 hour advance notice that you will be questioning people in class) rather than cold calls (spontaneous) which usually put students on the defensive.

Professor Bartlett offered a number of insights from his 30 plus years at Harvard. These included his absolute commitment as a teacher to the Four P's.

The Four P's:

1. Preparation – prepare class process as much as class content.
2. Presence – be authentic and in the room with the students at all times.
3. Promptness – never accept lateness as an excuse – start on time every time.
4. Participation – learning is two way and students must be treated with integrity and openness in the classroom.

What we've been doing

- **Mahinda Siriwardana** and Luz Stenberg have received a best paper award for their paper entitled "Effects of Global Trade Liberalisation on Forestry Products and Forest Sustainability Using the GTAP Model" present to the Global Accounting, Finance and Economics Conference, 14-15 February, 2011, Monash University, Melbourne.

Up & Coming Dates

May

- 2 School Review Meeting
- 5 BEPP R & R T Committee Meeting
- 6 UNE Open Day
- 9 Trimester 2 starts
- 16 School Meeting

June

- 6 BEPP Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 10 Lectures end for Semester 1
- 13 Queen's Birthday
- 15 Examinations start for Semester 1
- 20 School Meeting
- 29 Examinations end for Semester 1
Semester 1 ends
- 30 BEPP R & R T Committee Meeting

July

- 4 BEPP Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 11 Intensive schools start
- 18 School Meeting
- 21 Semester 2 starts



Dr Peter
McClenaghan
Lecturer

Bartlett's Learner – Teacher Contract

Dignity

Learn and Share

Encourage disagreement but safe (note Bob Sutton's "argue as if you are right but listen as if you are wrong" from Good Boss Bad Boss book).

First week of lectures get students to define how we should learn together – what are issues etc? The workshop then focused on the cases. The complexity of the case may determine how it is taught and assessed. The following model was explored in group based activities at the workshop. Process Flow of Case Analysis:

Information Seeking (what)	Analysis / Diagnosis (why)	Conclusion / Recommendations (what now)	Implementation (how)	Reflection (so what)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How complex • Pedagogy Issues • Time • Timing of subject in semester • Relationship • Culture 				
Tools				
Buzz Groups	Buzz	Break Out Groups	Role-Play and or Vote	Buzz

More detail on information gathering in case study teaching

Information Seeking (what)	Analysis / Diagnosis (why)	Conclusion / Recommendations (what now)	Implementation (how)	Reflection (so what)
<p>Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How complex • How difficult <p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedagogy Issues • Timing of subject in semester <p>Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time available • Energy <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sophistication • expertise <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching rules • style 				
Tools				

In conclusion, this workshop offered very lively engagement for participants. The key value from my attendance was a reinforcement that UNE does engage in very sound pedagogical practice. However, it also reinforced the difficulties UNE faces in moving to an on-line environment where engagement will be much more problematic. Specifically, I now have a model for class preparation that will greatly enhance my teaching.

I would be happy to give a brief presentation to the School in the future if required.

Wine Economics

“Vine Change: A Twisted Tale of Economics” was the title of a seminar presented by former UNE econometrician Tim Coelli on 18 March. Tim accepted an invitation from the New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society to visit BEPP to talk about his experiences in moving out of academia and into the day to day operation of a family owned and operated vineyard (Twisted Gum) in Queensland’s Granite Belt. Tim’s presentation highlighted the adverse market conditions currently impacting on the domestic wine industry, future opportunities and challenges, both at the individual and industry level, and identified a number of potential areas of research.

The seminar builds on the success of last year’s wine symposium and is a further step in linking BEPP’s burgeoning interest in wine economics with regional viticultural, winemaking and wine tourism industries. Tim is pictured below with (L to R) Oscar Cacho, Rene Villano, Brian Hardaker and Vic Wright.



moodle update

The Ed Development team has been working closely with the GSB Production team preparing the Trimester 2 units for the launch of Moodle.

These are the first units at UNE to move to Moodle, so we have been providing a final testing ground for the Moodle Project Team as they refine the design elements and their own backroom processes.

As soon as the Trimester begins we will be moving our attention to the Semester 2 units across the School and will be providing some supplementary small group Moodle training sessions and one to one support to help the Academic staff make the transition to the new teaching environment.