Transition Project status report – March 2010

Deliverable 1: CSU Pathway/preparation program

The pilot partnership program between CSU and Wodonga Institute of TAFE commenced on March 1st with 24 students. Students are studying on the TAFE campus this session but have had several visits to CSU. Joint staff meetings with WIT and CSU staff have been held with the next meeting planned for the end of session. Planning and budget preparation for the CSU subjects to be delivered in second session is underway.

A meeting with TAFE Western was held on March 29th. At this meeting TAFE Western agreed to proceed with the CSU program in 2011 in one of the centres (Bathurst likely) at their cost. A similar meeting will be planned with Riverina TAFE in the near future.

Deliverable 2: Consolidated guide to pathway options

After consultation with the Faculties and Divisions, a draft guide has been produced for the consideration of the Steering Committee (attached).

Meetings have also occurred with Division of Marketing regarding the new CSU web site to be launched in the next few months. ‘Pathways’ will now feature prominently on this site.

Deliverable 3: Orientation program for students entering CSU from TAFE

The Working party for this deliverable has been established with the following membership:

Roz Brennan (Chair), Liz Smith (Executive Officer), Roy Sanders (Faculty of Ed), Alison Lord (TAFE EC Project), Zelma Bone (Faculty of Business), Bill Anscombe (Faculty of Arts), Andrea Bishop (Faculty of Science), Simon Thomson (Student Services), Lisa Griffin (Library), Jill Harris (DLTS), Angela Hampton (Marketing).

The terms of reference for the Working Party have been developed and are attached. The Working Party will convene on 19th April, 2010.

Deliverable 4: Professional development program for transition issues

Planning and promotion of two major PD initiatives is well underway. The first involves the development of a critical mass of ‘experts’ in the area of transition. To assist meeting this aim, sponsorship has been offered for staff to attend the Pacific Rim First Year Experience Conference. Guidelines have been
developed and promoted broadly through What’s New and News and direct emails to heads of School and Course Coordinators. Information regarding this initiative is available at: http://www.csu.edu.au/student/transition/sponsorship-pacific-rim-conference.htm

The second major PD activity is the CSU Student Engagement Forum to be held in Wagga on 20/21st September featuring Professor Sally Kift and Professor Marcia Devlin as keynotes. The forum will focus on designing responsive first year curriculum to address student transition and engagement issues. More information regarding the forum is available at http://www.csu.edu.au/student/transition/forum/

A number of information/discussion sessions have been held regarding the Transition project including the following:

- 30th September 2009 - Presentation to the Heads of School/Directors Forum
- 27th October, 2009 – Faculty of Arts Admin Forum
- 19th November – Admin Services Executive
- 17th December – University Wide Pathway program Information Session
- 3rd February – Faculty of Arts Senior Executive Planning Day
- 16th February – Faculty of Business Senior Executive Planning Day
- 16th February – School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 5th March – Rob Coombes – external consultant
- 16th March – Faculty of Arts Heads of School Meeting
- 31st March – School of Accounting Heads of School Meeting
- 31st March – Director – CSU Degree Initiative
- 7th April – Faculty of Arts Learning and Teaching Committee
- 9th April – Faculty of Education Learning and Teaching Committee
- 30th April Division of Library Services

DLTS have nominated two educational designers to work closely with the Transition project. Professional development and engagement with curriculum renewal associated with CSU Degree initiative will be the main roles of these staff.

**Deliverable 5: Adoption and dissemination of first year curriculum design principles**

The first year curriculum principles are being broadly disseminated through the professional development activities cited previously and through presentations to Learning and Teaching Committees. A supporting paper has been developed (attached).

The principles are also being promoted through the CSU Degree Initiative https://eportfolio.csu.edu.au/pebblepad/viewasset.aspx?oid=95503&type=webfolio&pageoid=118129 and will form the basis of discussions at the Student Engagement forum.
Deliverable 6: Curriculum renewal based on first year design principles

The first year curriculum principles have been discussed with the Director, CSU Degree Initiative and as a result will be embedded within the Course Pilots. https://eportfolio.csu.edu.au/pebblepad/viewasset.aspx?oid=95503&type=webfolio&pageoid=118129

Deliverable 7: Review and redevelopment of CSU orientation programs based on the development of guiding principles and policy

The Working Part for this deliverable has been established and has the following representation:

Liz Smith (Chair), Graham Daniel (Faculty of Education), Padma Nathan (Faculty of Business) Libby Douglas (Faculty of Arts), Lucy Webster (Faculty of Science), Paul Shaw (Student Services), Matthew Evans (Student Admin), Lisa Griffin (Library), Diane Lane (DLTS), Kerry Browning (Marketing), Brian Roberson (IT), Kim Stone (CRGT), Sue Moloney (OIR), Vicki Pitcher (Student Central).

The Working Party will convene for a full day think tank in Young on 12 April. In addition to Working Party members, reps from across the University will attend (30 in total).

To inform the discussions, additional orientation based questions were added to the DE New student survey in February this year. Nearly 2000 responses have been received.

Deliverable 8: Development of a transition web site

The staff side of this deliverable is now available online and will be continually updated throughout the course of the project. The site has been widely disseminated via WN&Ns and direct emails. The Transition web site is available at http://www.csu.edu.au/student/transition/index.htm

Deliverable 9: Project communication plan

This issue is to be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting in order to develop and distribute the project communication plan. Steering Committee members are asked to consider how they will communicate information relating got the project back to their area and what method/s of communication will be used.