1. Pathways

The expanded Pathway program has commenced on Bathurst, Albury and Wagga campuses with the total enrolments as follows:

- Bathurst 32
- Albury 20
- Wagga 16

A meeting next week will confirm starting numbers and discuss student progress.

Funding of the TAFE component continues to be problematic with TAFE NSW unable to provide funding for more than 1 class (30 students). CSU would need to fund TAFE $100,000 for each additional class. The CSU Tafe Coordinating Group has suggested investigating the potential for CSU to create its own subjects equivalent to the TPC in order to access CGS funding and contract TAFE staff to teach this part of the program.

A meeting with NCIT was held in February to discuss the possibility of expanding the program to Port Macquarie in 2012. A follow up meeting is scheduled for 27th April.

Discussions are not proceeding with GO Tafe, as an offering in this area has the potential to dilute enrolments on the Albury campus.

2. Orientation

A separate update on orientation activities has been provided by Student Services (attached).

3. The STAR (Student Transition and Retention) Plan

Support STARS have now been appointed to each Faculty:

- Arts – Judy Ogden
- Education – Chelsea Kovaks
- Business – Sandra Fisher
- Science – Alicia Curtis

Support STARS will play a major role in accessing and analysing course based data and disseminating this among the Faculty. The STAR evaluation plan has been developed and will include 3 data sources: students, staff and progress and success data. The first reports from the academic leads are due at the end of March.
Enhanced data from Planning and Audit is now available to STAR courses. Lecturers have access to on time class lists showing SES and First in Family status. Pre-census drop out data has also been made available and exit interviews are being conducted with these students.

4. Student Success Team

The Student Success Team (SST) has completed three campaigns since its inception on 24 Jan 11. These campaigns: Welcome to CSU, No Access to MSI and an Exit Interview have provided opportunity for the SST to provide targeted advice and information to over 1200 students and increase the understanding of why students withdraw from CSU in the very early stages of their study.

Campaign 1: Welcome to CSU
The SST spoke to 1050 students and sent them individualised action plans. They sent generic emails to 1400 other students who were unable to be contacted by phone. Students we were able to contact varied from students who were confident with their preparations for starting university, to students who had single questions or minor problems, right up to students who were panicking and needed advice and information on a number of issues before they could effectively start university.

New students requested information on a wide variety of topics. The most common topics were orientation, subject/course information and finance (including scholarships). Students were very happy to be contacted by someone from CSU.

The effectiveness of this campaign will be assessed when we are able to see the overall attrition of students who were contacted as part of this campaign and compare this to the attrition rate of students who were not able to be contacted and to other commencing undergrad students.

Interestingly, 3.8% of students who were contacted as part of the Welcome to CSU campaign had withdrawn compared to 6.7% of students who received only a generic email as part of the Welcome to CSU campaign.

Campaign 2: No Access to MSI
364 target (LSES or STAR) students had not accessed MSI by the end of Week 2 of session.

We were able to speak to 178 students and send them an individualised action plan and sent a generic email to 190 other students who we were unable to contact.

The themes to emerge from the calls were varied including DE students yet to receive their mail package, external commitments on their time, and cases of personal issues and illnesses that had prevented people studying and accessing their MSI.

The SST was able to provide advice, information and referral to a large number of university services, including Student Central, Learning Skills Advisors, subject and course co-ordinators, Studylink, CSU Referencing Guide, the library, forums, HECS information and the gymnasium.
Exit Interviews

589 students have withdrawn from CSU prior to Census date. 38% of these withdrawals are from the SST target group (Star and LSES). Approximately 8% (226) of the target students (STAR and LSES) students dropped out of CSU before census date.

A campaign to contact these students and conduct exit interviews is currently underway. 2 major categories of withdrawal exist:

1. Students who accepted an early round offer into CSU and withdrew when they received an offer from their preferred university/TAFE; and
2. Students who actually commenced study then

Data analysis will occur on completion of the exit interviews.

Future campaigns
The SST will now begin calling students who have been identified as “at risk” by academic triggers provided by STAR course staff. After these calls the next triggers of risk is students who fail one or more subjects and students who receive an At Risk of Exclusion notice.

5. Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

The PASS program has been implemented in three subjects, supporting the STAR program. The program has given students the opportunity to further engage with their subject content, benefit from the experience of a successful student and learn a range of transferrable study skills.
Accounting 1
PASS supports ACC100 on the Bathurst campus. The ACC100 cohort is drawn from a range of degree programs. The cohort contains students studying Accounting, Business Studies, Marketing, Management, Advertising and a number of double degrees. In the first two weeks the attendance rates were quite low, which reflected the relative ease of the topics covered. Attendance picked up in week three and it is hoped that attendance will continue to grow as students are exposed to more unfamiliar and challenging content.

Language as a Social Practice
PASS supports EML110 on the Bathurst campus. Attendance at these sessions has been good and the range of topics discussed in the sessions has reflected the scaffolded and interwoven nature of the four subjects that make up the B Ed (Prim) course.

Human Bioscience
PASS supports BMS191 on the Bathurst, Dubbo, Albury and Wagga campuses. Attendance has been consistently very good, which reflects the difficult nature of the course. Students appear to have gotten a lot out of the course, with positive comments from both students and lecturers.

Future Direction
PASS leaders will receive ongoing training and support, with the most outstanding leaders to be nominated for awards from the National PASS Conference. Evaluation will also be completed against final grades to assess the effect that attendance at PASS has on results in the supported subject and other subjects that PASS attendees attempt.

A submission to expand PASS to additional subjects (including DE) will be included in the next internal bids for HEPPP funding.

6. CSU Partnerships Advisory Board
A meeting of the Board was held via video conference in Bathurst and Wagga on March 15. Members provided very useful feedback on the possibilities around Indigenous enabling in particular. Members suggested the best method for class selection would be on principal’s recommendation and they were happy to assist in this process. They also suggested targeting careers advisors and Aboriginal Education Officers for professional learning sessions on CSU pathway options. Catholic schools are particularly keen to be involved in the ASPIRE program. The Pre Entry Programs Manager will make contact with Catholic school reps to discuss further.

7. ASPIRE
The ASPIRE MOU is still under negotiation, particularly around the area of IP. We hope to have this finalized in the next fortnight.

ASPIRE depends on trained student Ambassadors. An excellent field of CSU students applied for these voluntary positions and undertook training last weekend.
The first ASPIRE workshops commence in schools this week with the following activities planned to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Year groups to be involved in ASPIRE in 2011</th>
<th>In school workshops x2</th>
<th>Yr 5/6 On campus XPLOR Day May and September</th>
<th>Yr 9 and or 10 On campus U@ UNI Day</th>
<th>Yr 11 and 12 On campus Student Shadowing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trangie</td>
<td>K -1 2</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tottenham</td>
<td>K- 12</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullamore</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trundle</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Hill</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>May 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeoval</td>
<td>K - 12</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>May 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennison</td>
<td>7 – 12</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Bend</td>
<td>7 – 12</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelso Public</td>
<td>K – 6</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>177 +</strong></td>
<td><strong>180+</strong></td>
<td><strong>80+</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. + UNSW school numbers have not been included
   These schools have expressed their commitment to attending CSU on campus activities

9. **PICSE (Primary Industries Centre for Science Education)**

**Schools**

Schools who have confirmed their participation in the PICSE Program are:
Griffith High
Wade High School
Leeton High
Marion Catholic College
Wagga High School
Schools to confirm participation are:
Christian College
Mt Austin High School
Junee High School

Further discussion are to be held with:
Barellan Central School
Ardlethan Central School
Ariah Park Central School
Narrandera High School

The following schools will be invited to participate: (PICSE has not yet embarked on working closely with primary schools however, CSU PICSE will work towards developing activities to include this group)

Mount Austin Public School
Tolland Public School
Ashmont Public School
Griffith Public School
Parkview Public School
Narrandera Public School
Womoon Public School
Whitton Public School
Grong Grong Public School
Junee Public School
St Brendan’s Primary School
Ganmain Public School

Partnerships
The Science Education Officer - Emma Wordsworth has met with Griffith City Council Economic Development, Wagga City Council, staff from Industry and Investment NSW, CSU academic staff, local industries to secure support and future sponsorship. She is developing strong links with the other PICSE Activity Centres nationally. To ensure the project’s success these partnership need to be strong before any school activity is arranged.
Orientation to PICSE
Emma spent a week in Tasmania at UTAS PICSE activities (5 day camp for year 11 students and Teacher professional Development workshops). Sue Rogan visited UNE and participated in their PICSE steering committee meeting and met with Prof David Russell, Director PICSE.

Both Emma and Sue participated in the Science Education Officer Forum in Hobart where the national program was planned for the year. This provided a great insight into the depth and structure of the program while identifying how CSU could participate effectively in PICSE.

Steering Committee
The Steering Committee has been formed with members representing CSU, University of Tasmania, Schools, Industry and Investment NSW and other local agricultural industries. The First meeting will be held in Wagga Wagga on April 27, 2011.

Sponsorship
Grants support the Science investigation Awards and so far they have been sourced from the EH Graham Centre and The Grassland Society through its PICSE collaboration with University of New England. Responses are still being sought from other sources.

PICSE activities
Prof Russell, Director of PICSE UTAS, has invited CSU Activity Centre to host the next Science Education Officers’ forum in Wagga. This will be held in the first week of June.

Student events:
The Science investigation Awards 18th August.
Industry Placements Camp for Year 11,12 28th Nov – 3rd December
Industry Placements 12th – 23rd December

Teacher events:
Teacher Professional Development 22 -23rd November

Website
The CSU Activity Centre is now linked to the National PICSE Hub. The site is still a work in progress.
http://www.picse.net/HUB/index.htm

10. Professional development
Applications are currently being taken for sponsorship to attend the FYE Conference in June. A strong field of applicants has already been received with indications that we will be oversubscribed by closing date on March 31. 2010 was the first time a CSU paper had been
presented at the Conference. In 2011, 6 CSU staff have submitted papers. It appears that approximately 20 staff will attend this year’s conference, effectively building the strength of the community of practice around the First Year Experience.

11. HEPPP

David Bedwell is coordinating submissions from across the university in order to provide advice to the SEC on the ongoing utilization of these funds. The new Dean of Studies will ultimately be responsible for the overall coordination of and use of HEPPP funding.

DEEWR has still not opened the Expressions of Interest for the competitive funding for Part B.

12. Indigenous enabling program

The first meeting to discuss the development of an Indigenous Enabling program was held on March 14 with the following staff present: Toni Downes, Wendy Nolan, Patricia Neal, Rachel Standfield, Liz Smith and Ray Eldridge. A program will be developed for a first intake in first session 2012 with the program proposal coming to the May Transition Steering Committee meeting. The notes from the meeting are attached.

13. ALTC Project

CSU are collaborating with Deakin and QUT on an ALTC funded research project: Effective teaching and support of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds: Resources for Australian higher education. The ethics application for this project is now complete and has been submitted. The second project meeting will be held in Melbourne on April 6th.

The project team (Liz Smith, Sally Kift, Marcia Devlin, Judy Nagy and Karen nelson) has submitted workshops and sessions to both HERDA and FYE.