

Creating a Community of Undergraduate Research Scholars

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Aim:

to create a revolution by inviting students to develop
as a strong and vibrant community of scholars,
provide a focus for undergraduate research activities
on campus, carry out pedagogical research, & be
ambassadors for curriculum change

Outcomes

1. Increased awareness and involvement of undergraduate students in research, specifically, research designed to enhance learning and teaching
2. Greater involvement of undergraduates in the scholarly life of the university

Undergraduates Transforming Higher Education in Australia

Angela Brew, Lilia Mantai, Stefan Popenici and Ademir Hajdarpasic

A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK FOLLOWED
BY FOUR INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

Overall Aim: To move the agenda for undergraduate research in Australia through breaking down taboos, involving undergraduates in pedagogical research, staff development for curriculum change, and providing opportunities to showcase best practice

Australian Learning and Teaching Council (National) Fellowship (\$300,000):
Enhancing undergraduate engagement through research and inquiry:

Aim

to identify national needs, existing practice and available resources; carry out a study tour overseas to identify further resources to meet needs; build and disseminate resources

Strategies

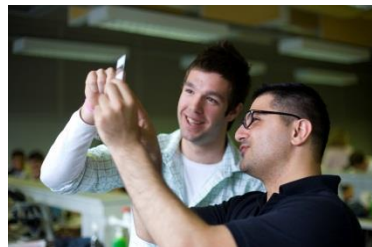
- State-wide Roundtables & National Summit
- Undergraduate scholarship
- Extended Network
- Newsletter (URNA)
- Website of resources

Outcomes

1. Raised the profile of undergraduate research nationally
2. Surveyed & reported on research experience programs in Australia
3. Provided and disseminated resources

Project A

The development of undergraduates' awareness of, and engagement in, research



Aim

to enhance performance and showcase excellence in curriculum practices related to ensuring that the curriculum is informed by current research; to exemplify specified learning outcomes and coordinated assessment practices in research learning

Strategies

- Second undergraduate scholarship
- University-wide working group
- Research projects on awareness & experiences
- Australian research experience programs surveyed

Outcomes

1. Interviewed 200 students about their awareness of research
2. Investigated visibility of undergraduate research on campus
3. Surveyed and interviewed coordinators and students about research experience programs
4. Working group shared practice

Project B

Stimulating strategic teaching and learning initiatives through enhanced familiarity with undergraduate research and inquiry

Aim

to extend staff and student engagement by disseminating findings of investigations into, and critical reflections on, best practices and identified challenges



Strategies

- Dissemination of investigations through journals, newsletters, etc.
- Working Group through 2013
- Staff development program
- Blog, Facebook and Twitter facilities on the Undergraduate Research website
- Organisation of the first Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research

Outcomes

1. ACUR Macquarie September 2012
2. Showcase of best practice
3. Working Group meetings through 2013
4. New media discussions
5. Student/staff co-written journal articles

Project C

The role of research in enhancing learning in undergraduate education

Aim

to provide for further data analysis and publication in international peer reviewed journals, preparation of an Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) (national) proposal and conference presentations

Strategies

- Analysis of questionnaire and interview data
- Collaborative writing
- Networking

Outcomes

1. 3 published papers in refereed journals written in collaboration with students
2. Two conference presentations
3. Preparation of a national (OLT) project proposal



Project D

Creating a community of undergraduate research scholars



Aim

to create a revolution by inviting students to develop as a strong and vibrant community of scholars, provide a focus for undergraduate research activities on campus, carry out pedagogical research, & be ambassadors for curriculum change

Strategies

- Pedagogical research by undergraduates collaborating with disciplinary academics
- Undergraduate research student Ambassadors
- Conference preparation
- Networking

Outcomes

1. 5 undergraduate pedagogical research scholarships
2. Undergraduate Research Student Society
3. Second Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research (ACUR 2013) with students as key organisers

First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research

20th September



Photo: Paul Wright

ACUR 2012

Approach

Stage 1: Establish a **core group of UG researchers** and a broader **undergraduate research community** with an interest in higher education learning and teaching

- Research will begin in Semester 1, 2013.
- Students will publish their research in newsletters and peer reviewed journals.

Stage 2: Establish the **Macquarie Undergraduate Research Student Society**. The society will:

- Run seminars, displays, stalls in O-Week, and social activities
- Attract university resources for publicity and incidental expenditures
- Lobby for changes to curricula, including UG research experiences within departments

Stage 3: Plan and run the **Second Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research (ACUR)** in 2013.

- Drawing on the first ACUR in September 2012
- Interdisciplinary conference with poster presentations and spoken papers by undergraduates

Evaluation

- ❁ The **core group of UG researchers** and the **Steering Group** will work through successive action research cycles of reflection and action.
- ❁ Late in 2013 the team will investigate the extent to which:
 - i. enthusiasm for UG research has spread
 - ii. research opportunities have increased.
- ❁ The project will be **deemed successful** if in 2013 there is a strong and vibrant Undergraduate Research Student Society planning for a 2014 conference.

Thank you!

🌸 Find out more about undergraduate research at:

- www.UndergraduateResearchAustralia.com
- Twitter: @Aacur_Aur, #undergraduate2012
- Facebook: First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research

🌸 Join our extended network: email:

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