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**ChemNet skype meeting #12**

**Wednesday November 28 at 3:30 pm Brisbane time**

Attendees:

Madeleine Schultz (QUT) madeleine.schultz

Glennys O’Brien (Woollongong) glennys.obrien

Kieran Lim (Deakin)

Siegbert Schmid (USyd)

Mike Liddell (JCU)

Steph Beames (UTS)

Dino Spagnoli (UWA)

Will Rifkin (UQ)

**Minutes:**

1. **Assessment of TLOs - Meetings Dec 2012 and Feb 2013.**

December 12 meeting - around 14 people will come, Simon Pyke organising. Siggi and Adam are arranging room and food at USyd.

February meeting Feb 4. Starting to work on how to run that meeting. Will wait and see what happens in December. Want to be one day - possibly at or near an airport so that travel time is minimised.

Outcomes - other groups are not this far advanced so cannot compare with what they are doing. Conversation will be around breadth and depth and what sort of assessments will be necessary. Brian says other disciplines (not only science) and they have not worked on this. Don't have an idea of the form of the outcomes yet.

A good outcome would be exemplar assessments.

Might be useful for people to send third year assessments.

Siggi - RACI accreditation - was at assembly at the weekend. Mark Buntine was saying that TLO working group of ChemNet is doing the job and working on establishing standards and once that is done, RACI is likely to adopt this as their accreditation standard. RACI will work with the ChemNet developed TLOs/Standards for their accreditaion program; supposed to be trialled in 2013 with volunteer institutions and then rolled out more widely.

Glennys - RACI will have a slightly different perspective, accrediting the DEGREE, our standards are for standards panel AQF. Generally supportive of what we are doing. Maybe RACI can support some of the costs of the February meeting.

Siggi - a new financial model was discussed at assembly, RACI has lost a lot of money over last 3 years ($1.3 million). Big loss of $800 000 in 2009.

Kieran - would be useful to have an idea of threshold learning outcomes for each year.

Glennys - standards - seeking to name breadth and depth as a threshold, this would be helpful, will still be generic because different degrees in Australia have different emphases. It is a work in progress. May not be useful in current form for a university trying to use TLOs to decide what to put into a unit at second year or first year level. Very difficult to come up with something that is not STANDARDISED across country, but not generic to the point of being motherhood statements.

Will - Kieran's comment suggests that we need to TEST the outcomes of these meetings on "novices" ie someone designing degrees who has not been exposed to them before.

Mike - in the re-ordered TLOs - looking at degree at JCU - should be trying to integrate these across the degree. JCU is looking at unbundling third year subjects (Peter Junk) back to traditional organic, inorganic etc.

Glennys - James has looked at whether there are things at first year that begin to meet TLOs. Looking at a whole degree. We are going to have to meet this across whole degree - can we see assessments that demonstrate this across whole degree. In engineering, someone had mapped the activities/materials to demonstrate that students had opportunity to progress and complete, but there were no ASSESSMENTS to show that student had met threshold. It is one thing to map activities, learning objects, it is different to have assessments showing that criterion is met.

Need to see what other science disciplines are doing for the generic TLOs.

Will - timing for Feb meeting - Feb 4 - SaMnet meeting Feb 5 in Adelaide.

**2. Membership list as searchable resource**

James working on this based on ChemNet website membership and web pages.

**3. Other goals for 2013?**

Glennys - What can we do to stay connected (formally and informally). The spreadsheet to build and maintain informal connections among teaching academics.

Kieran - it is definitely a way to meet people that we didn't know before.

Mike - useful to talk to colleagues about structure of degree etc. Hope to keep momentum post-2013. Key is networking person to person. Mechanisms to get chemists together face to face, even if just for a day.

Glennys - want to make the conversation happen between other unis also doing degree restructure. How can the spreadsheet include this sort of information eg a degree restructure?

ACDS as possible funding for the future. John Rice would be interested.

Making the discipline day (ACSME) bigger, pay more people to go.

Dino - new to teaching and the community is very useful, applying for funding for T&L.

Kieran - only chemist on his campus. Designing first year chem as prereqs removed, students without high school chemistry. How do we cope with mixed cohorts? Because of campus split there is a geographical split.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 28 Nov 4:30 eastern summer time, 3:30 pm Brisbane time.