

Universitas 21
U21 Education Forum
Professional Portability in Education
(Annual Meeting No. 6 of the U21 Deans of Education Group)

Sunday, April 10, 2005
8:30 am to 3:45 pm

VENUE: Mont Royal Meeting Room, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Montreal, Canada

U21 Education – Portability Project
Agenda for Action

Participants

Roger Slee – McGill University
Steve Jordan – McGill University
Spencer Boudreau – McGill University
David Clarke – University of Melbourne
Christine Ure – University of Melbourne
Julianne Moss – University of Melbourne
Hirek Kwiatkowski – Glasgow University
Jim Conroy – Glasgow University
Pat Thomson – Nottingham University
Chris Hall – Nottingham University
Paul Ayres – University of New South Wales
Lexie Grudnoff – University of Auckland
Pang Ming Fai – University of Hong Kong
Adrian Ashman – University of Queensland
Rob Tierney – University of British Columbia

The following is a synopsis of the meeting and a summary report of the agreed Agenda for Action

Meeting Synopsis

- 8:45 am - Welcome (Prof. Roger Slee, Dean of Education, McGill University)
- 9:00 am - Outline of the agenda (Prof. David Clarke, University of Melbourne)
- 9:15 am - Portability between Pre-service/Undergraduate programs
(Chair: Prof. Hirek Kwiatkowski, Dean of Education, University of Glasgow)
- 10:30 am - Coffee Break
- 10:45 am - Portability between higher degree/research programs
(Chair: Prof. Adrian Ashman, Dean of Education, University of Queensland)
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 pm - International Portability of Teaching Credentials
(Chair: Prof. Rob Tierney, Dean of Education, University of British Columbia)
- 2:15 pm - Coffee Break
- 2:30 pm - Development of a program of collaborative action, including research, on emergent issues related to Portability in Education
(Chair: Prof. David Clarke, University of Melbourne).
- 3:30 pm - Summative Remarks (Prof. Roger Slee, McGill University)
- The meeting concluded at 3:45 pm.

U21 Education – Portability in Education - Agenda for Action

Discussion identified Themes 1 (Pre-service) and 3 (Teacher Credentials) as most difficult to address in the short-term. It was decided, therefore, that the U21 Education group direct its immediate efforts towards initiatives in relation to Theme 2 (Postgraduate Programs in Education – particularly higher degrees).

The following initiatives were agreed to:

1. Prof. Adrian Ashman, having collected information by survey and website search, relating to U21 postgraduate programs in Education, had constructed a draft database of the collated information. This database is to be distributed by Prof. Ashman to all U21 Schools or Faculties of Education for review and amendment where necessary. Additional information and any changes will be returned to Prof. Ashman and incorporated into a revised database by Professor Ashman with the assistance of Dr Paul Ayres from the University of New South Wales.

ACTION: ASHMAN AND AYRES
2. In relation to the articulation of the group's understanding of Professional Portability as it applies in Education, Prof. Rob Tierney, in consultation with Prof. Hirek Kwiatkowski, will circulate a set of notes on portability and the 'global educator' [it should be noted that while the term 'global educator' was much used during discussion, its use was not universally endorsed by the group as a whole – however, in lieu of a term acceptable to all, it served as a common point of reference for discussion]

ACTION: TIERNEY AND KWIATKOWSKI
3. Three distinct coursework initiatives were proposed:
 - a. Online Higher Degree Coursework – Professor Jim Conroy proposed the identification of online subjects that might form the basis of a U21 Masters or taught Doctorate. It was acknowledged that local requirements would have to be identified and accommodated in any such composite degree.

ACTION: CONROY

- b. Professor Rob Tierney, suggested that a student cohort from a selection of U21 institutions, enrolled in different subjects in different institutions, should be identified and recruited to participate in an exploratory investigation of international cross-institutional higher degree study.

ACTION: TIERNEY

- c. The Development of a U21-tagged Postgraduate Certificate, possibly with an internship and/or project component. This initiative was initially proposed by Associate Professor Christine Ure, with the support of Professor Pat Thomson, Dr Julianne Moss, Dr Lexie Grudnoff and Dr Chris Hall. The specific proposal following much discussion is to set up the development of this new course as an Action Research Project, consisting of a Reconnaissance stage followed by a cycle of Development, Implementation, Evaluation, Revision and further Implementation. Initiatives 3a and 3b above to contribute to the Reconnaissance phase of the proposed project. Other exploratory initiatives were discussed that might be undertaken at this preliminary stage. Some support was expressed for the establishment of a cross-institutional web-mediated forum as a short-term component of an existing subject.

ACTION: URE, THOMSON, MOSS, GRUDNOFF AND HALL

4. Meetings and Coordination of U21 Education Initiatives

It was recognized that the effective realisation of the initiatives proposed above would require immediate action and a further meeting in 2005. Since the U21 Education group has a symposium on the program of the European Conference on Educational Research in Dublin from September 7 to 10, 2005, it was agreed that this conference would provide a suitable opportunity for a second meeting in 2005. It was suggested that members of the U21 Education community unable to attend the meeting in Dublin might be offered the opportunity to do so through a telephone link-up. Professor David Clarke agreed to continue in the liaison and coordination role for the U21 group and specifically in relation to the proposed meeting.

ACTION: CLARKE

5. Funding

It was recognized that the coordination and conduct of the composite research and development initiative would require support and funding. Professor Rob Tierney agreed to call for tenders from the U21 Education Community to carry out the project. Funding would be sought from the U21 Secretariat, specifically for this project.

ACTION: TIERNEY

A request for funding has been made to the U21 Secretariat for support for the venue and catering expenses associated with the Montreal meeting, and a similar request would be made in relation to the proposed Dublin meeting. Professor David Clarke agreed to liaise with Professor Mike Goldberg, presently at the U21 Secretariat in Singapore, in relation to this funding application.

ACTION: CLARKE

David Clarke
April, 2005