ACEN NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Annual General Meeting Nov 1st 2012

This report outlines ACEN’s activities and achievements over the period July 2011 to June 2012. The key areas of activity for ACEN over the period have include fostering WIL research and scholarship initiatives, promoting WIL in Australia through enhanced advocacy, strengthening links internationally and ensuring ACEN remains a robust and sustainable organisation that is responsive to and serves its members. Some specific organisational initiatives have been to continue to progress the review and changes to ACEN governance arrangements, enhance communication with our members and continue to support students undertaking WIL through an expansion of the student scholarship program.

The following report provides an overview of some of the key activities that have occurred over the period:

Advocacy

Over the period ACEN has actively advocated for WIL in Australia. Activities have included:

- Preparation of a submission to the Federal Government’s Base Funding Review into Higher Education and representation at a face to face consultation to highlight the resourcing implications of WIL to that review
- Preparation of a submission to National Career Development Strategy Green Paper
- Supporting the investigation Fair Work Ombudsman investigation into unpaid internships

Governance Review

ACEN has sought legal advice and a draft constitution has been prepared for the move from an association incorporated in Queensland to a company limited by guarantee, which is a more appropriate structure for an organisation that operates in all states and territories.

ACEN is now working through final details and implementation matters and expects to be ready to bring a proposal to move to a company limited by guarantee to the ACEN membership in the first half of 2013.

WIL Research and Scholarship

ACEN continued to support scholarship and research into WIL in Australia through:

- Implementing an ACEN pilot Research Scholarship scheme for 2012 and the awarding two $10,000 scholarships
- Representation at the International Research Symposium in Philadelphia at the WACE Conference in 2011
- Planning for the Research Symposium as a component of the 2012 ACEN conference to proactively support the development of research consortia to investigate key WIL issues.
- Continuing co-sponsorship of the Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships

National Projects

ACEN supported three national WIL projects over this period providing regular reports to both the executive and ACEN members.
- **National WIL Portal Project**: This project, funded by DEEWR, has developed a web based technology platform to facilitate the engagement of industry and community with tertiary institutions for WIL.

- **Impact of WIL project**: This OLT funded project’s overarching aim is to provide an evidence base for judging the impact of WIL on graduates’ readiness to commence work.

- **WIL Leadership Project**: This OLT funded project is harnessing the expertise of experienced WIL leaders, establish how and where WIL leadership is situated, identify the critical challenges WIL leaders encounter, and propose solutions.

### National and International Links

ACEN continues to forge close links with other national and international associations. ACEN members continue to benefit from the ACEN partnership with WACE through strong Australian delegation at the WACE conferences at reduced registration. ACEN’s partnership with NZACE continues to strengthen through National Executive attendance at each association’s national conferences and the joint webinars for both countries facilitated by ACENQ.

ACEN has been pivotal in organising and chairing meetings of all national associations at WACE conferences. The recent meeting in Istanbul included representatives from the Thai, Japanese, Canadian, Swedish, New Zealand and South African Associations and WACE. At this meeting WACE agreed to take on the establishment of the International Directory of WIL resources and move towards representation by National Associations on the WACE Board.

Over this period ACEN also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with AUCEA (Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance, now Engagement Australia), an organisation committed to fostering university-community engagement in Australia, to collaborate around the enhancement of Service Learning.

### State Chapters

The following reports outline the key activities of the ACEN State chapters during the period.

**ACEN Q**

In June QUT hosted an ACENQ-NAGCAS Qld forum on industry partners experiences of having WIL students in the work place and evidence of financial hardship experienced by students undertaking WIL. This inaugural event attracted more than 70 participants from 9 universities with video links to JCU and CQ University. This year ACENQ has also hosted two very successful ACEN-NZACE webinars.

In May the first ACEN NZACE webinar attracted over 45 participants from 18 Australian universities and 5 New Zealand institutions. The event attracted great feedback about the guest speakers as well as the technology. Dr Andy Martin, Massey University, Dr Mary Ryan, Queensland University of Technology and Michael Ryan, Queensland University of Technology spoke about resources to support WIL/Cooperative Education and developing reflective approaches to writing in WIL/Cooperative Education. From the feedback gathered at the end of the webinar it was clear that members were very keen to use webinars as a way to network, increase collaboration and share practice.

The second webinar held in September attracted over thirty participants from eleven universities – nine Australian and two New Zealand. The topic was Impact of student circumstances: managing the realities of WIL. These webinar were recorded and are available to members via the ACEN website.

Other contributions ACENQ has made this year include a keynote address at the NZACE conference held in Auckland in April and several ACENQ members have been actively involved in the organisation and facilitation of the ACEN Research Symposium and the ACEN conference.

**ACEN WA**

ACEN WA has worked actively throughout 2012 to boost the number of WA ACEN members through promoting the benefits that ACEN offers and providing opportunities to explore curriculum innovations.
associated with WIL. The ACEN representatives from each of the WA universities have met regularly
during 2012 to establish a strong collaborative network across all WA institutions.

Taryn, Curtin University student, was a recipient of the ACEN 2012 student scholarship. Taryn
undertook her 10 week education practicum at a Kulin District High School which is situated in a small
rural WA community.

With the election of Pamela Struthers as National Treasurer, WA is strongly represented on the
National Executive of ACEN. Sonia Ferns was recently re-elected as State Chair for ACEN WA.

On Tuesday 29th May, the Western Australian arm of ACEN sponsored an event facilitated by
Stephen Billett. 65 attended the workshop titled Curriculum and Pedagogic Practices for Work-
integrated Learning and hosted by Murdoch University. Stephen presented a very entertaining
account of his recent research activities which generated robust discussion from the attendees. The
workshop was an interactive and interesting session enjoyed immensely by all participants.

In a survey administered to those who attended, networking, exposure to contemporary research,
quality of the presenter, and the concept of ‘agentic learners’ were listed as highlights of the
workshop.

ACEN SA / NT

ACEN is gaining momentum again in SA/NT. The four universities in the region are currently
Institutional Members (Charles Darwin University, Flinders University, University of Adelaide,
University of South Australia). There has been a gradual increase in membership numbers from,
which has been a good response the continuing increase in attendance at events held across the
year.

There were several events for ACEN SA/NT in the period

WIL Forum with the following presenters:

- Chris Fanning (recent award winner for the South Australian Tourism Award for Tourism
  Education Training) on continuous improvement and what makes a rewarding program for
  students & industry partners

- Frederick Stokes-Thompson presented on the use of 3D & Web 2.0 technologies and
  innovations in enhancing and further developing WIL initiatives.

Risk Management & WIL

- “Through the Eyes of Others”, Sam Schulz, from the Student Access Unit and Widening
  Participation at Flinders University looked at understanding the changing demography of the
  student population and considerations in developing and delivering WIL programs

- “Managing Risk in Work Integrated Learning Courses for International Students”, Roopa
  Howard from University of South Australia, Learning in the Workplace, presented findings,
  evaluations and solutions in managing risk pre, during and post placements with reference to
  International Students in Engineering

- “When the Going Gets Tough: supporting speech pathology students in professional
  placements”, Stacie Attrill and Anne Hayes from Flinders University presented the challenges,
  opportunities and risk when working with high achievers in intensive professional programs

ACEN VIC / TAS

ACEN Vic has been very busy in this period with a strong Victorian based committee working towards
the hosting of the ACEN National Conference at Deakin University in October / November 2012 .In
addition ACEN / VIC TAS have hosted or co-hosted the following events

- Perspectives on Partnerships in Work Integrated Learning with Dr Sharon Winocur, Executive
  Director, Business Higher education Roundtable and Dr Violeta Schubert, The University of
  Melbourne and Melinda Marty, Victorian Government Department of Business and Innovation.
- Work Integrated Learning Seminar Professor Stephen Billet reported on the ALTC National Teaching Fellowship – Curriculum and pedagogic bases for effectively integrating practice-based experience within higher education.

- An Introduction to Service-Learning Best Practices Trae Stewart Associate Professor in Education and Community Leadership in the College of Education at Texas State University spoke on service learning

- Simulated WIL: Increasing Access and Participation in Work Integrated Learning’ A seminar with Greg Jamieson is a senior lecturer in finance at La Trobe’s Business School, Karen Livesay lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Victoria University. Kathy Douglas lawyer who has worked at RMIT for a number of years. Dr Sandra Jones, Professor of Employment Relations in the School of Management at RMIT

**ACT/NSW**

The NSW/ACT Chapter of ACEN held a very successful forum on Ethical Practices in Work Integrated Learning on Monday 14 May at the Inspire Centre at the University of Canberra. The forum was attended by approximately 65 staff from 15 universities including interstate universities.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof Gerlese Ackerlind Director Teaching & Learning Centre, University of Canberra. Speakers included Matthew Campbell (Griffith University), Dr Michaela Baker & Jacqueline Mackaway (Macquarie University), Dr Bill Boyd et al (Southern Cross University) and Teresa Swirski (Charles Sturt University).

All the speakers were thought provoking and generated spirited discussions on topics such as: how unethical behaviour can coexist with a beautifully written code of professional practice, the difficulties in identifying organisations that can be considered “unethical”, and how best to prepare students when they are confronted with unethical behaviour which is widely accepted in the workplace. Attendees shared their personal experiences which made the forum even more valuable.

**National Executive**

My thanks to all members of the current ACEN National Executive for their continuing support and contribution to ACEN activities during 2011/2012. I would like to particularly thank Pamela Struthers for her contribution as Treasurer and David Jorgensen as Secretary.

In addition I would also like to thank the State Chairs for their contribution to ACEN; Sonia Ferns, Verity Kingsmill, Dineli Mather, Freny Tayebjee and Deborah Peach as well as general executive members Heather Smigiel, Brett Van Heekeran, Calvin Smith, Nicole Manapol and Keri Moore.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing members of the National Executive. Matthew Campbell and Lisa Westcott who both resigned during this period and Calvin Smith and Pamela Struthers who were elected and Nicole Manapol who was co-opted onto the National Executive during this period.

At this AGM Verity Kingsmill, Brett van Heekeren, Dineli Mather and Nicole Manapol are all retiring from the National Executive and we thank them for their significant contributions both at State and National levels. I would particularly like to express our appreciation to Dineli Mather for her major contribution as Chair for the organising committee for this 2012 National Conference.

I would like to welcome recently elected members to the National Executive - Gail Quirk, Michael Whelan, Ruth Wallace and Ceri MacLeod.

Many thanks to our administrator Don MacDowall who has provided the National Executive and ACEN member’s with exceptional organisational and administrative support over this period.
## National Executive as at AGM 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Judie Kay, Victoria University</td>
<td>National Director and External engagements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc Prof David Jorgensen, Central Queensland University</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Pam Struthers, Murdoch University</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Freny Tayebjee, University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>NSW/ACT Chair and Membership, Special Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Verity Kingsmill, Flinders University</td>
<td>SA/NT Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Deborah Peach, Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Qld Chair and WIL Scholarship and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Calvin Smith, Griffith University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Dineli Mather, Deakin University</td>
<td>2012 Conference, Victoria Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sonia Ferns, Curtin University</td>
<td>WA Chair, Special Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Brett Van Heekeren, Charles Sturt University</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Keri Moore, Southern Cross University</td>
<td>WIL Student Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Heather Smigiel, Flinders University</td>
<td>WIL Scholarship and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Nicole Manapol, Charles Darwin University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Overview of Attendance at National Executive Meetings in the period from July 2011 – June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Judie Kay, Victoria University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc Prof David Jorgensen, Central Queensland University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Pam Struthers, Murdoch University (From Dec 2011)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Campbell (to Nov 2011)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Freny Tayebjee, University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Verity Kingsmill, Flinders University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Deborah Peach, Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Calvin Smith, Griffith University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Dineli Mather, Deakin University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sonia Ferns, Curtin University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Brett Van Heekeren Charles Sturt University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Keri Moore, Southern Cross University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Heather Smigiel, Flinders University</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Nicole Manapol, Charles Darwin University (co-opted, from May 2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>y</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Westcott, James Cook University (to Feb 2012)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>