Using Web Tools to engage students
A new(er) dimension to online learning communities.

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How we got here...

Student Services
- Engagement and the 'whole student'
  - Transition and retention
  - Learning skills and graduate attributes

Institution
- T&L
  - flexible delivery
  - model of excellence

Students
- UWA cohort
  - generational expectations
  - learning styles

Today...

The N.O.D.E. project
Networking On-line to Diversify Engagement

Preparation
- Student survey
- Staff survey
- Pilot projects

Application
- Protocols

N.O.D.E.
- Broadening options (rather than replacing them)
- Students sharing expertise and experiences
- Distinct/’evolving’ role for staff

Web Tools, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Web 2.0, Web(n+1)...
- Read/write capabilities
- Peer-to-peer sharing
- Personalised and flexible
- NODE - blogs, wikis, podcasts, RSS, discussion boards, Lectopia, video-on-demand, IM/instant chat

Student survey
- Aim: to provide solid data to use in the project
- On-line form - sent to FY students
- Offered a prize (of course!)
- Demographics (age, faculty etc) plus 3 sections

Logistics
- access
- ownership
- use of UWA website

Experiences
- habits/skills
- learning
- communicating
- shopping, sharing

Expectations
- IT provision at UWA
- lectures and lecturers
- data storage

Notable findings...

Logistics
- 56% own a laptop
- 95% have internet access at home
- 93% own a mobile phone

Experiences
- 46% use instant messaging at least once a day
- 61% use blogs (18% of students have their own)
- 71% download music and 66% use YouTube

Expectations
- 88% expect all lectures to be recorded
- 52% prefer face-to-face teaching (37% "don't mind")
- 17% would like to SMS their lecturers

A total of 37 ICT questions were asked
Staff survey
- Priority to engage staff (short and long-term)
- Skills Audit for all staff (35 staff in 9 programs)
- ‘sold’ as PD (provided by the NODE project)

Notables...
Awareness of web tools generally high
- Highest – txt, IM, blogs, forums
- Lowest – RSS, video-on-demand

Preferred training delivery:
1. Small group training
2. Register of 'local experts'
3. Print resources/guides/instructions
4. Training on request
5. Regular information sessions
6. On-line tutorials and help

Pilot projects
- Podcasts/Lectopia recordings of Learning Skills sessions
- RSS generation from events Calendar
- Transition Blog '07 written by incoming students
- Staff procedures manual hosted as a wiki
- IM/chat to follow-up Faculty teaching

Next
- VOD-tours of SS by students
- Broadening of RSS
- Podcasts of guest speakers, services etc

Protocols
- Agreement = 'rules' + community input
- Protocols required for each tool – widely available
- Operate under UWA’s code(s) of conduct
- Users must agree to conditions
- Postings un-moderated but responses monitored
- Learning from UniMelb, USyd experience

N.O.D.E. – the project
- Student survey
- Staff survey
- Pilot projects
- Protocols

promote
maintenance
evaluation
collaboration

sharing

$\text{technology}

$\text{research}$