N.O.D.E. – a showcase

Setting up an online community (things you might need to know)

A bit about us

Lisa Cluett
Learning, Language and Research Skills
Student Services, UWA

Judy Skene
Diversity and Transition Programs
Student Services, UWA

UWA:
• 82% of first years are ‘school leavers’
• ~90% of first years are Gen Y
• Independent learning and independent living
• Focus on engagement and the student experience

Today’s Showcase

N.O.D.E. project at UWA
The story so far....

What are the greatest challenges involved in a project like this?

21 things we’ve learnt from NODE

Setting it up
Keeping it going

The NODE project

Aim
To create an online community where students could share their experiences of University

• An exploratory (pilot) project to be run for a year
• We would have to relinquish some control
• They gave us $17,000 to do it with

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
  - (85% of which is broadband)
  - 96% 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software/Tool</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS® Windows</td>
<td>Word processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS® PowerPoint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS® Excel</td>
<td>Web browsing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS® Outlook</td>
<td>SharePoint®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web editing</td>
<td>Web 2.0/ICT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- No idea what this is
- Heard of but not used
- Able to read/view others’
- Able to create my own
- Able to train others

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

- **Done/progress**
  - 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
Question for you:

What would be the biggest challenge(s) for a project like this?

Our challenges

* technology platform
* finding support
* content

21 things we learnt that might be useful for you to know

Developing it

Don’t wait until you think you’re ready

Maintaining it

Write some protocols for members
Set it up and then fix it

Let it grow organically

Focus on quick wins with similar minds

Work out what you can get for free

Beware of ‘frenemies’

Collaborate ‘upwards’
Don’t be put off by your own ignorance

Make it appealing to students

Don’t ignore the bits you don’t like

Have a vision and be flexible getting there

Don’t underestimate the challenge of content

Embrace the competition
Get the ‘right’ project officer
Check in every day

Write content about failure
Find champions

Use every method possible to promote it
Cherish support people
Don’t take anything personally

Maintenance

Any questions?

Please explore node.live, and we welcome any feedback to:

Judy Skene: judy.skene@uwa.edu.au
or
Lisa Cluett: lisa.cluett@uwa.edu.au

This list of '21 things' will be on www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au by the end of the week.