Fostering a community of academics interested in teaching technologies and research

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VUW’s Teaching & Learning Goals

**Students**
- Fostering reflective practice
- Sharing best practice
- Building capacity and capability
- Stimulating innovation
- Supporting technology platform and roadmap
- Re-imagining face-to-face
- Developing digital literacies

**Practice**

**Staff**

**Strategy**
Building a Community of Reflective Practice across VUW’s Dispersed Faculties, Disciplines & Campuses
What initially attracted you to the seminar series*? (and what is your discipline?)

*Survey results 2013
The group developed ideas that turned into seminars which explored

- Large group teaching
- Using video in teaching
- Ideas Exchange
- The Flipped Classroom
- Social Media
- Lab Crawl
- Online Courses
- LMS

and extended our capability, confidence, and creativity.
The most useful aspect of the seminar series?

people have an opportunity to talk about teaching practices that they are really enthusiastic about. we don’t often get to talk about practice.

Confidence to try new things after hearing how they work for other people.

Networking with people with similar issues in their courses.

I never realised there were so many distance education groups operating out of vic uni

gained new tools. Challenged to try new techniques

Exposure to a wide range of practical ways of using available learning and teaching tools

thinking about teaching!

“learning about using technology in different ways - even if I don’t 'copy' it exactly, it makes me think more creatively about what I do and could do”

“I have found the most useful aspect has been the range of topics and locations of the seminars. I think getting to actually see the people who teach the courses, see the technology in use and see people from ITS/ Image Services completes the picture of interested academics and interested professional staff who can make things happen. I see being part of this group/community provides the opportunity to get to know other people across the university who are making things happen and also generate new ideas for my own teaching.”
80% encouraged a colleague to attend the series

63% plan to use information in courses

73% feel interests of the group reflected

59% would like to discuss issues raised online

64% met new people

19% watched video when missed live

24% online forum not useful

44% have never been to the wiki

64% would like to discuss issues raised online
How is it different from other seminars?

Opportunity to meet with people interested in teaching from other schools and faculties on a reasonably informal basis to explore what we do and why and how we can do it better.

Organised, facilitated and chaired by the academics who lead technology enabled learning at Victoria. All these staff are taking time out from extremely busy schedules to commit to this series, which really shows the value.

Cross-faculty fertilisation of ideas.

A University wide perspective on teaching and learning. Access to enthusiastic knowledgable people from outside my faculty talking on L&T.

Academics across the university coming together to share practice examples.
What worked?

Exposure to new ideas, practices, and collaborations

Establishing community

Regular monthly meeting time

Interdisciplinarity

Demonstrating how much digital learning is going on at VUW

Led by teaching staff engaged in technology-enabled learning

I like its amateur aspect – in the positive sense of the word. It’s not dogmatic or policy-driven..

during the demonstration of touch screens in a biological science lab, a philosopher planned an interactive critical thinking lecture and an information management lecturer discussed student data visualization if they had the same technology.

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 collegiality, openness, relaxed nature, quality time spent with quality colleagues
Room for Improvement

Some sessions became too specific

More time for discussion

[finding] time is always a problem

Breadth vs detail

Difficulty finding a good time

More profiles from different campuses and disciplines

Discussion forum not used well

More opportunities for visiting speakers
Enabling Our Digital Vision for VUW

The Learning & Teaching Seminar Series
• has catalysed a community of staff interested in new technologies in learning and teaching
• helps to realise the goals of the University’s new Digital Vision Strategy
• profiles staff across academic disciplines, ITS, library...
• is ever-evolving and experimental
• is fun!

The future is bright! We hope to
• establish new communities of practice in specific areas of teaching and learning
• invite more external speakers
• evaluate every six months
• continue the series!

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#VUWTeach