Memorandum of Understanding between

Australasian Council on Open, Distance and E-learning (ACODE) and the

Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite)

1. Introduction

This document describes an agreement between the Australasian Council on Open, Distance and E-learning (ACODE) and the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite) to work cooperatively in an alliance to achieve mutual benefits for the students and staff of the Australian, New Zealand and South Pacific universities.

2. About ACODE and ascilite

2.1. ACODE (www.acode.edu.au)

ACODE's mission is to promote, facilitate and support the attainment of excellence in teaching and learning in Australasian higher education through the enhancement of policies and practices for learning and teaching enabled by technology.

ACODE actively seeks to influence Australasian universities' policies and practices in learning and teaching enabled by technology at institutional, national and international levels through:

- disseminating and sharing knowledge and expertise;
- supporting professional development;
- building leadership capability;
- providing networking opportunities;
- investigating, developing and evaluating new and innovative approaches to teaching and learning; and
- advising and influencing key higher education bodies in the promotion of best practice.

2.2. Ascilite (www.ascilite.org.au)

ascilite aims to be a sustainable and vibrant society that encourages and supports quality research into, and exemplary use of, technologies for teaching and learning in tertiary education throughout Australasia.

ascilite will achieve its strategic aim by:

- encouraging and supporting quality research into use of information and communication technologies for teaching and learning;
- promoting exemplary use of Information and communication technologies in teaching and learning; and
- providing opportunities for collaboration and sharing through online and face-to-face initiatives.

This will ensure that ascilite is a vibrant and sustainable society with a strong membership base comprising members from Australasia and international tertiary education sectors.

3. Mutual Benefits to be derived through the Alliance

ACODE and ascilite have common interests, particularly investigation and dissemination of quality teaching and learning practices enhanced by information and communication technologies; and the provision of learning and teaching services and resources to a constituency with common aims.

The potential benefits of the proposed relationship include:

- Broader influence on policy and practice in higher education at international, national, regional and local levels;

- Effective use of resources including better use of the time of our members and representatives;

- Informed decision making using shared information and expertise; and

- Enhanced outcomes from events through cooperation and collaboration.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this agreement will be all staff and students of member institutions.

4. Mechanisms for Collaboration

To achieve these benefits ACODE and ascilite agree to:

- Exchange relevant information, data and expertise;

- Undertake cooperative projects;

- Develop joint submissions, when appropriate, to government enquiries and funding bodies;

- Negotiate the holding of combined workshops; and

- Mutually promote the activities of each organisation, such as workshops, conferences and other such events.

5. Cooperative Activities 2010-2011

ACODE and ascilite agree to actively seek ways to jointly contribute to and derive member benefits from collaborative activities that can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Investigate areas of common interest with a view to conducting joint activities;

- Agree on approaches to practices and standards which apply in common to the two groups;

- Undertake joint research and developmental projects;

- Collaborate and provide mutual support on national programs of common interest;

- ACODE to invite ascilite members to contribute ideas and practical examples for ACODE workshop topics**;**

- Investigate methods of communication and collaboration that could be utilised between memberships;

- Conduct joint workshops and share outcomes of workshops.

6. Management of the Alliance

The Presidents will meet either face to face or virtually at least twice a year for the purpose of reviewing progress on joint activities and the benefits of the alliance.

The Presidents of ACODE and ascilite will each nominate an officer who will be responsible for the administration of day to day activities to fulfil the agreement.

The Executives of ACODE and ascilite will annually develop a set of strategic goals aimed at achieving tangible and productive outcomes for both associations that will also be used as a means of assessing and evaluating the alliance at the end of each year.

The Executives of ACODE and ascilite will have an annual face to face or virtual meeting for the purpose of information sharing and identifying projects and other activities of mutual benefit.

ACODE and ascilite will be individually responsible for any costs incurred by their representatives and members when participating in joint activities, unless otherwise agreed.

7. Duration of the Agreement

This agreement is valid from 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2011, with the intention of annual renewal by negotiation between the parties.

ACODE	**ascilite**
Mr Gordon Suddaby	Professor Mike Keppel
President	President
Date:	Date: