An Overview of IRCU’s Activity – First Quarter 2003

Planning Web Portal
The Planning portal is now operational with key information about current activity: such as the 2003 Profile planning cycle, student outcomes (which provides information and analyses to the CEQ and SOS tools and reports).

Click in the link below:
RMIT Planning Group
Further information: Neil Wentworth neil.wentworth@rmit.edu.au

Profile Cycle
Staff from the IRCU contributed to the refinement of the 2003 RMIT Profile Cycle and the Profile information session conducted on 28th February.

Details of the current cycle can be found at:
http://www2.rmit.edu.au/departments/ircu/profiles.php
Further information: Jane Ponting jane.ponting@rmit.edu.au.

Industry Dossiers
The IRCU released eleven industry dossiers in December 2002. The compilation of the dossiers is a critical part of the profile planning process.

The draft dossiers have been updated as additional information has been obtained. Although these are still in draft form, it is expected that final versions will be available by May.

Staff who would like to look at these dossiers and comment on them are encouraged to do so and send any comments to David Garner david.garner@rmit.edu.au. Further consultations will be undertaken over the next two months.

These dossiers are available on the Planning portal.

Industry consultations
Four consultation sessions were held on industries featured in the dossiers in February, involving internal and external experts. A scenario planning methodology was used to identify some future directions for the industries under consideration.

The outcomes of these consultations are also on the Planning portal and were discussed at the Profile Information Session on February 28th.

Scenario Planning development and deployment
The IRCU has been working on a well-established management technique known as "scenario planning" and over recent weeks has trialled this approach with six separate groups. These groups have comprised RMIT internal participants as well as external participants and the sessions are intended to encourage users to think constructively about trends in the educational, economic and policy arenas.

This scenario planning methodology is intended to become part of the annual planning and profiles cycle.
Student feedback at the course level

VCE endorsed last January a proposal for piloting a student feedback mechanism at the course level.

The proposed pilot is developed for achieving stages of agreement across three phases of activity: 1) the development of agreed principles that refer to the nature of student feedback (at the course level) to be captured and how that information will be used; 2) developing a support framework that comprises procedures and agreed methods (and tools) for implementing principles, and 3) working with Faculties to pilot various approaches within an agreed implementation and support framework.

Reports on the pilot will be discussed within faculties and more widely across the institution. The outcomes of the pilot will include an agreed set of principles, tools and procedures for implementing and supporting student feedback to improve students’ experience of learning and teaching.

Further information: Josie Palermo josie.palermo@rmit.edu.au

Triple Bottom Line+1

The IRCU team is involved in the management of the TBL+1 project for the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Group Governance. Tasks have included: reviewing and updating TBL+1 measures for the 2002 Annual report; collation of data and commentary for the 2002 Annual Report; preparation of draft research projects; and, convening the TBL+1 Working Group.

Further information: David Rutherford david.rutherford@rmit.edu.au

Review of industry advisory structures

The IRCU will be undertaking a review of industry advisory structures, including the role of Program Advisory Committees and Adjunct Professors. Terms of reference are currently being written.

Please contact David Garner david.garner@rmit.edu.au for more information.

Pocket Stats

The IRCU in conjunction with the Statistics and Reporting Unit have compiled a volume of Statistics – 2002 Pocket Statistics, which provide a numerical overview of RMIT’s profile.

Further information: Andrew Brion Andrew.brion@rmit.edu.au.

Student Outcomes

The IRCU has focused on measurement of student outcomes. As part of the Planning Group website, the Unit has incorporated a number of analysis tools and reports.
relating to the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) and Student Outcomes Survey (SOS).

The Item by Item Analysis of CEQ and SOS allows users to track RMIT’s ratings for key scales across several years. This can be done at both the faculty and program level.

The other tool is the CEQ-XAnalyser Tool which uses an Excel interface to produce tabular and graphical outputs: it makes comparisons between institutions, fields of study and program levels. This tool is available to RMIT staff via the Planning portal.

A number of analyses about the Course Experience Questionnaire, Graduate Destination Survey and the Student Outcomes Survey are available on-line.

The IRCU is also developing an on-line cross tabular tool that can be used for analyzing the Graduate Destination Survey, Course Experience Questionnaire and the Student Outcomes Survey.
Further information: Neil Wentworth and Andrew Brion.

Other developments:

Budget review

The team has made a substantial commitment to participation in the RMIT Budget Review cycle. This has involved data preparation for all teams and participation in two teams.

School Review

The IRCU team has also contributed to the School Review that is currently underway. A number of focus groups have been conducted and the draft report is due to be available after Easter.

I.research newsletter & Environmental Scanning

First issue of i.research circulated and regular alerts continue to be disseminated. Some alerts circulated more generally whilst others are targeted – depending on the subject matter.

April 7, 2003