

ACDICT President's Report 2014–15

There has been growing visibility of the Council, with invitations to committees, working parties, speaking engagements, consultations and requests for articles.

Press releases

1. Press Release, new President and plans for 2014–15, July 2014
[Professor Iwona Miliszewska outlines ACDICT priorities for 2014–15](#)
2. Press release re proposed cuts to the ICT school curriculum 14 October 2014,
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/PressReleaseDTCurriculumCut141014IM.pdf>

Press release uptake of proposed ICT curriculum cuts October 2014

1. ITnews for Australian Business 14 October 2014:
http://www.itnews.com.au/News/396769.govt-promises-12-million-for-stem-in-schools.aspx?utm_source=feed&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=iTnews
2. Australian Financial Review 15 October 2014:
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/AFRreCurricCutsAndSTEM151014.pdf>
3. ITwire 15 and 16 October 2014
<http://www.itwire.com/government-tech-news/government-tech-policy/65707-proposed-%E2%80%99axing%E2%80%99-of-digital-tech-curriculum-causes-outrage>
<http://www.itwire.com/it-people-news/training/65728-mounting-anger-in-ict-industry-over-school-curriculum-review>
4. Gateway ICT 17 October 2014
<http://www.gatewayict.com.au/proposed-axing-of-digital-tech-curriculum-causes-outrage/>
5. Australian Financial Review 18 October 2014
http://www.afr.com/p/national/education/depriving_our_kids_of_the_digital_DeslhUtAsAWGZ48zDpTrBO

Other Press articles

1. President and EO interviewed 6 February 2015 by The Guardian re STEM and females
2. Guardian – Clare Porter Article concerned with the school influence affecting ICT career choice: awaiting publication information

Other articles

1. President Opinion Piece re the necessity of computing in the early curriculum. “Computational skills: the 4th literacy of the 21st century”, authored as ACDICT President, was published in the April 2015 edition of Australian Teacher (page 18, “The Hard Word” section: <http://issuu.com/tempomedia/docs/atm-april-2015>)
2. President’s article printed in the Australian Teacher Magazine was also published in Education HQ on 27 March, 2015:
<http://au.educationhq.com/news/15367/computational-skills-the-4th-literacy-of-the-21st-century/>
3. Past President article in The Conversation in May also arguing for coding in schools as part of 21st century education: <http://theconversation.com/an-education-for-the-21st-century-means-teaching-coding-in-schools-42046>

Letters

1. ACDICT Progress Report to all VCs, August/September 2014

2. Joint letter ACDICT and other key industry bodies to Chris Pyne and State Education Ministers re proposed ICT cuts to the school curriculum, December 2014
<http://www.acdict.edu.au/documents/20141202JointAllAletterToMinisterPyne.pdf>

Invited speaker

1. ACDICT President invited to speak at: Improving STEM Education and Skills Conference 11–12 February 2015, Melbourne
2. ACDICT President invited to speak at Industry Engagement and Employability conference to be held 26–27 August 2015 in Sydney.

Government meetings

1. Maurice Pagnucco met with Ryan Park, NSW Shadow Minister for Education to influence the NSW Opposition (Labour) ICT policy development, 11 Sept 2014

Government submissions

1. President submission to Information and Communications Technology Statistics Review, March 2015.

Consultation meetings

1. President met with ACS President and CEO re revised MoU between ACDICT and ACS, July 2014
2. President met with Suzanne Campbell AIIA President and her assistant Tim McKay to further AIIA and University collaboration, 22 August 2014
3. ACDICT Representatives at ACS CBoK Consultations, February onwards 2015
ACDICT President appointed to ACS CBoK Review Team, April onwards

International relations

1. ACDICT President met with Informatics Europe President Elect to pursue establishing mutually beneficial relations, June 2015

Industry liaison

1. President meeting with AIIA President, Suzanne Campbell, and Tim McKay, ICT Skills and Education Manager to consider further liaison, August 2014
2. Past President presented at BHERT Round Table: STEM Pipeline for the Digital Economy, 8 October 2014
3. ACDICT President appointment to the ACS ICT Educators Board, November 2014.
4. MoU with ACS signed by ACDICT President (Iwona Miliszewska) and ACS President (Brenda Aynsley) 6 February 2015. Available at: <http://acdict.edu.au/documents.htm>
5. President and EO met with new ACS CEO, Andrew Johnson, prior to signing MoU with ACS, 6 February 2015
6. President and EO met with AIIA President (Suzanne Campbell) to investigate ways of enhancing WIL and research collaboration between universities and industry, 6 February 2015
7. President and EO met with ACS Foundation Chief Executive (John Ridge) to further the development of “Foundation Jobs” to promote WIL more widely, 6 February 2015. Foundation Jobs which are distinct from ‘scholarships’ are to be imminently available at www.acsfoundation.com.au/foundationjobs or by contacting John Ridge directly: john.ridge@acsfoundation.com.au. A brief flyer is given at: <http://www.acdict.edu.au/documents/ACSF-FoundationJobs.pdf>

8. ACDICT involved in development of revised ACS CBOK from initial consultation meeting at UTS 26 February 2015
9. President invited by industry partners to Parliament House for the Budget Dinner 12 May 2015

Digital Careers

1. ACDICT Executive Member – Professor Paul Strooper – on National Board as of July 2014
2. Maurice Pagnucco Chair of NSW Digital Careers Advisory Board

Science and Technology Australia

1. EO represented ACDICT at the STA Science Meets Policymakers, 11 February 2015. Report at: <http://acdikt.edu.au/documents.htm>
2. ACDICT Deputy President, Professor Maurice Pagnucco and Professor Michael Thielscher from CSE UNSW attended Science meets Parliament 24–25 March 2015

Councils Liaison

1. EO working with ACED to acquire government ICT enrolment statistics similar to that collected by ACED July–Sept 2014
2. EO represented ACDICT at OLT Summit, Canberra 13 March 2015

Plans and Policies

1. The ACDICT Engagement Policy approved by Council in 2014 remains current <http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/RevisedACDICTEngagementPolicy080914IM.pdf>
2. Review of the ICT Skills Action Plan since Council adoption in July 2013; Version 3 approved by the Executive, June 2015.

ALTA Report

ALTA Forum

This sixth annual Forum was hosted by UC 9–10 April and attended by 34 delegates from 27 Australian universities with excellent evaluation results. There were 10 external presenters (including the Chief Scientist) and two workshops focusing on the ALTA priorities for 2014/15: WIL and Academic Standards (formerly called “Threshold Learning Outcomes”). Presentations and outcomes are given on the ACDICT website (<http://acdikt.edu.au/Events.htm>) along with the compiled evaluations.

WIL Workshop

The WIL workshop was organised and run by Tanya McGill (Murdoch University) and the report, analysis, summary and conclusion is given at:

<http://www.acdikt.edu.au/documents/TanyaWILWorkshopReportALTA2015.pdf>

WIL workshop Summary and Conclusion

Practices and issues raised by workshop participants included:

- It was common to have a final year team-based WIL for a client
- The ‘client’ was wide-ranging, internal or external
- Placements on a national level appear to be for the minority of students
- Students tend to choose non-placement options

- Difficulty of specifying, guaranteeing, and assessing learning outcomes for placements
- WIL requires faculty or central structured and financial support
- Other issues include: international student placements; work-load of academic WIL coordinator; sourcing projects in rural areas; preparing students for placement

Whilst this workshop provided a valuable initial opportunity for sharing, it was clear that further opportunities to discuss and share good practice with respect to WIL would be welcome. This would allow ICT Learning and Teaching Champions to further reflect on the practices in their own universities and help identify the approaches worth sharing. The recent Graduate Outlook (2014: http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/wpcontent/uploads/2015/06/Graduate_Outlook_2014.pdf) supports the need for further undergraduate WIL activities.

Academic Standards workshop

The Academic Standards workshop was organised and run by Steve Drew (Griffith University) and the summary and conclusions are as follows and given at: <http://www.acdict.edu.au/documents/ReportAcademicStandardsWorkshopALTAforum2015.pdf>

Academic Standards workshop summary and conclusions

- ALTA participants agreed that there was a need for a detailed and up-to-date ICT academic standards statement
- Participants identified the major sub-disciplines of ICT going forward as Information Technology, Information Systems, Multimedia, Computer Science, Software Engineering, and Computer Engineering
 - For each of these sub-disciplines a set of threshold learning outcomes has started to be developed
- Participant input was gathered and incorporated into creating an up to date and future sensitive statement of the nature and extent of ICT
 - The next draft will be sent out to self-nominated ALTA members for review
- Participants engaged with defining the sorts of learning outcomes that students ought to be able to demonstrate in capstone and pre-capstone units
 - The exercise served to focus participants on the sorts of assessable skills and knowledge that capstone units in ICT might exemplify

This workshop engaged participants in the conversation about the need for a strong academic standards statement for ICT. As a group the shortcomings of the existing documents (ALTC LTAS project report, ACS documentation, SFIA, and curriculum descriptions) to inform a new academic standards statement were recognized. It was apparent that collaboration on developing standards was a key step in ensuring a usable solution. Participants were asked to self-nominate to contribute to the development of the new standards statement and to being part of a peer review of assessment network (PRAN) for the application of those standards to programs and units. 20 participants signed up to assist in developing and reviewing the next ICT academic standards draft. 10 participants nominated to take part in an ICT_PRAN in the future.

An OLT seed grant application has been developed based on ALTA member inputs to develop and 'test' the draft academic standards.

It is apparent that this area of development will be of interest to ALTA participants into the future.

Conventicles

ACDICT provided support to 2 Conventicles concerned with learning and teaching in ICT; one held in South East Queensland (7 Nov 2014, 12 attendees) and the other in Canberra (1 Dec 2014, 11 attendees).

Academic Resource Network for Engineering and ICT Australia

(ARNEIA): <http://arneia.edu.au/>

ACDICT continues to support this website through curation by the ACDICT EO. It was originally funded by the ALTC and OLT for the Engineering and ICT Network (and partly by ACDICT), ARNEIA is a website developed to support educators and enhance learning and teaching in Engineering and ICT by providing convenient access to:

- A directory of contacts with discipline-based learning and teaching champions
- Resources created by academics
- Academic projects that are in progress or have been completed
- Funding opportunities from various organisations
- News of recent significant developments
- A calendar of learning and teaching events
- Exemplars of teaching practices

Executive meetings

Following the Annual Executive Meeting at the end of the Annual Council Meeting at UNSW in 2014, there were four ACDICT Ordinary Executive meetings (as required by the Constitution) chaired by the President, with most attendees present via Skype:

1. Swinburne, 26 September 2014
2. Canberra, 21 November 2014
3. Swinburne, 13 February 2015
4. Canberra, 10 April 2015 following the ALTA Forum

Iwona Miliszewska
July 2015