

**COMMITTEE OF CHAIRS OF ACADEMIC BOARDS/SENATES
OF UNIVERSITIES IN NSW AND THE ACT**

MEETING (06/2)

15 JUNE 2006

Item 3 Report on HSC 'All my own work'

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES

'HSC: All My Own Work' – an online program on ethical scholarship

Background

The report on the HSC Tutoring Allegations Review made a number of recommendations concerning the HSC Assessment Program. The Board endorsed the recommendations contained in the report in October 2005, and the associated action plan in December 2005.

The Premier announced several of these measures on 28 February 2006. One of these was the development of an online course for students in ethical scholarship. A steering committee with composition similar to that of a Board Curriculum Committee has been constituted to oversee the development of the program, and the project brief for *HSC: All My Own Work* was endorsed by the Board of Studies on 9 May 2006. The program will be available through the Board's website and in pen and paper format from November 2006.

Program content

The HSC: All My Own Work program is designed to strengthen the capacity of HSC students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship, including understanding and valuing ethical practices related to locating and using information as part of their HSC program.

The program will consist of a number of modules which can be accessed online in a flexible, self paced mode. Each module will have an assessment or quiz component. A print format of the program will also be developed. An outline of the content is provided overleaf. There is a link between the program content and the mandatory 7 – 10 curriculum, particularly mandatory syllabus outcomes and content related to information literacy knowledge and skills. It is expected that the program will take between 5 and 10 hours to complete, approximately one – two hours per module.

Program completion and certification

The program will apply to the 2008 HSC student cohort. Each student is required to satisfactorily complete the material contained in the program before commencing their HSC program of study.

Certification of program completion is to be modelled on the requirements for satisfactory completion of Board courses, modified to reflect the fact that the program is not a course *per se*. Thus a student will be considered to have satisfactorily completed the program if, in the principal's view, there is sufficient evidence that the student has:

- (a) systematically addressed the content covered by the program; and
- (b) applied themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the program by the school; and
- (c) achieved some or all of the program outcomes.

The development of the program has emphasised the importance of building on existing programs in schools and providing flexibility in delivery. The material can be delivered through a specific concentrated program and/or embedded within broader teaching and learning contexts. Principals will be able to deem that program outcomes have been met through equivalent programs, allowing for the provision of Recognition of Prior Learning and possibly assisting in relation to students who transfer to the school in Years 11 or 12.

Certification processes

An entry and certification facility for the *HSC: All My Own Work* program will be created in Schools Online. This will allow the tracking of students who may complete the course at different times, e.g., in Year 10 or in Year 11. It is proposed that principals will certify as part of the HSC entry process that all HSC students at their school have satisfactorily completed the program.

Program outline*

1. Scholarship Principles and Practices

- *What are the principles and practices of good scholarship?*
- *What are the rights and responsibilities of students in ensuring the intellectual integrity of their work?*
- *What is malpractice?*
- *Why do people cheat?*
- *Why is it wrong to cheat?*
- *What are the consequences of cheating in the HSC?*

2. Acknowledging Sources

- *Why is it important to acknowledge sources appropriately?*
- *What are the moral rights of authors?*
- *What is the difference between a reference list and a bibliography?*
- *What is attribution?*
- *When is it appropriate to use quotation marks, footnotes, or end notes?*

3. Plagiarism

- *What is plagiarism?*
- *What is the difference between intended and unintended plagiarism?*
- *What strategies can be employed to avoid plagiarism?*
- *How is plagiarism detected?*
- *What are the implications for plagiarism of accessing information from the internet?*

4. Copyright

- *What is copyright?*
- *What is the Copyright Act and how is it relevant for students?*
- *Why is it important to respect the intellectual property of others?*
- *How does copyright work in a digital environment and what are digital rights?*
- *How is copyright related to music and images found on digital media and the internet?*

5. Working with others

- *Is it appropriate for students to seek assistance with their assignments from others?*
- *What is collusion and how might it be relevant for the HSC?*
- *How can students appropriately acknowledge the assistance of others?*
- *What are the benefits of producing your own work?*
- *What strategies can be used to ensure appropriate collaboration in a group work context?*

** Cross module perspectives:*

- i Respect and responsibility*
- ii The internet as a source of information*

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