



SIEC-ISBE: 82th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010
Albury Wodonga, Australia, 18 – 23 July, 2010

PEDAGOGICAL PROGRAM

S14 - Seminar

Title	An investigation of the challenges of cross faculty curriculum design at La Trobe: Lessons from experience
Presenter's Name	Sue O'Keefe
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Presenter's Complete Address	University Drive WODONGA VIC 3690
Presenter's expertise or experiences that relate to proposal topic	Dr O'Keefe led a project team that developed and delivered a new cross disciplinary subject addressing climate change and sustainability. She is Associate Head of the Regional School of Business at La Trobe University.
Description of Session Content	<p>This seminar reports upon the findings of a pilot project that was designed to trial the development, delivery and evaluation of an innovative cross campus cross disciplinary subject, Climate, Sustainability and Society.</p> <p>Main findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The interdisciplinary approach was, overall, a great success. It was embedded in the curriculum and students responded positively to this. The alternative of allocating a discrete block of time to each faculty to teach discipline-specific fundamentals was rejected.• The series of three public lectures integrated into the subject was very successful as it engaged students in a public debate.• Interdisciplinary teaching is possible with goodwill, but it relies on clear communication and collaboration between academic staff. Arguably, this is easier to achieve on small regional campuses.• The University is currently not set up for cross faculty subjects. Many institutional barriers exist. Processes need to be changed if cross-faculty subjects are to become the norm.• Building-in a comprehensive evaluation process has made possible more precise adaptation and fine-tuning for 2010.



Objectives of session	1. To share the findings of the pilot project that trialled the development of a cross faculty subject, Climate, Sustainability and Society. 2. To identify impediments to the development of similar subjects.
Session attendees should be able to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain information about the issues surrounding the delivery of a new subject, climate, Sustainability and Society.
Audience	Practitioners
Handouts (to be distributed at session by presenter)	No
Remarks	