DEEWR – Learning and Teaching Excellence Branch

Grants Information Session

November 2011
Grant and Award Application Process

1. Call for EoI for citation/award and grant applications (November – December 2011)

2. First draft goes to Colleges for assistance (late January 2012)

3. Revised draft comes to LTU and we establish a Review Panel to provide feedback and assistance (February 2012)

4. Final draft submitted to University Selection Panel (late March 2012)

5. Submission of citation applications in April and grant applications in April and October to DEEWR.
2011 Programs and Engagement Overview

• Three Grants Programs in 2011
  – Innovation and Development Grants ($5.5m)
    – Competitive Grants and Priority Projects rolled into one
  – Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching ($1.5m grants, $500K for professional development program)
  – Strategic Priority Projects ($1.5m)

• Other initiatives
  – Extension grants
  – Synthesis projects
  – Engagement activities
Grants programs — 2011 initiatives

• Extension grants
  – Previously Extension Grants, up to $10,000 for completed projects to disseminate or embed their findings.

• Synthesis projects ‘ALTC Best Practice in…’
  – Summary and synthesis of best practice drawing on ALTC grants, national and international best practice. Identify gaps and opportunities in topic.
  – Range of significant topics, for example:
    – Support for international students
    – Teaching large classes
    – Widening student participation
    – English language proficiency
  – Funding of $25,000
Grants Assessment processes — 1

• The assessment of proposals was undertaken with:
  – considering if a proposal complies with the requirements set out in the Guidelines;
  – assigning assessors to review proposals; and
  – ranking each proposal relative to the others on the basis of the assessors’ reports.

• Assessors were drawn from across the sector, through institutional nomination, citation and award recipients, project leaders and so on
Grants Assessment processes — 2

• The assessment of project proposals was against:
  – the criteria set for the project,
  – the quality of the design, value for money,
  – the importance of the outcomes proposed in the context of the ALTC’s mission, objectives and responsibilities, and the capacity of the project team to deliver the outcomes proposed.

• All project proposals are grouped according to the priority and/or discipline area which they address.

• At least two assessors review each application within these groupings, rating them on a scale from 1 to 5 (where 5 is the highest).
Grants Assessment processes — 3

- Applications within the lowest range, and those with significant variations in their assessment, are reviewed by a second pair of assessors to confirm a final rating.

- Assessors meet to discuss their evaluations and make joint recommendations. In the case of moderation, all four assessors will agree upon a recommendation.

- Standing Committees had reviewed recommendations and made final decisions.
Innovation and Development Grants - 2011 Priorities

• Academic standards
• Assessment and the promotion of student learning
• Curriculum renewal
• Improving tertiary pathways
• Innovation and development in learning and teaching, including in relation to the role of new technologies
• Internationalisation
• Strategic approaches to learning and teaching which enhance student access and progression, and respond to student diversity
• Research and development focusing on issues of emerging and continuing importance
Leadership Program

- Priority one: institutional leadership to enhance learning and teaching through leadership capacity-building at the institutional level
  - Funding range: $150,000 to $220,000
  - Project duration: up to 2 years

- Priority two: disciplinary and cross-disciplinary leadership to enhance learning and teaching through leadership capacity building in discipline structures, communities of practice and cross-disciplinary networks.
  - Funding range: $80,000 to $220,000
  - Project duration: up to 2 years
Leadership Program

– Priority three: consolidating leadership by building on the outcomes of projects funded in earlier years under the Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Program.
  – Funding range: $80,000 to $150,000
  – Project duration: up to 1.5 years

• Two general calls for project proposals occurred in 2011.
Strategic Priority Projects

• Commissioned investigations/projects to respond to key issues in sector identified on an annual basis but to be added to as issues emerge

• Put out as calls for proposals — same guidelines and requirements as for other grants programs
  – $1.5 million in funding
Strategic Priority Projects: first topics

1. Investigating equity and student support in Australian higher education
2. External moderation of coursework assessment
3. Principles for assessment and assurance of graduate learning outcomes
4. Evidence of outcomes from higher education teaching preparation programs

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