

JMP Review: Report on Progress

In May 2011, a Steering Group met to initiate the process of review of the JMP curriculum. Membership of this group includes Faculty, School and student representatives from the University of New England and the University of Newcastle.

A Discussion Paper proposing a new curriculum was prepared, and members of the Steering Group were asked to meet with key internal and external stakeholders in order to ensure an informed and grounded approach to the renewal process. During the period July to September, a number of meetings were held/groups consulted.

Individuals and groups were also encouraged to comment by email and several submissions were received. Notes from all meetings and other feedback were made available to Steering Group members in early October.

A curriculum renewal website was established, enabling general access to documentation including the discussion paper. Regular progress updates were also published on this website, as well as a link to a dedicated email address for comment. Information on the renewal process was also published on Blackboard and in regular staff and student newsletters.

On Friday 14 October, The Steering Group met to consider the feedback received. In response to this feedback, a revised curriculum was presented.

Key features of the revised proposed curriculum are:

- Retention of a 5 year program with an optional one year 'extended student pathway' leading to a Master's award. This pathway comprises a number of student-selected options, such as research, education, Indigenous health, global health, surgery and rural medicine.
- Longitudinal themes throughout the 5 year curriculum. Proposed themes are 'Professional', 'Scholarship' and 'Community'.
- Retention of Problem Based Learning in Years 1 and 2, introduction of Patient Centred Learning in Year 3.
- Clinical rotations with a minimum duration of 8 weeks and making better use of the 7 day week, incorporating medical science teaching, laboratory simulation and competency based learning.
- Full year courses incorporating modules of intensive study followed by formative or summative assessment, feedback and opportunities for remediation within the year.

A JMP mission and Graduate Profile were discussed at the 14 October meeting and will be developed to complement the curriculum.

After a further period of discussion and debate with major stakeholders, a Curriculum Renewal Retreat will be held on Friday 25 November, at which agreement to the curriculum proposal will be sought and the process of detailed curriculum development initiated. The curriculum implementation date is February 2014.