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Scientia Education Investment Fund Grants

Progress Report (in lieu of final report)

17 January

Developing a Model for Integrated Practical Legal Training at
UNSW Law.

Faculty of Law

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I. Progress

1.1 Progress against specified outcomes and deliverables

The two specified outcomes of the SEIF-funded phase of the project were an interim and a final report, to be delivered by the Consultant (PWC) and considered by the Faculty Leadership Group (FLG). At this point in time, at the conclusion of this SEIF-funded phase of the project, I can report that both of these outcomes were met on time. The first, interim, report, was provided by PWC and on the strength of the FLG's consideration of this report a second, and final, interim report was commissioned and itself delivered on time.

1.2 Progress against milestones

As discussed above, the relevant milestones of the SEIF-funded phase of the project were met — and in good time. After the consideration of the final report by the FLG and discussion by the wider Faculty towards the end of last year, the decision was made to progress with offering a new Practical Legal Training (PLT) program in 2019 and on the strength of this a business case was made to the Professional Assurance Board (and was duly approved).

1.3 Outcomes and impact

The initial outcome of the SEIF-funded phase of the project was that the Faculty was provided with expert guidance on matters of market sizing, competitors, accreditation requirements and program structure for a new PLT program — expertise (in an entirely new area) that was lacking internal to the Faculty and which provided us with a sound basis for making a decision to progress to PAB and then to deliver and launch the PLT program in 2019.

The ultimate outcome (of the PAB-funded phase of the project) will be a new Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, an AQF Level 8 degree with 8 courses (mixture of face-to-face intensive and online delivery) that the Faculty will look to launch in Term 3 under the new academic calendar in 2019. Initially we will admit UNSW LLB and JD graduates but look in the longer term to attract students from competitor institutions (Sydney and Macquarie).

2. Issues and Challenges

The major issue that the SEIF-funded phase of the project faced was the tight turnaround for the delivery of the two reports and their proper consideration by the FLG and wider Faculty. This issue was mitigated greatly, and ultimately resolved, by the project management timelines built into the project (ie the reference group meetings and weekly 'touch-bases' with the PWC consultants).

