COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
FINAL REPORT ON GRANT 2015

Title of Project: Using evaluation data to improve teaching

Project team: Clinton Golding and Lee Adams, HEDC

Amount Awarded: $5502

Amount spent: $2,804.84

Aims of Project: This project aims to identify strategies for how we might use evaluation data to improve our teaching.

Summary of project: We are frequently encouraged to evaluate our teaching, but it is rarely made clear how we might use evaluation data in order to improve our teaching. We report our evaluation data for quality assurance and promotion purposes, yet how can we use this data to actually improve our teaching? There is a mysterious black box between the data we gather and the changes and improvements we make in our teaching, and we have no explicit understanding of what goes on in this black box. In this article, we shine a light in this box. We interviewed groups of experienced university teachers, to make explicit the various ways that they used evaluations to improve their thinking. We found that experienced teachers had particular attitudes or ways of approaching their evaluation data, a process they followed, as well as a range of strategies they employed. We argue that improving teaching on the basis of evaluation is a matter of both attitude and strategies. To use evaluations to improve teaching is first a matter of a taking developmental, formative attitude towards evaluation results. But once you have the appropriate/effective attitude the strategies certainly help. We outline these attitudes, processes and strategies to support tertiary teachers to use evaluation data to improve their thinking.

Methods of project: We interviewed experienced teachers about how they improve their teaching and used this data to develop a set of guidelines for improving teaching. This set of guidelines has been published as an article, and offered in various forms in several staff workshops, as well as forming the basis of advice given to staff by the evaluations team of the HEDC.

Outputs: Article in a top general Higher Education journal *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education.*

Evaluate to improve: useful approaches to student evaluation

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02602938.2014.976810#abstract

Signature:

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