

Academic workforce 2020: Framing a national agenda for professionalising university teaching

Chi Baik

University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

cbaik@unimelb.edu.au

Victoria Millar

University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

victoria.millar@unimelb.edu.au

This presentation showcases a national initiative commissioned by the Australian Office for Learning and Teaching, to develop a national framework and evidence-based resources to support universities in raising the professionalism of higher education teaching. The framework was developed drawing on international knowledge of effective teaching, experience in the introduction of professional standards frameworks, exemplary Australian case studies and broad consultation with the sector. The Australian higher education sector is undergoing a period of major transformation. The uncapping of undergraduate places to create a demand-driven system has set Australia on the path towards universal participation. The changes to the character of the tertiary education system will be far-reaching and are presently barely understood. Not least among the changes will be new conceptions of academic work and new academic roles designed as a response to more competitive markets, and larger and more diverse student cohorts with new educational needs. In addition to these changes in the higher education landscape, there has been growing concern in the sector with the demography of the academic workforce and the changing character of academic work, including the casualisation of teaching and the perennial issue of the limited support for teaching career development. In this session, we present the key dimensions of the Framework for Professionalising University Teaching and discuss the steps necessary at both a national and institutional level to advance teaching professionalism within the context of academic work overall including research, scholarship, and engagement and leadership.