

Delivering a Joint Medical Program

A Student Administration Perspective



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Presenters

- One Bachelor of Medicine curriculum
- One Governance structure
- Taught at two different campuses:
 - University of Newcastle Callaghan
 - University of New England Armidale

Joint Medical Program



- 2006 – Government announced expansion of medical training
- Newcastle's request for more places was not approved
- UNE did not have ties to a major teaching hospital

But really, why?

- One curriculum
- One delivery platform
- One admission process
- One assessment process
- One Dean



What do we mean by 'joint'?



Footprint

- Over 100 undergraduate programs, extensive choice of postgraduate programs
- Over 39,000 students
- 117 nationalities
- Multi-campus
- Five Faculties



University of Newcastle

- Australia's 2nd oldest city
- Approximately 145,000 people
- Coastal NSW city
- 7th largest city in Australia



Newcastle

- University is 12km inland
- World's largest coal exporting port
- Sand from Stockton dunes is exported to Hawaii
- Newcastle used to have Australia's largest tram network – yes bigger than Melbourne



Newcastle



- Australia's first regional university
- Five-star ratings
- 21,000+ students in 10 schools
- Regional Study Centres & Future Campus



University of New England



- Halfway between Sydney and Brisbane
- 2 ½ hours to the beach
- Population of close to 27,000
- Elevation of 980 metres



Armidale

- Beautiful seasons
- Temperatures -5 to 30 degrees
- 2 sets of traffic lights
- UNE largest employer



Armidale

- Two different student systems
- Two different sets of policies and procedures
- Two different governance structures
- Completely different terminology



Bringing the two together

UoN

- Program
- Course
- Combined program
- Double degree program

UNE

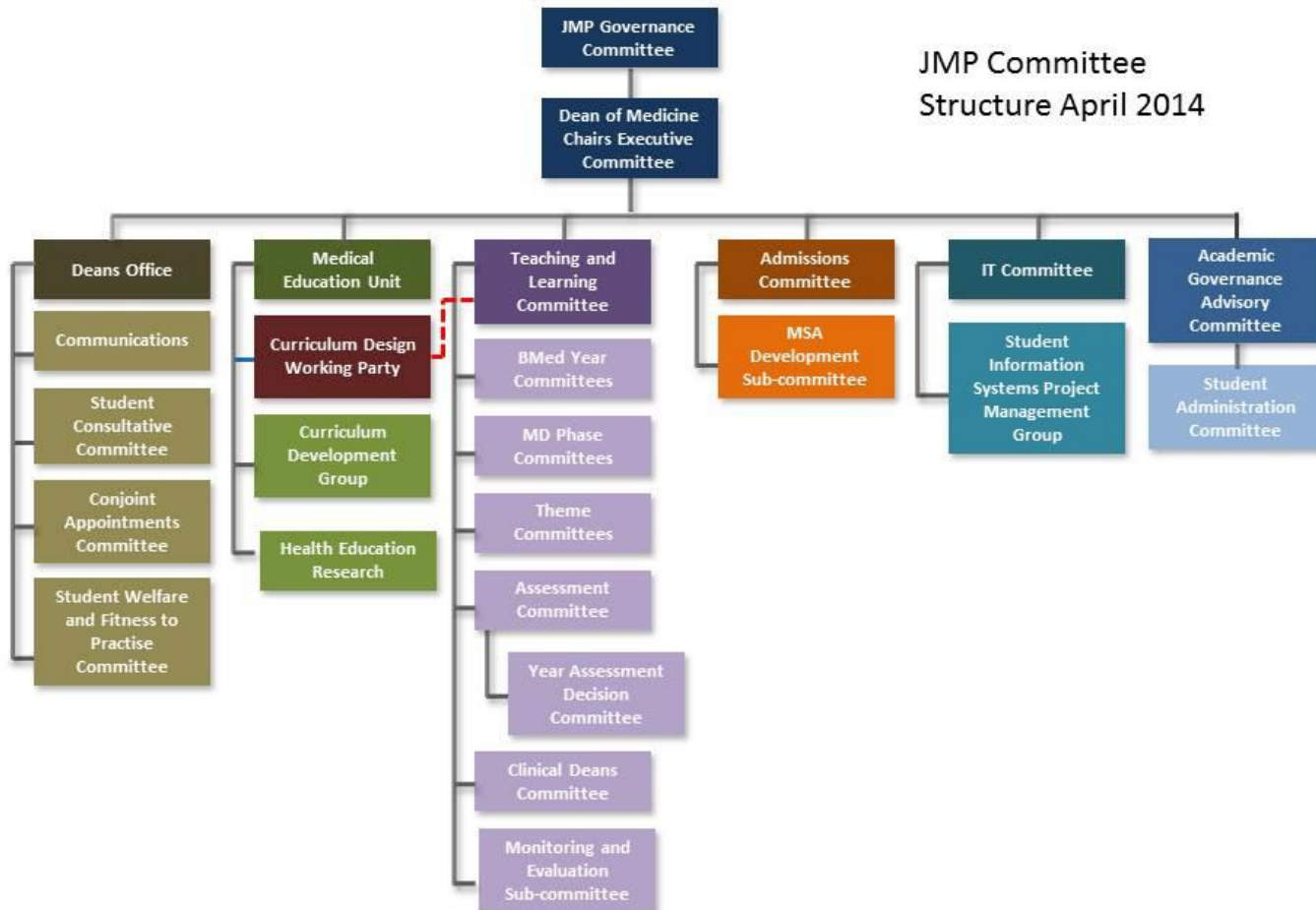
- Courses
- Unit
- Double degree
- Combined degree

Terminology

- Separation from the mainstream
- Absolute buy in from all parties
- Regular liaison
- Briefing the stakeholders

Getting the program together

JMP Committee Structure April 2014



Governance

- Two student administration teams
- Two different student systems
- Two sets of policies & procedures that needed to be brought into one set
- Different terminology
- Building relationships

Student Administration View

- One UAC code – 780000
- Applicants apply via UAC and a direct admission process
- Indicate preference for location – UNE or UoN
- Sit the UMAT & Multiple Skills Assessments & Personal Qualities Assessment
- Offers are made via UoN for both institutions on approval of the Dean
- Offer is based on the location & may be bonded

Case Study: Admissions

- Examinations need to be held same time and day on both campuses
- Exam periods are different at each campus
- There are already scheduling restrictions for medicine exams...



Case Study: Exam Scheduling

- Initially UNE printed some exam papers and UoN printed some exam papers
- New process: UoN print and send all papers – costs shared
- Where are the papers?



Case Study: Exam Papers

- Each university has a set of policies and procedures
- JMP policies and procedures were developed together
- Specific JMP policies for appeal against final grade, rules concerning the Dean of Medicine, Governing the Administration of Assessment Items, Student Placements, Special Circumstances affecting Assessment Items

Policies

- UoN
 - Fail 50% or more or fail a compulsory program component
 - Students may be:
 - Warned
 - Have conditions placed on enrolment
 - Suspended from program
 - Excluded from program or Faculty
- UNE
 - Based on GPA
 - Students may be:
 - Warned
 - Have conditions placed on enrolment
 - Excluded from the course

Review of Progress Policy

- Fail more than 50% or more or fail a mandatory program component
- Students can be:
 - Warned
 - Have conditions placed on their enrolment
 - Suspended
 - Excluded

JMP Review of Progress Policy

- Membership from both universities
- Brings together Managers of key student administration areas such as admissions, enrolments, examinations, systems, graduations...
- Reports to the Executive Committee

Student Administration Committee

- Regular meetings
- Annual face to face meeting at Port Macquarie
- Agenda covers changes to policy, updates on curriculum, staffing changes
- JMP “Quick News” newsletter sent regularly to relevant parties

Student Administration Committee

- Procedure manual developed to help guide staff through processes
- Names the roles responsible in both institutions for each action
- Ensures consistency

Student Administration Processes

3 ADMISSIONS:

3.1 UAC Code – 780000

3.2 Selection Algorithm

Background	UAC requires an institution to specify their criteria for assessing admission to each program. An algorithm dictates the criteria by which an admission rank is calculated for each qualification for each program.
Action	AAR Health (UoN) to sign off on an annual check forwarded by UAC and to provide a copy to UNE Senior Admissions Officer
Contact (UoN)	AAR Health
Contact (UNE)	Coordinator, Admissions & Advanced Standing

3.3 Online Direct Application Database

Background	The Online Direct Application database is a UoN in-house database that collects information for each admission period on applicants and assists in assessing eligibility.
Action	System maintenance is scheduled annually by the B Med PO and AAR Health (UoN). Applications are entered by prospective students online and reports are provided as needed by the B Med PO (UoN) Reports are to be provided to School of RM
Contact (UoN)	B Med PO
Contact (UNE)	Academic Manager, School of RM

8.3 Graduation Ceremony

Background	Graduates of the B Med JMP will be invited to attend a graduation ceremony for the B Med at the institution where they were enrolled. Graduates of the B Med JMP will not be permitted to attend a graduation ceremony at the other institution. 2013 saw the first JMP students graduate.
Requirements	No changes required to current processes.
Action	Each institution to continue with current processes.
Contact (UoN)	Manager, Graduation and Prizes
Contact (UNE)	Graduation & Timetabling Coordinator

- Students have graduated successfully from the program at both locations



Successful implementation



What's next?

- B Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine
- Pending Australian Medical Council accreditation – implementation in 2016
- Innovative program
- Remains a joint program

A new degree!!!

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<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program>

Questions?