

THE MORNING *LaTTe*

LaTTe's NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

The Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group (LaTTe) provides connectivity between Senate Education Committee, ITDS, schools and academic units to identify and promote technologies that facilitate learning and teaching at Western.

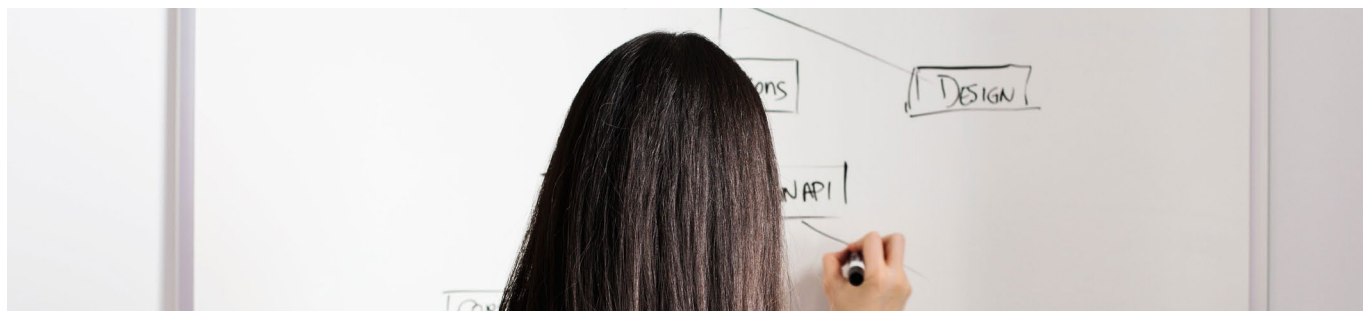
Welcome to our monthly newsletter, and if you would like to know more or get involved, contact your [LaTTe representative](#).



LaTTe Workplan

As LaTTe wraps up 2023 and looks ahead, in our December meeting we got together to discuss the LaTTe workplan and what the focus areas for 2024 will be. The advisory group will continue to:

1. Seek and consider advice from academic areas and expert practitioners on education driven technology needs and recommend how these could be best met (NB: LaTTe may establish an Expert Reference Group to ascertain academic need and technological capabilities, to inform its work);
2. Guide the strategic directions and use of learning technologies to ensure that they meet learning and teaching needs;
3. Act as a single point of review and make recommendations on applications to implement new learning technologies or change existing technologies within the university IT architecture domain;
4. Provide advice to ITDS to ensuring alignment between IT solutions, services and change with the needs of teaching and learning;
5. Initiate reviews, projects and policies which advance the effective use of technology to support learning and teaching;
6. Make recommendations to the DVC(A), Academic Senate's Education Committee and other University Officers about learning technologies, university-wide systems and policies supporting learning and teaching.



LaTTe Workplan

The table below offers a more detailed look at the actions LaTTe will be taking in 2024.

Subject	Action to be taken
Advise on requirements and transition arrangements for the Learning Ecosystem, ensuring equitable access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provide guidance on Learning Ecosystem requirements.▶ Advise on transition arrangements to the new Digital Learning Ecosystem.
Advance the effective use of technology to support learning and teaching (including Generative AI) to deliver equitable student outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Champion pedagogy-led technology-rich learning and teaching.▶ Promote evidence-based decision making in the use of technology in teaching and learning.▶ Guide the implementation of the TEL Strategic Plan.▶ Commission the development of projects/workshops to meaningfully impact the teaching and learning.▶ Identify and promote methods to personalise learning for students.▶ Support the building of academic integrity literacy for staff and students.
Encourage the use of analytics in teaching and learning practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Further expand the provision of analytics reports in vUWS and staff capabilities to apply insights.▶ Leverage artificial intelligence in providing insights to staff and students.
Consult on guidelines and policies supporting the use of technology in teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Review policies as they reference technology-enabled-learning, learning technologies or educational technology, and identify gaps or inconsistencies.▶ Consider proposals for Guidelines or Policies as requested by Senate Education Committee.
Support flipped and online delivery teaching and learning practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Champion methodologies to reduce educational disadvantage.▶ Guide the strategic direction of the expansion of the Learn2Learn module that develops students' self-regulated-learning skills.▶ Oversee the further development of the Online Engagement and Teaching Hub to help instructors design learning activities that engage learners in different modalities.



Blackboard Learn & LMS Update

Daniel Collins from TEL presented to the group about research that was conducted into whether Western students use or are aware of the Blackboard Learn app.

The question arose from prior LaTTe discussions and the potential inconsistencies in the student experience between what vUWS (the Blackboard LMS) and the Blackboard Learn app offered in terms of visual appearance and accessibility to other supporting products and LTI's.

The research conducted via interviews and an online survey to Western students showed that while it was from a very small sample size, a majority of students are unaware of the Blackboard Learn app and they felt that overall, their learning experience is consistent. Their main frustrations coming from not being able to find certain materials quickly or information about their grades and course progression at-a-glance.

This led to a focus group workshop run by TEL's Andrew Wagstaffe about Western's current learning ecosystem; looking at what works, and what improvements academics would like to see in future updates. LaTTe members offered their insights and experiences which, combined with the results from the student survey will form part of any proposal or report that covers the learning ecosystem.



FeedbackFruits

FeedbackFruits is an assessment and feedback platform that offers users a variety of tools. Following on from the October meeting, it has now been suggested to expand the Proof of Concept to include the entire University.

Initially, two of the fifteen tools offered by FeedbackFruits; Peer Review and Group Member Evaluation, were going to be included in the PoC, but the question was raised about whether there is any interest in utilising the other tools as well.

For more information about FeedbackFruits, please contact [Rhoda O'Higgins](#).

UBN Rollout

The Ultra-Base Navigation (UBN) Rollout remained scheduled for rollover on 16 December 2023, a few days after the December LaTTe meeting.

Keen to know more?

Contact your **LaTTe representative** or visit [LaTTe's webpage](#).