THETA

The Higher Education Technology Agenda

Balancing Teaching, Research and Administration: who knew Policy Administration was the answer? A suggestion for policy collaboration

Educators, Administrators, IT specialists and researchers will benefit from attending this presentation.

In Universities today there is a growing gap between what staff are being required to do and the time to do it across Research, Teaching, Administration and collaboration. The gap is set to increase, with external pressures such as government changes, increasing competition, new models of higher education enabled by technology and more external data and compliance requirements – a recent study found $26M is spent by the Universities every single year reporting the information needed by government.

To survive and thrive in this environment traditional responses such as policy changes, new administrative process, additional controls and committees may be less effective. Universities are having and wanting to embrace a combination of innovation and efficiency to remain agile.

In this presentation, Nigel Prior will be joined by Stuart Ainsworth, the Deputy Director of Business Intelligence for the University of South Australia. They will demonstrate how both these innovation and efficiency challenges can be met, beyond reducing and simplifying policies and procedures, with the use of a tool that introduces flexibility and closes the gap between Research, Teaching and Administration. And this doesn't mean transferring the pressure to Administration staff!

Already this tool has shown its worth in other sectors where compliance, policy, risk, 'paperwork' and government compliance and reporting are commonplace. In higher education it is already been designed for career advice, eligibility assessment, academic

promotion, and scoring of potential HDR students.

- There are 3 key takeaways from this presentation:
  It is possible to significantly decrease the cost of complying with university processes and policies, through use of innovative technologies to automate the implementation of those policies. This will help Universities focus on teaching and research outcomes. It will also reduce significant administration pressures for all staff.
- Using policy and business rules in a Policy automation engine provides greater agility to support anticipated change, enabled by administration staff, without large IT costs.
- By sharing some automated policies and processes within the sector, Universities will benefit from cost savings and ensure that Australian Universities continue to deliver high quality education.

Come and visit NEC on Stand 6 and vote on the policy you'd most like to see simplified, and find out more about NEC's broad capability within the higher education ecosystem.

Nigel Prior and Stuart Ainsworth
NEC and University of South Australia

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