1. BACKGROUND

The Competitive Grants Scheme in 2011 has been developed to align with the strategic directions of the Academic Plan 2010-2014.

2. CRITERIA

Projects funded under the Competitive Grants Scheme in 2011 must demonstrate the following:

1. Project Outcomes and Rationale

   Clearly articulated outcomes and a clear argument demonstrating how the project will address one of the following priorities:

   i. Teaching standards

      Macquarie has recently led an ALTC Grant to develop a Teaching Standards Framework (please link to http://www.mq.edu.au/provost/activities/research/teachingquality.html)

      The aim of this Competitive project will be to use the Teaching Standards Framework to identify areas of excellence and/or areas for development across one or more criteria within one or more themes.

      They should apply the Framework and:

      * Develop a strategy to enhance performance, and/or
      * Develop a means of showcasing excellence

   ii. Assessment and promotion of student learning

      Applications should propose an examination of one or more of the following:
      - moderation of assessment in a Capstone Unit
      - developmental, diagnostic and summative assessment and feedback to students
      - assessing postgraduate coursework students
      - assessing students in practice settings
      - innovative models of assessment and reporting student achievement
      - evaluation of the impact of the new Assessment Policy on student engagement and student learning outcomes
      - revision of assessment practices in the context of curriculum renewal
      - assessment practices in the context of internationalisation

   iii. Curriculum renewal

      Applications should propose to develop and model contemporary curricula that meet student and employer needs and provide the basis for ongoing personal and professional development for
students. Curriculum development/renewal proposals should integrate content-focused discipline
developments with learning and teaching innovations and address key issues such as:
- the future direction and coverage of programs of study
- re-positioning or re-shaping of discipline-based courses
- promotion of cross- inter- or trans- disciplinary programs and pedagogies
- inclusivity
- implementation of Work-Integrated Learning or PACE into a unit
While projects may develop new innovations where appropriate, emphasis should be given to the
creative application of existing innovations in learning and teaching in higher education and should
be of value to the discipline, faculty or University as a whole. Proposals should include emphasis on
the long-term sustainability of the curriculum renewal process.

iv. Curriculum renewal in the light of the Moodle implementation
Macquarie's move to the new Learning Management System, iLearn (Moodle) provides an
opportunity to integrate technologies into learning and teaching. Priority will be give during 2011
for grant applications which explore (but are not limited to):
- staff processes around using Moodle more efficiently in teaching;
- team or program approaches to using Moodle, rather than unit-based curriculum design

v. Improving tertiary pathways
Applications should propose to develop and model strategies for either:
- maximising the outcomes for students engaging in transition between the vocational
  education sector and the higher education sector, or
- developing and modeling programs that work with schools to improve participation in
  higher education, or
- pathways to professional qualifications or to other postgraduate study

vi. Strategic approaches to learning and teaching which enhance student access and
progression, and respond to student diversity
Applications should propose to develop and model approaches to learning and teaching which
enhance student access and progression, through a direct response to student diversity; applicants
should not assume that projects addressing students are, by implication, addressing student
diversity.

vii. Research and development focussing on issues of emerging and continuing importance
Applications under this priority may address any issue not featured in the other priorities.

2. Approach
- A strong theoretical framework
- A set of strategies which is considered, coherent and appropriate to the outcomes the project
  is designed to achieve
- An approach that is in general alignment with Macquarie@50 and the the Academic Plan
  2010-2014
- Plans for the dissemination/embedding of the successful strategies and outcomes that are
  integrated within the project design
3. **Value/Need for the Project**
   - Potential usefulness of the project and its outcomes to any of the following:
     - Departments
     - Faculties
     - Macquarie University
     - Benchmarking partners
     - Higher Education sector
   - Ways in which the project both utilizes and advances scholarship of learning and teaching
   - Strategies to extend this pilot project University-wide.

4. **Project Management and Budget**
   - A thorough approach to project management that shows what evidence will be used to ascertain how well objectives have been met.
   - Provision of an Evaluation Plan. You may be invited to participate in an LTC evaluation project and participation will be looked upon favourably
   - Budget justification for the amount claimed and indicating timeframe for the expenditure of grant monies.
   - Budgets must be split into expenses that occur in the period July – Dec 2011 and Jan – Dec 2012. There will be no carry forward of unspent 2011 monies into 2012 nor 2012 monies into 2013.
   - 2011 Competitive Grant monies **MUST** be fully expended by December 2012.

5. **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

   **Closing dates for the Scheme** - 27th May 2011

   The above is the University closing date. Different Department and Faculty closing dates might apply. Please liaise with your Department and Faculty well ahead this closing date to ensure an endorsement and signatures on the application are obtained before the University closing date.

   **Funding Range** – up to $10,000

   **Projects’ duration** - up to 2 years

6. **SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION**

   It is planned to use the online grant submission facility within IRIS, once this becomes available.

   In 2011 application documentation will be available on the Provost’s website

   Applications are **limited to 6 A4 pages** consisting of:

   - **APPLICATION FORM** covering sheet (2 A4 pages)
     Application form can be found on the Provost’s website:

   - **PROPOSAL** (max 4 A4 pages using 12pt font; Times New Roman, 6pt spacing between paragraphs and Single line spacing).
It is recommended that the Proposal contains details on Project outcomes and Rationale; Approach; Value/Need for the Project; Project Budget; Project management and Evaluation.

Complete applications are to be scanned and sent via email to barb.mclean@mq.edu.au by Friday 27th May 2011.

7. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be assessed against the four Criteria by a Committee consisting of:
- The DVC (Provost) – Chair
- The Vice-President of Senate
- The Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee
- The Executive Director of LTC
- Previous winner of an ALTC Award or Grant
- Student representative

8. PROJECT REPORTING

- Successful applicants will be expected to provide a Project Acquittal Report that:
  - Documents project outcomes
  - Provides information on how the Project outcomes are being communicated to the University community
  - Provides information on the impact of the Project on University-wide Strategic Projects

- Successful applicants will also be expected to present their findings to their colleagues in a seminar convened by the LTC and project outcomes also being made available on the Web.
- Deans and/or Assoc Deans (Learning and Teaching) will be expected to include a report on existing and recently completed projects in their Learning and Teaching Reports to the DVC (Provost).