



# Introductions to the profession- Curricular approach

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# Past practice at QUT



Professional seminars



Career expos

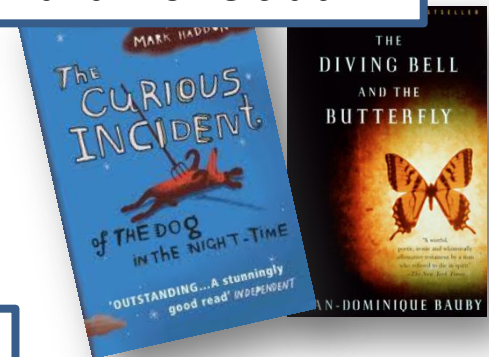


Peer mentoring



Career mentors

Film and movie club





# What was wrong with this approach?



- Not reaching all students
- Unable to evaluate skills developed
- Didn't communicate our enthusiasm
- Students determined timing of delivery within their degree progression
- Very little other information about breadth of psychology and careers
- Also concerns that new psychology students don't understand the discipline (Goedeke & Gibson, 2011)



# “Going curricular”

- International governments (The Dearing Report, 1997; The Future of Higher Education [white paper] DfES, 2003a, )
- Case studies in international universities (University of Minnesota, Staffordshire University)
- Discussion with community partners and employers
- Australian Graduate Attributes:

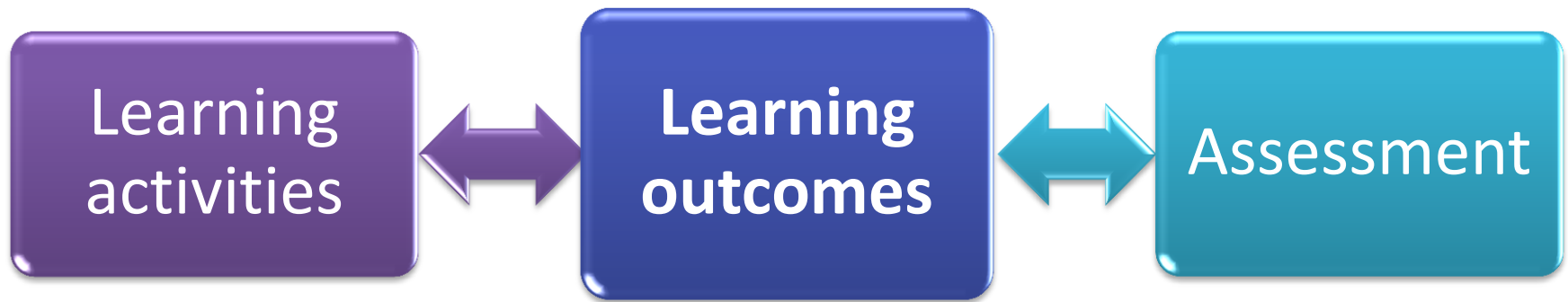
**Demonstrate a capacity for independent learning to sustain personal and professional development in the changing world of the science and practice of psychology.**

(Cranney et. al., 2009)

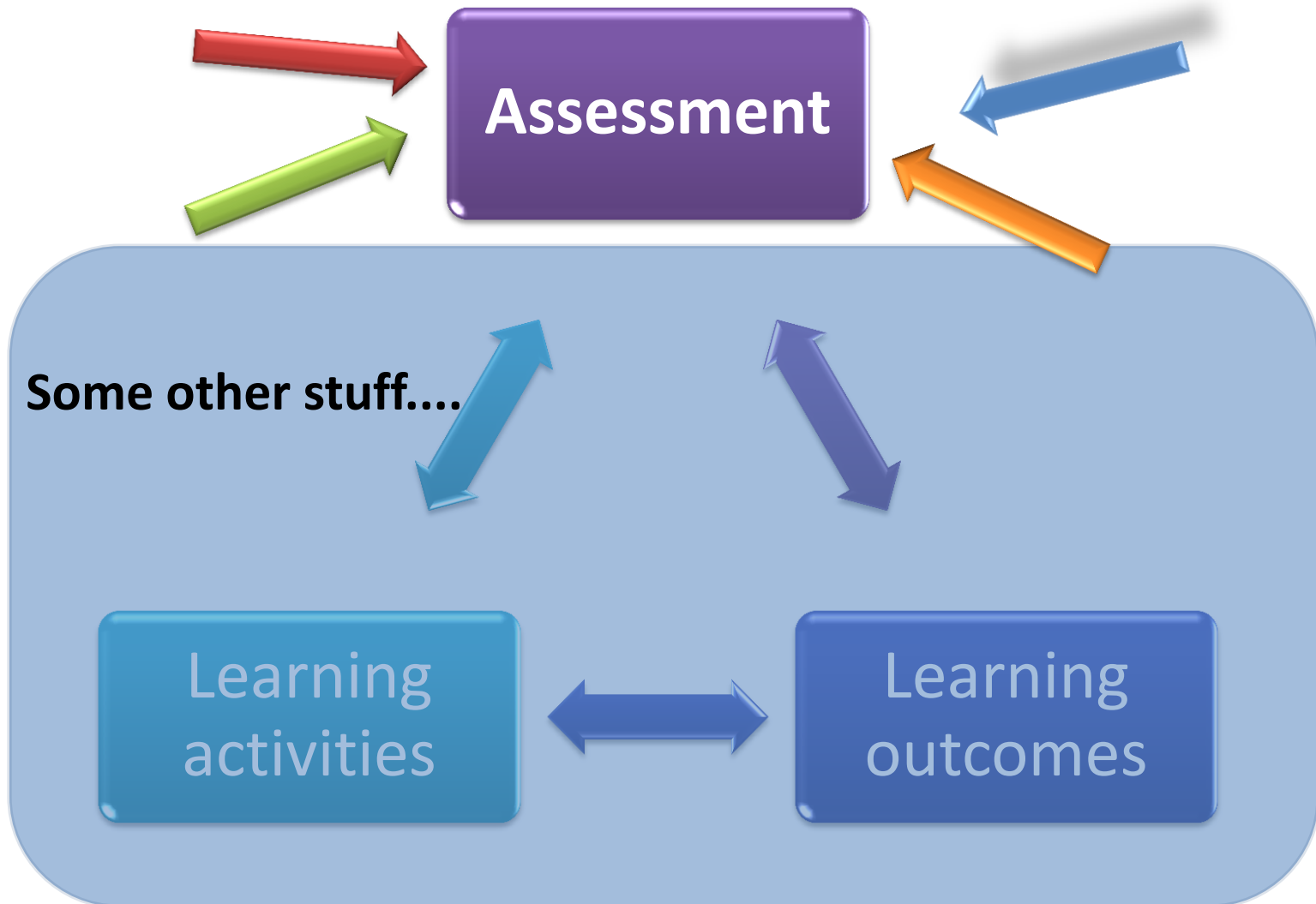
**Reform career guidance to deliver effective advice to all**

(OECD, 2009)

# How we've been told to think about curriculum design...



# How our students think about curriculum design...



# Learning Outcomes



- Demonstrate an understanding of how psychological knowledge, skills, and values can be applied in a **variety of occupational and community settings**;
- Demonstrate an understanding of **key cultural, legal, and ethical factors** that influence psychological practice;
- Recognise the role of **collaborative professional practice** in enhancing psychological well-being;
- Demonstrate **technological and academic literacy skills** that **enhance communication and information retrieval** in the discipline context of psychology;
- Demonstrate an ability to **work and achieve scholarly goals** within a **collaborative group environment** and to **reflect on this process**.

# Learning Outcomes



**variety of occupational and  
community settings;**

**key cultural, legal, and  
ethical factors**

**collaborative professional practice**

**technological and academic literacy skills  
enhance communication and information retrieval**

**work and achieve scholarly  
goals**

**collaborative group environment and to  
reflect on this process.**



# Learning activities

Lectures → Workshops



Tutorials – Skill development & PBL assessment



Online – Sharing, discussion, clarification

# Assessment



Career resource development



Problem-based scenario



Reflection

## Volunteering Symposium



# Volunteering

- Motivation
- Research ethics

## Blackboard Quiz - Report

Suggestions from the boss:

Secretly video tape the volunteers.



Ask the volunteers to fill out a survey about the best aspects of volunteering.



## Literacy LINK

You're doing one week of work for Literacy LINK. You arrive at work on Monday morning to find a phone message from the volunteering manager. She wants to see you immediately.



Why do people volunteer?  
How could we recruit new volunteers?

APS code of ethics



Main sources of motivation for volunteers?  
Recommendations for attracting volunteers?



Health psychology



Can you spot TPB elements in these campaigns?

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/index.asp>



# Health Psychology



PBL: Health Psychology Consultancy

- Theory of Planned Behaviour
- Understanding data
- Attitude & behaviour change



Tutorials



Online modules



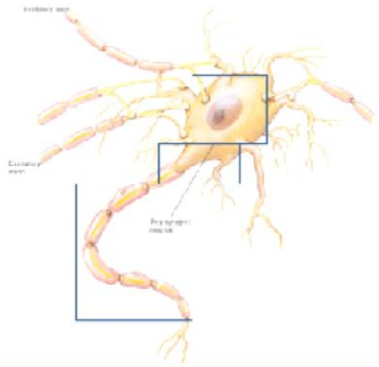


# Online scenarios

<http://www.screenr.com/user/erinloc>

## Challenge 2

Click on the image to learn more about the neuron.

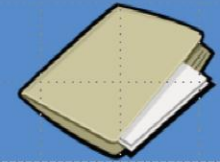


Here's a different way of presenting a challenge

What will you do next?



Visit Mr A



Read the patient records



# Student feedback – Positives

## Clarity for study and profession

- Prior to this unit, I had very little knowledge of the vast amount of work opportunities available to psychology graduates and am now fairly confident that this degree will obtain me a decent job in the future.
- The Emphasis on finding a career path to take so I know where I am going with my course.
- Nice way to get an initial feel for whats ahead of us as first years.
- Best part - Finding out the job pathways the career has to offer



# Student feedback – Positives

## Interaction and appropriate challenge

- **Online interaction:** It's the only unit where I can read other students' experience and understanding of the required readings and materials, it's great to have other perspectives and angles to see the same piece of material.
- **Challenge:** The unit is interactive, looks at different aspects of psychology and pushes people to think on another level.



# Student feedback – Negatives

## Timing

- I feel as though this subject may have been more helpful during second year.
- ...BUT we are first year students just starting out. I don't see why we are learning so much about honours years and PHD's when we aren't close to that level yet.





# Student feedback – Split on Reflections

## Change

- Reflections. I do not like them. At all.
- The reflection questions assessment was not planned very well. It was very difficult to relate the 4R model to the questions

## Retain

- The Professional Reflections essay, it really opened my eyes to potential problems I could face in the future.
- I learned a lot while I was writing my assignment



# Student feedback – Split on Guests

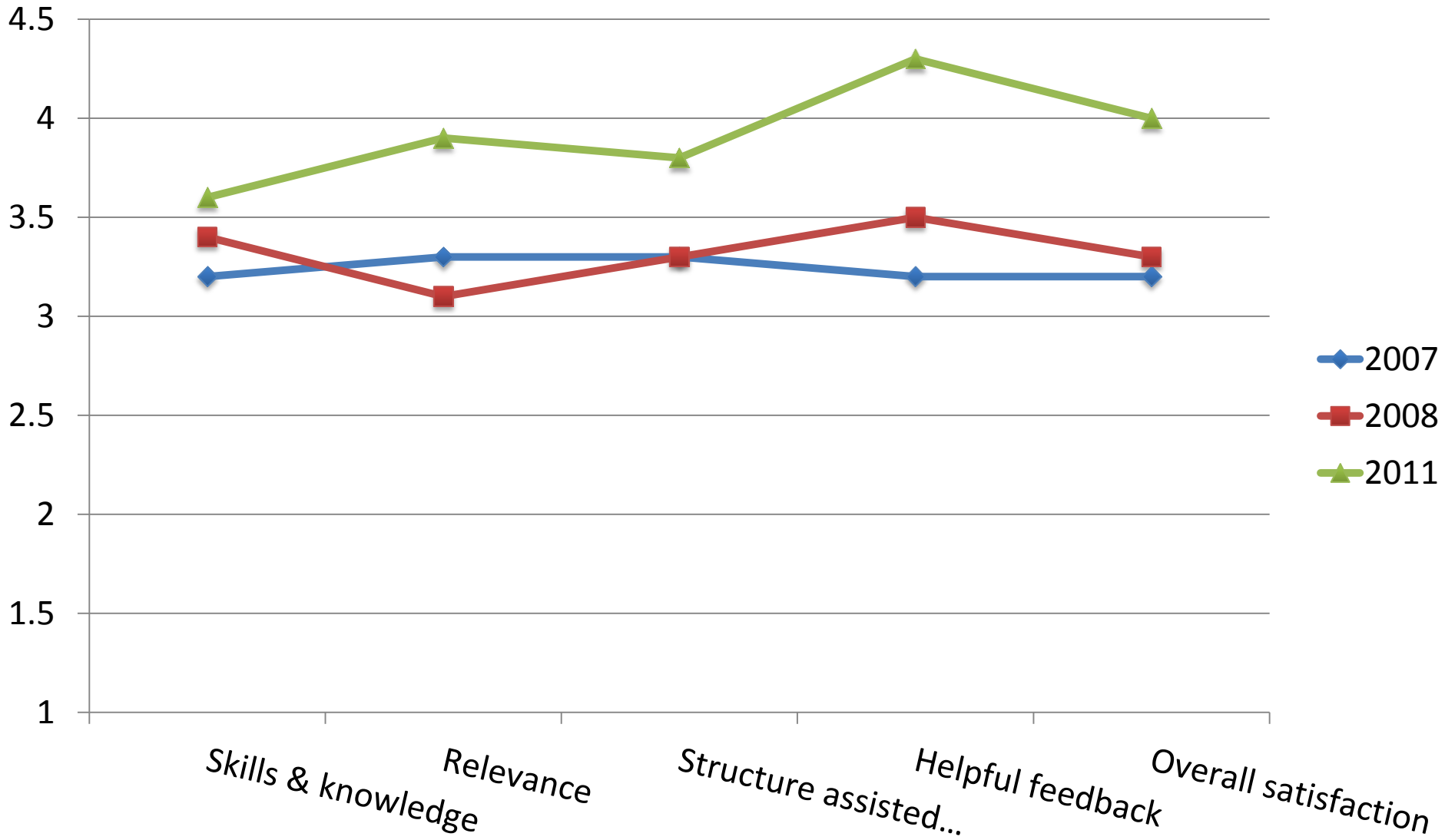
## Change

- Maybe TOO many guest lecturers, sometimes some of them were very (for want of a better word) boring.
- it would be great if you minimised the time that the guest's speak
- A lot of the guest lecturers were extremely boring.

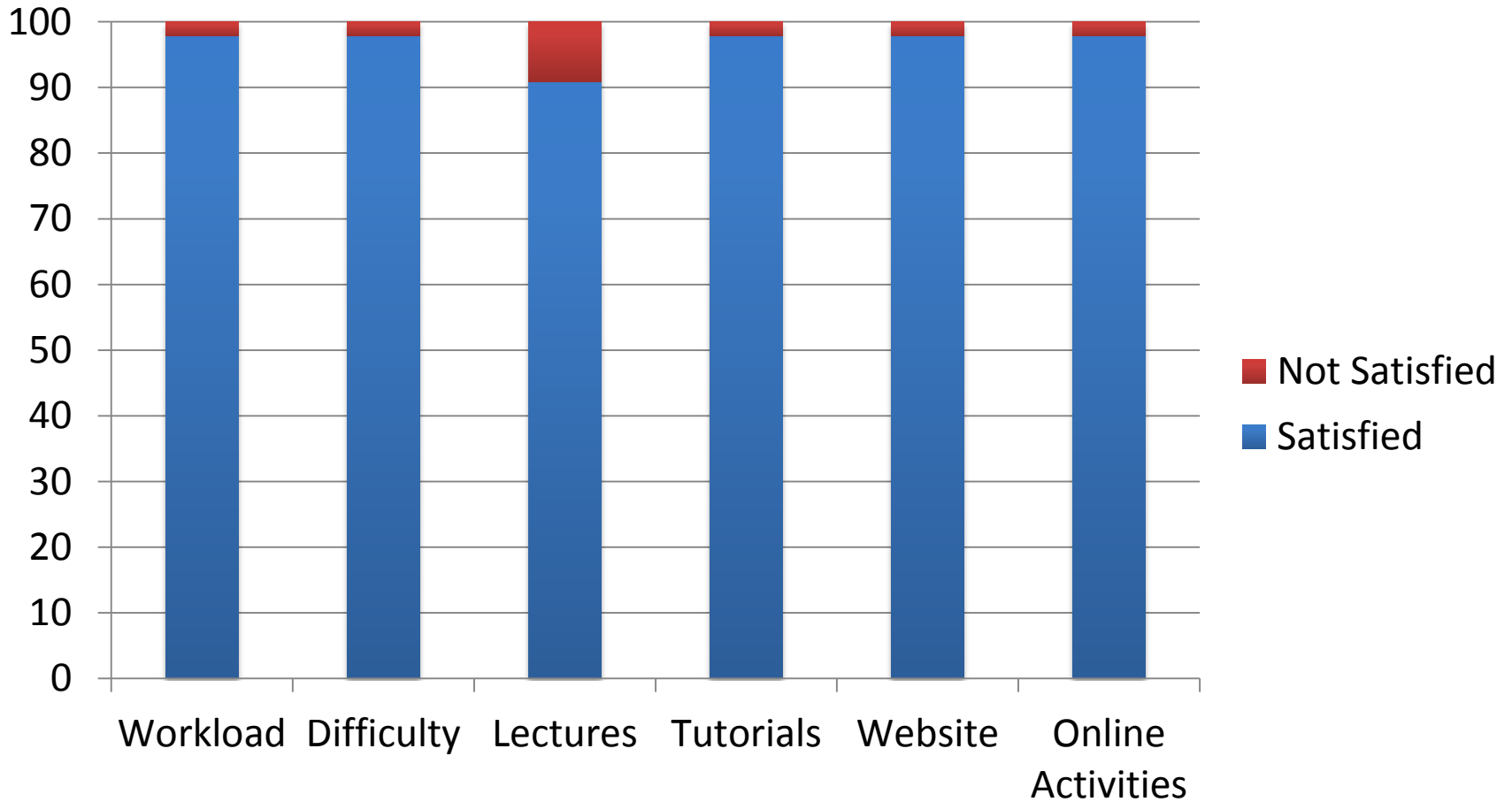
## Retain

- The guest speakers are always interesting and have given me more knowledge of the different types of psychology I can get into when I graduate
- The variety of guest lecturers. It was important to hear from people out in the field.
- best aspects of the unit would be the guest speakers.

# Student ratings



# 2011 student satisfaction (N=47, 35.6%)





# Should also mention... Our 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Service learning work placement in partnership with Careers & Employment



**Resumes, interviewing, workplace health and safety audit**



**Community, government, or private business**



**Reflections and mini conference  
- Poster or video**

# Benefits of the curricular approach

- Fulfil responsibility to all students
- Delivery timed to match degree progression
- Time to teach & evaluate skills
- Positioning professional development as an important part of training and membership within the profession

Seems to be improving  
the student experience!



