

APSA Teaching and Learning Group Annual Report 2020

The APSA Teaching and Learning Group was established as a new group of the Association at the APSA Conference in 2019. While delayed to some extent by Covid-19 related issues, the group has undertaken a number of activities in this calendar year.

1. Group establishment

The T&L Group has set itself a set of strategic foci and tasks (<https://auspsa.org.au/about/groups-and-committees/apsa-teaching-and-learning-group/>), and established a Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/APSA.TL>) where group members can liaise and exchange information relevant to teaching and learning in the discipline. During 2020, the majority of this was information relevant to rapid adjustment to online teaching and learning practices.

The Teaching and Learning Group is open to increased membership (see below) as we did not have the opportunity of the 2020 APSA Conference to raise the profile of the group.

2. Operations of the *Open Textbook* sub-committee

A subcommittee of the Teaching and Learning Group was created in early 2020, transitioning editorial control of the Australian Politics and Policy Open Textbook into the hands of the Teaching and Learning Group. This subcommittee is open to new members.

The role of the subcommittee is to steer the Open Textbook forward by:

- Commissioning the creation of new content to be included into the volume
- Updating the current content of the volume
- Promoting the use of this free resource in Australian Politics and Policy teaching and learning
- Undertaking research on the impact of the open textbook in teaching and learning.

During 2020, the sub-committee:

- Created a research methodology and received Human Research Ethics approval for a study of textbook use by students
- Commissioned new chapters to be included into the volume in 2021
- Commissioned authors to revise existing chapters that need updating, for inclusion in 2021
- Developed a funding request for a new section for the textbook on Australian public sector management (out to funders)
- Calculated – based on conservative estimates of adoption in teaching – that the savings to students generated from the volume in 2020 was \$70,000
- A new promotional mailout is being prepared for the end of 2020 to encourage further adoption of the volume in 2021.

3. Preparation for a Teaching and Learning practice symposium in 2021

The Teaching and Learning Group is preparing a symposium on teaching and learning in political studies for mid-2021. Early discussions have been held with a relevant journal about a special issue that will stem from this event (for 2022) and a proposed teaching and learning stream (see 4).

4. APSA 2021 Conference: Teaching and Learning Stream

The group is committed to running a teaching and learning stream at the 2021 APSA Conference. This will provide input into the proposed special issue (at 3) and assist in promoting membership of the Group.

5. Financial status

The Group received an allocation of \$5,000 that remains unspent at the time of writing. A proportion of this will be allocated to the symposium and conference stream in 2021.

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