

Concurrent Session K
Wednesday 2 September
1.00pm – 1.50pm

TEMG
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30 Aug – 2 Sep 2015
Novotel North Beach Wollongong



Session 5

A leadership challenge shared = success

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Joanne Austin has worked in the tertiary education sector for over 26 years and has held an array of leadership positions in Higher Education, the current being Faculty General Manager of the Faculty of Business and Law at Swinburne University. Joanne also taught as a sessional academic for 7 years and more recently undertook a consultancy role in the review of faculty functions for another university. She holds a Masters of Tertiary Education Management (UniMelb) and is currently enrolled in a PhD which is exploring the provision of Shared Services in Australian Higher Education. Joanne has received a number of awards including a VC's award for customer service, a VC's Highly Commended award for Team Teaching, a VC's Highly Commended team award for International Collaboration and an AUQA commendation for an International Mentor Program. In 2014 Joanne received the ATEM Presidents Award for her contribution to the tertiary sector. She has been with ATEM since 1991 and is currently the Vice President, Professional Development

Fiona Spurrell is the Faculty Business Manager for the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology at Swinburne University. Fiona leads a team of 70 staff supporting the strategic and operational activities of the faculty including the management of over 125 laboratories and workshops across 15 buildings and two campuses. Fiona is the key liaison point for a range of shared support services including student administration, marketing, engagement, finance and information technology. With over 17 years' experience in the tertiary education sector, Fiona has held a number of senior roles including the position of Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Design and is currently on the Bass Region Committee of ATEM. Fiona has a Master of Business in Human Resource Management from Swinburne University and a Graduate Diploma of Science Education from Deakin University.

May you live in interesting times' is known as the Chinese curse. It would appear that the curse is upon us as it is probably one of the most interesting times in tertiary education for decades as we undergo significant change on several fronts. To meet the challenges of the current tertiary sector, universities are in the process of positioning themselves for future viability through re-structuring and making other major changes. This has certainly been the case at Swinburne University in Melbourne and has led to distinct challenges for leaders. In working through these changes to ensure effective service for the needs of the business and maintaining staff morale through rapid changes one after the other, shared leadership vision of the three Faculty Managers was key. It was about maximizing collaboration, maintaining a clear purpose and recognition of each other's strengths and weaknesses. Stakeholders saw three committed managers, unified in their approach, who genuinely cared for the staff and the future of the university and to making the new structure work. We continue to re-define the goals required and work towards a workplace that can thrive.