

## **LEAD Position Statement 27 March 2020**

### **Legal Education Associate Deans Network (LEAD) Recommendations on Best Practice in Student Evaluations of Teaching during COVID-19**

*The following recommendations are based on consultation with the LEAD Network. We note that there is a variety of views and that particular concerns may vary from institution to institution. The recommendations are intended to help frame discussion on this issue and provide guidance on best practice that is broadly supported by LEAD members.*

#### **LEAD supports the suspension of SETS during COVID-19:**

LEAD supports the suspension of Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) for the duration of the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of previously face-face law programs that are now being delivered remotely. LEAD encourages law academics, including sessional academics, to be resourceful in identifying opportunities for scholarship in these challenges times, including through collecting and recording information about learning, teaching and assessment strategies developed in response to the unprecedented changes as a result of COVID-19.

Where institutions, or law schools, do seek to evaluate the remote delivery of teaching during COVID-19, we encourage law schools to work with teachers to develop tailored feedback tools that will meet the specific purposes of the evaluation of each subject/course/unit, which may include short polls to obtain student feedback at key points during semester; discussion fora (e.g. anonymous discussion boards on the subject's Learning Management System (LMS)) and invitations to students to provide responsible, reasonable and constructive feedback to teachers in the spirit of a learning community. These suggestions are not exhaustive.

#### **Where SETs are administered during COVID-19:**

LEAD acknowledges that institutions may seek to use SETs for data collection purposes rather than developing COVID-19 specific evaluation instruments. Where institutions do elect to continue the use of SETs, LEAD strongly recommends these are not used for performance evaluation or for confirmation or promotion purposes without the explicit agreement of the academic/teacher who is the subject of the SET. Where SETs are used with the permission of the relevant teacher, LEAD's position is that SETs conducted during the COVID-19 period should be clearly identified as such, in order to guard against inappropriate comparisons to prior or subsequent SETs conducted within the same subject/course/unit or about the same teacher and to ensure that the COVID-19 SET results are interpreted in context.

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