RE-ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR

Council resolved to re-elect Ms Leneen Forde AC as Chancellor of the University for a further three year term from 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2015.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

A copy of the Vice Chancellor's Report to Council can be accessed from the following website:


PROGRESS REPORT – AREAS OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT (ASI)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) made a progress report to Council on the first two full years of Areas of Strategic Investment (ASI). Council was advised that demonstrable benefits were flowing to the University as a result of investment in the ASI program. Council noted the value of the combined direct and indirect return on ASI investments for every dollar expended and that the additional publications generated represented a one-off but sustainable 4-5% boost to the University’s publication returns. It was noted by Council that four of the ASI were showing very clear signs of achieving reputational gains globally. It was foreshadowed to Council that other benefits, including publications with world leading partners and improved capability to attract world leading researchers to the University, would become more evident in subsequent years.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) advised that in 2012, the University would be establishing four new ASI in the following areas - Physical Sciences, Environmental Science, Nursing, and Education.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to Council on Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). Council noted that the ERA 2012 submission data included 10% more researchers than Griffith’s ERA 2010 submission, 38% more research income (including 50% more Australian Competitive Grant income), and 14% more research outputs (including 40% more books, 24% more book chapters, and 21% more journal articles). The University would be assessed in 60 four-digit fields of research (up from 58 in ERA 2010) and 20 two-digit fields of research (consistent with ERA 2010).

2012 DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Council considered the report ‘Outcomes of 2012 Main Round for Domestic Undergraduate Admission (December 2011 – February 2012)’ and noted that overall there was an increase in demand for Commonwealth-supported places in Queensland for Semester 1 2012 with total QTAC applications increasing by 3.9% and total UAC applications increasing by 3% at the time of the main offer round.
Council noted that demand for Griffith programs through QTAC and UAC had weakened against the general trend with combined TAC first preference applications declining from 11,990 in 2011 to 10,825 in 2012 (-7.1%).

The Vice Chancellor reported on key issues arising out of the admission round and advised on strategies to attract and retain students in light of the new demand driven system introduced in 2012.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN, GRIFFITH GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

Council offered Professor Sue Berners-Price an appointment as Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School from a commencement date to be agreed between Professor Berners-Price and the Vice Chancellor, up to 3 August 2014.

HEAD OF SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS

Council offered the following appointments: Associate Professor Martin Griffiths as Head of School, Government and International Relations for the period 3 April 2012 to 31 March 2015; and Associate Professor Peter Bernus as Head of School, Information and Communication Technology for the period 11 May 2012 to 31 December 2013.

PRESENTATION ON GRIFFITH AND THE ASIA CHALLENGE

Professor Andrew O’Neil, Director, Griffith Asia Institute made a presentation to members on ‘Griffith and the Asia Challenge.’

Council noted that the role of the Griffith Asia Institute is to contribute significantly to improving the University’s research scholarship on political, security and economic developments in our region, and to project the University’s unique brand in the Asia space to external stakeholders in government, business and the media.

The members were advised that the focus of the Institute has changed over time, progressing from the traditional area studies approach to Asian Studies to a fuller, system-wide engagement, helping to broaden and strengthen the University’s depth of expertise in Asian Studies. Council noted that the Institute, together with the Centre for Governance and Public Policy, coordinates the Asian Politics, Security and Development Area of Strategic Investment, and that it also coordinates the annual Australia-China Dialogues with Peking University and the Queensland Government.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2011 the School of Education and Professional Studies had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review report and implementation plan.
2011 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council received the 2011 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified by the external auditors without qualification on behalf of the Auditor-General.

AMENDMENTS TO FRAUD CONTROL POLICY AND FRAUD CONTROL PROCEDURE

Council approved an amendment to Section 7.2 of the Fraud Control Policy and an amendment to Section 2.5 of the Fraud Control Procedure, with immediate effect.

APRIL 2012