MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

In accordance with section 16 of the Griffith University Act, the May 2006 meeting of Council appointed Mr Rob Borbidge as an additional member to Council for a term of office from 3 May 2006 to 31 December 2007.

Members welcomed Mr Borbidge to his first meeting of Council.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – DR LYN HOLMAN

Council noted that Dr Lyn Holman, who had been Academic Registrar since 1991, had retired from the University at the end of July. In the role of Academic Registrar, Dr Holman made major contributions to the University’s academic planning and learning and teaching processes, and provided strategic and operational leadership in a broad range of areas. Her professionalism and expert guidance contributed to the success of many important strategic initiatives including the 1997 restructure, the introduction of the PeopleSoft student system in 2000, and the 2003 quality audit.

Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of Dr Holman’s outstanding contributions to the development of Griffith over the last sixteen years.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

As outlined in the Griffith Research Plan, a key strategy in support of the University’s goals of increasing quality, concentration and intensity of research, is the establishment of a small number of Strategic Research Programs.

The new Griffith University Strategic Research Programs bring together large multi-disciplinary teams from the prime areas of research strength across the University, to work on key research challenges facing Australia and the world. These programs draw together multiple Research Centres and central resources in themed areas of research strength where Griffith is internationally renowned and can make major contributions to the future of society.

The Strategic Research Programs are: Australian Rivers Institute; Drug Discovery; Social Change and Well-Being; Democracy, Security and Public Policy; and Environments for Healthy Living.
UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to Council on the Research Quality Framework. Council was advised that the Honourable Julie Bishop, Minister for Education Science and Training, had recently announced that the first Australian Research Quality Framework exercise will require universities to report in 2008, determining research block funding from 2009-2014.

The Minister is committed to introducing the RQF and to including measurement of the broader societal impact of research. However, there are as yet no new details about process, as these are being considered by the RQF Development Advisory Group set up by the Minister in March 2006, and its working parties on Metrics, Impact, Information Technology and Modelling which the Advisory Group established at its first meeting. Details of the form and processes of the RQF itself are anticipated in October this year.

GRiffith Institute for Health and Medical Research

Earlier this year, the Vice Chancellor approved the establishment of the Griffith Institute for Health and Medical Research.

Council noted the document “Griffith Institute for Health and Medical Research” which outlined arrangements for the new institute.

Review of Griffith Institute for Higher Education

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for the regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent review of current activity and future plans of faculties and their constituent elements through a Faculty Review Process. A parallel process for administrative areas was also instituted.

Council noted that the Griffith Institute for Higher Education had been reviewed under the University’s policy.


Formation of Company

Council noted that the University had recently been advised by the State Government that it was successful in its application for funding for the Griffith Technology Incubator under the State-Wide Technology Incubation Strategy (SWTIS). A condition of the State Government grant was that an incorporated entity be formed to manage the project.

Council approved the incorporation of a wholly owned University company to operate the Griffith Technology Incubator.
RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Council approved a revised Risk Management Action Plan which identified 11 high level risks facing the University together with current and planned risk mitigation actions.

NEW CONSTITUTIONS – SENIOR PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE AND GROUP PROMOTIONS COMMITTEES

Council approved constitutions for the Senior Promotions Committee (responsible for assessing and determining applications for promotion to Associate Professor and Professor), and Group Promotions Committees (responsible for assessing applications for promotion up to and including Senior Lecturer, and for making recommendations on promotion to the relevant Group Pro Vice Chancellor).

REVISION TO STAFF COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Council approved revisions to the membership provisions of Staff Committees (2006/004516).

APPOINTMENT OF DEANS

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith as Dean, Faculty of Education for the period 8 August 2006 to 7 August 2011; and Professor Joy Cumming as Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School for the period 8 August 2006 to 7 August 2011.

Council delegated authority to the selection committee to make an offer of appointment to the position of Dean (Research), Griffith Health.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Council resolved to offer Professor David Peetz a further appointment as Head, Department of Industrial Relations for the period 8 August 2006 to 31 December 2006.

DISESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Council approved the disestablishment of the School of Theology with immediate effect.

GRIFFITH CONNECT PROGRAM

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) made a presentation to Council on the Griffith Connect program. The program is designed to recognise and manage relationships with selected high schools and to strengthen the University by attracting more high achieving students. In addition to Griffith Connect, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) highlighted the new Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarships scheme and the Griffith Honours College as key strategies for improving student recruitment outcomes.
POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT STRATEGIES

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) made a presentation to Council on strategies to improve the University’s postgraduate student enrolments. The following key strategies were highlighted: replanning of program profile at Group level; development of improved marketing strategies; reorganisation of postgraduate administration to lead and coordinate postgraduate activity; and development of business processes to enable the University to more effectively capture information about enquiries and to track enquiries through to enrolment.

NEW INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Council approved a new infection control policy (2006/0003814). The policy will apply to all students and staff of the University who are or may be required to undertake activities as part of their work, research or study, which may cause them to come into contact with a potential infectious/hazardous material (biological) or may potentially make them an agent of transmission of infection. The policy will also cover those students or staff members who are aware that they have a notifiable disease or acquire such a disease during their study or employment at the University.

REVISED POLICY ON PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council approved a revised policy “Professor Emeritus Title” which included changes to the eligibility criteria and the procedures for conferral.

REVISIONS TO FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

Council noted that the provisions of the Federal Government’s Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) legislation took effect from 1 July 2006. Under the legislation, the University is not able to levy a Student Service Charge as a condition of a student’s enrolment. Accordingly, the Fees and Charges Policy has been amended editorially to delete all references to a Student Service Charge.

CHANGE OF NAME – GRIFFITH RESEARCH GRADUATE SCHOOL

Council resolved to approve the change the name of the “Griffith Research Graduate School” to “Griffith Graduate Research School”.

REVISION TO COMMITTEE CONSTITUTIONS

Council resolved that the term of office of appointed members on the following committees will conclude on 31 December of the relevant anniversary year: Audit Committee, Community Partnership Committee, Council Nominations Committee, Disability Advisory Committee, Finance and Resources Committee, Honorary Degree Committee, and Tender Board.

Council also approved revised constitutions for the Contemporary Arts, Music and Media Board (2006/0003804) and the Health Group Board (2006/0003805).

AUGUST 2006