COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
3 August 2009

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


REPORT ON GOLD COAST HEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) made a report to the meeting on the latest developments concerning the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. Council also noted the document “Partnering Charter – Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct”.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

The University has recently forwarded its submission on the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE) disciplinary cluster to the Australian Research Council (ARC) trial of ERA. The University is currently working on the Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA) cluster submission to meet the 21 August deadline.

Senior ARC representatives will be visiting the University on 11 September 2009 to discuss the implementation of ERA in 2010. The visit will include two open forums which will allow staff at all levels to better understand how ERA will impact upon them and the institution.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM

Council resolved to offer Professor Huib Schippers appointment as Director, Queensland Conservatorium for the period 10 August 2009 to 9 August 2014.

PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Professor Diego De Leo, Director - National Centre of Excellence in Suicide Prevention, made a presentation to Council on the work of the Centre.

In November 2008, the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) was formally appointed as the National Centre of Excellence in Suicide Prevention (NCESP) by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. AISRAP had previously been designated, in 2005, as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Suicide Prevention, an appointment that has been recently confirmed for another four-year term.
The key functions of the National Centre include:

- providing advice on evidence-based best practice in suicide prevention activity to inform the National Suicide Prevention Strategy work plan;
- offering direct support to agencies contracted to the Department to undertake new and emerging suicide prevention activities;
- providing an annual critical literature review outlining recent advances and promising developments in research in suicide prevention, particularly where this can help to inform our national activities;
- providing advice on improving approaches to evaluation of suicide prevention activities and on the development of evaluation frameworks for new projects; and
- providing advice on the implications of existing suicide prevention data and on issues around the credibility of suicide data.

**AMENDMENT TO ACADEMIC TITLES POLICY**

Academic titleholders provide a significant, unpaid academic workforce for the University. Policies and procedures for appointing academic titleholders are updated across the sector as new universities launch health programs and as competition to attract clinical staff to take up academic title roles intensifies.

As a result of a recent review of policy in this area by the Health Group, Council resolved to approve a revised “Academic Titles Policy” (2009/0005261) with immediate effect.

**AUGUST 2009**