VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


GRIFFITH 2015

At its May 2007 meeting, Council noted the paper “Griffith 2015: Beyond Top 10”.

Subsequent to this meeting, the paper was circulated to the University community for feedback, and was the theme of the University’s senior staff conference held in July. At the September 2007 meeting of Council, the Vice Chancellor advised that the paper had attracted broad support for the key proposals to establish peaks of excellence and to develop distinctive characteristics or specialisations of each campus. Council had noted that a formal statement of the Griffith 2015 agenda and a framework for its implementation would be presented to the December 2007 meeting.

Council endorsed the strategic directions set out in the paper “Griffith 2015 – Implementing the Vision”. The Vice Chancellor advised that the University would be taking action to address issues in the following key areas: strategic investment to achieve international prominence, distinct campus value propositions, students’ experiences, international activity, strategic investment in staff, strategic use of resources, refined strategic planning, and focused communication – projecting profile and distinctiveness.

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008-2010

Council approved the recommendations set out in the document “Capital Management Plan 2008-2010”.

Council noted the following key features in respect of the Plan:

- an assessment of the current debt servicing capacity did not recommend further external borrowing (excluding that provided under the Smart State loan scheme).
- the total allocation of $31.5 million towards electronic infrastructure and $64.5 million towards physical infrastructure was directed at those areas considered to be of highest priority.
- that this allocation was considered prudent, and provided enough flexibility to allow the University to react to unexpected opportunities and deal with any underlying risk to revenue or escalating cost.
- there was a shift in the emphasis of the physical infrastructure projects from new buildings to refurbishment to improve facilities, better utilise existing space and provide water efficiency measures.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO
Council noted that current arrangements had been reviewed in respect of the responsibilities of the community partnerships portfolio, including arrangements relating to the Office of Community Partnerships. In particular, Council noted the intention to disestablish the Office of Community Partnerships and a related recommendation to disestablish the position of Pro Vice Chancellor (Community Partnerships). Council was advised that this will not require any staff redundancy since all former staff of the office have either resigned, transferred or have been re-assigned to other duties.

The Vice Chancellor advised that the goal of strengthening community engagement was central to the Griffith 2015 ethos, but was best expressed through the campus based planning and activities of academic elements. This will reinforce the Griffith 2015 strategy of identifying and projecting a distinct focus or flavour for each campus. Council noted that academic elements will be encouraged to extend their community engagement directly, through the Academic Plan which establishes targets for work integrated learning and other community engagement activities and through the Research Plan which establishes targets for developing Australian Research Council linkage projects which link researchers with end users.

Council resolved to disestablish the position of Pro Vice Chancellor (Community Partnerships) as set out in the paper “Community Engagement”.

**PRESENTATION ON “SUCCEEDING AT GRIFFITH”**

Professor John Dewar, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), made a presentation to the meeting on “Succeeding at Griffith”.

Council was advised that *Succeeding@Griffith* creates a blueprint for the development of a coherent University-wide strategy to improve the student experience at Griffith, by focussing on key transition points in the student lifecycle, and working across the University to improve support to students at those transition points. The model offers a short, medium and long-term blueprint for change. Importantly, it also places emphasis on strategies for resourcing and enabling staff who are key to achieving the fundamental goal of enhancing the student experience at Griffith.

**UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK**

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) updated Council on the University’s preparations for the RQF leading up to the 24 November 2007 federal election. Council noted that media statements made by the new Labor Government indicate that the RQF will be abandoned and replaced by a new research quality assessment system which is more metrics focused.
UPDATE ON AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES QUALITY AGENCY (AUQA) AUDIT

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) provided an update to Council on the University’s preparation for the AUQA audit in 2008. Council was advised that the University had undertaken a trial audit in November 2007 which included interviews with 128 staff and students. As well as providing external feedback on the University’s performance portfolio and identifying areas for improvement, the trial helped staff to prepare for the interview process that will be undertaken by the AUQA Panel during their visit in June 2008. One of the key issues identified by the trial audit was the need for the University to ensure that staff at all levels had a clear understanding of the Griffith quality management framework and the interrelationships of its various components.

REVIEWS

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 Faculty of Arts and Griffith Health had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports.

INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Council endorsed the document “Internationalisation Strategy” which outlined the University’s objectives in internationalisation and explained the implications of internationalisation for the way the University approaches its business. The Strategy is framed within the context of the University’s Mission Statement, Strategic Plan 2006-2010, Griffith 2015, Learning for Success (Academic Plan 3) 2008-2010 and the Griffith Research Plan 2005-2010.

FORMATION OF A COMPANY

Council approved the establishment of a new company to commercialise a vaccine technology as set out in the paper “Formation of New Spin-out Company”.

APPOINTMENTS

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Lyn Griffiths as Dean (Research), Griffith Health, for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012; Associate Professor Stephen Stockwell as Head, School of Arts for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010; Associate Professor Mike Robertson as Head, Griffith Law School for the period 13 March 2008 to 12 March 2011; Professor Kristine Toohey as Head, Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sports Management for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010; Associate Professor Tony Perkins as Head, School of Medical Science for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010; and Professor Bofu Yu as Head, Griffith School of Engineering for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010.
APPOINTMENT OF ACADEMIC MANAGERS IN GROUPS

The Council policy “Appointment of Deans, Heads of School, Deputy Heads of School and Portfolio Deputy Deans” outlines procedures for appointment to these positions.

Council noted that this policy had been revised (and renamed “Appointment of Academic Managers in Groups”) to take into account the revised delegations - “Staffing Delegations: Academic Groups” (2007/0010771) – which were approved by Council at its 3 September 2007 meeting.

AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE/COLLEGE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTIONS

Council approved revised constitutions requiring School/College Committees to provide advice to the relevant Head of School/Director on health and safety issues.

APPROVING AUTHORITIES FOR UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Council approved the document “Approving Authorities for University Policies” (2007/0010782) which provides for the first time a consolidated list of University policies and their various approving authorities.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council approved appointments to the following University committees: Finance and Resources Committee, Honorary Degree Committee, Legislation Committee, Tender Board and the University Appeals Committee.

DECEMBER 2007