VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013

At its October 2008 meeting, Council indicated its support for the strategic directions set out in the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2013.

Council had noted that the redrafted Plan incorporated a number of important initiatives that had already been endorsed and now needed to be reflected in an updated Plan, including:

- endorsement of the Griffith 2015 strategy, which moved the University beyond the 'top 10' agenda and set some more ambitious and focussed targets;
- the significant progress made by the University in recent years to internationalise all aspects of its activities, and the continued need to do so; and
- the endorsement of a new 'global citizen' brand positioning for the University, which needed to be reflected in all aspects of what we do.

Subsequent to the October Council meeting, the Vice Chancellor undertook a process of University wide consultation in relation to the draft Plan. This included briefing sessions on each campus.

Council considered a revised Strategic Plan 2009-2013 incorporating feedback from the consultation process including comments made by Council members at the October meeting. Council also noted a document which reported on performance against the revised set of KPIs associated with the new Plan. In addition to these top level KPIs, a set of ‘staircase’ KPIs for Schools, Departments and Research Centres was in the process of being developed.

Council resolved to approve the Strategic Plan 2009-2013.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

The Chancellor advised that Ms Ann Robilotta-Glenister had been appointed to Council by the Governor-in-Council for a term of office up to 27 October 2009. Ms Robilotta-Glenister has 28 years experience in the aged care industry and has served as a member of the Gold Coast Campus Advisory Council since 2004.

Ms Robilotta-Glenister was welcomed to her first Council meeting.
AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES QUALITY AGENCY (AUQA) AUDIT – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT

At its October 2008 meeting, Council noted a copy of the final report of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The Vice Chancellor had reported that the University had received 11 commendations, 11 affirmations and 8 recommendations.


MINUTES OF APPRECIATION – MS JANICE RICKARDS AND MR GEOFF DENGATE

Ms Janice Rickards and Mr Geoffrey Dengate attended their last Council meeting in October 2008.

Council resolved to adopt minutes of appreciation in recognition of the outstanding contributions of Ms Rickards and Mr Dengate to the development of the University.

PRESENTATION ON SCOPING STUDY FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTEGRATED NATHAN/MT GRAVATT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

At the August 2008 meeting of Council, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) made a presentation to the meeting on the Nathan Campus Taskforce report. One of the recommendations of this report was that the University commission a study to identify the scope for the Nathan/Mt Gravatt campuses to form key elements of a major integrated ‘Knowledge Precinct’ in Brisbane.

Mr Michael Rayner of Cox Rayner made a presentation to the meeting on the key findings arising from the scoping study. The following issues were highlighted:

- an integrated and physically interconnected ‘Knowledge Precinct’ can be formed from a series of currently independent precincts, extending from the Mt Gravatt campus through to the Coopers Plains Food Sciences precinct, without detrimental impact upon the existing natural forest environment;
- this Knowledge Precinct has the potential to be as important in the Smart State Strategy, and to the city, as the South Brisbane (109 Central)/Knowledge Precinct and the Bowen Hills/Kelvin Grove Knowledge Precinct – helping to fulfil State Government’s vision of key innovation zones, and acting as the knowledge ‘heart’ of the southern half of Brisbane;
- the integrated Knowledge Precinct has the ability to accommodate major Transit Orientated Developments (TODs) around the South East Busway’s Griffith University Station on underutilised land of up to 12 and 6 hectares on either side of the South East Freeway respectively; and
- these TODs can contribute significantly not only to the integration of education and research with living and working environments, but to the provision of affordable living and environmentally sustainable development as encouraged by the Government’s Smart Cities Strategy and the South East Queensland Regional Plan.
Council was advised that Mr Rayner had been commissioned by the University to develop a Nathan Campus Master Plan. This Plan would be brought back for approval by Council at a meeting in 2009.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK**

Council approved the extension of the current trial of the Academic Integrity Framework until the end of Semester 1, 2009. This extension will allow the University to commission a full external evaluation of the new Academic Integrity Framework in February/March next year.

**ADVISORY COUNCILS – QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART AND QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM**

Council approved the arrangements set out in the paper “Disestablishment of the QCA and QCGU Advisory Councils and Creation of New QCA and QCGU Industry Advisory Boards” which recommended that the QCA and QCGU Advisory Councils be disestablished from 1 January 2009 and each replaced with a high level business/industry Advisory Board. The members of these Boards will be networked to significant experts around Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

**APPOINTMENT OF DEANS AND HEADS OF SCHOOL**

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Parlo Singh as Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010; Professor Lorelle Frazer as Dean (Learning and Teaching), Griffith Business School, for the period 1 March 2009 to 31 December 2011; Associate Professor Donna Pendergast as Head, School of Education and Professional Studies (Gold Coast) for the period 2 February 2009 to 1 February 2014; Professor Frank Clarke as Head, School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences for the period 1 March 2009 to 31 December 2010; and Dr Michael Blumenstein as Head, School of Information and Communication Technology for the period 3 January 2009 to 31 December 2012.

**REVISED ACADEMIC DRESS POLICY**

Council approved an amendment to the policy on Academic Dress to authorise graduation stoles/sashes in the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags for Indigenous students to wear to their graduation as part of Griffith’s academic dress.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

Council approved appointments to the following University committees: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Equity Committee, Finance and Resources Committee, Legislation Committee and the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee.

**DECEMBER 2008**