VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council welcomed the following new members who were recently elected to Council: Ms Margaret Buckridge (academic staff member); Dr Arthur Poropat (academic staff member); Mr Hassan Jabour (postgraduate student); Mr William Barker (undergraduate student) and also congratulated Ms Kaye Dillon (general staff member) on her re-election.

Members noted the Hon Ms Karen Struthers has tendered her resignation from Council owing to work commitments. Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contribution of the Hon Ms Struthers to the work of Council during her term of office.

RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2009

Council approved the Risk Management Action Plan 2009. The Plan was extensively reviewed during 2009 with particular attention paid to identification of the key strategic risks facing the University and the mitigation strategies being used to reduce those risks.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

At its May 2009 meeting, Council considered a review report of the Academic Integrity Framework which recommended that the University develop a new policy on student academic misconduct as a companion document to the Academic Integrity Framework. Council had approved an extension of the existing trial until the end of the 2009 academic year pending finalisation of these documents.

Members considered the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (2009/0005288), the revised Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity Among Students (2009/0005289) and the amended Policy on Student Grievances and Appeals (2009/0003269). Council was advised that this documentation incorporated feedback from consultation with Faculty Boards as well as advice from the University’s lawyers.

On the recommendation of Academic Committee Council resolved to approve the following for implementation in Semester 1, 2010:

- the rescission of the Policy on Academic Misconduct except as it applies to Research Higher Degree students
- the new Student Academic Misconduct Policy (2009/0005288)
- the revised Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity Among Students (2009/0005289)
- an amended Policy on Student Grievances and Appeals (2009/0005285)

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)
Council noted that the University has now received the Outcome Report for the 2009 ERA Trial of the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE) cluster. The overall result for Griffith is positive in that the University research outputs were deemed commensurate with world performance or better in 11 out of 12 assessed Fields of Research. On the scale of 1-5, where a rating of ‘5’ indicates exceptional research quality, substantially exceeding world performance, one unit of evaluation (Quantum Physics) achieved the highest rating and another three units (Condensed Matter Physics, Optical Physics, and Medicinal and Biomolecular Chemistry) received ‘4’ ratings, with an average ‘3.0’ rating across all assessed units. This means that Griffith received a rating commensurate with world performance or better in greater than 90% of assessed units.

In relation to Australian universities as a whole, Council noted indicative benchmarking advice shows Griffith University is above the national average in all of the ‘4’ or ‘5’ ranked fields. The Outcome Report for the Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA) trial is soon to be released. However, because of the way the trial data have been managed by the Australian Research Council, it is not possible for the University to know where it sits in relation to other individual universities in either the PCE trial or HCA trial.

**APPOINTMENT OF PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (BUSINESS)**

Council resolved to offer Professor Michael Powell a further appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) for the period 2 August 2010 to 1 August 2015.

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART**

Council resolved to offer Professor Paul Cleveland a further appointment as Director, Queensland College of Art for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011.

**APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (ACADEMIC) IN THE SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Clyde Wild a further appointment as Dean (Academic), Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group, for the period 1 February 2010 to 30 June 2010.

**APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL**

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Dr Jock Macleod as Head, School of Humanities for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011; Associate Professor Michael Barry as Head, Department of Employment Relations and Human Resources for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014; Professor Leong Liew as Head, Department of International Business and Asian Studies for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012; and Professor Don Stewart as Head, School of Public Health for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011.

**PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

Council conferred the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professor Mervyn Hyde in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

**PRESENTATION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – CLEVER COMPUTERS VS THE HUMAN MIND**
Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein, Head – School of Information and Communication Technology, made a presentation to Council on artificial intelligence research.

Council noted the recent groundbreaking developments in the areas of computer vision, automated pattern recognition and artificial intelligence concerned with mimicry of aspects of human and animal function. Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein discussed the application of the School’s work in artificial intelligence research to handwriting recognition, beach safety, bridge maintenance systems and medical diagnostics.

REVISION TO GOLD COAST ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Council approved a revised Gold Coast Advisory Council constitution (2009/0005262) with immediate effect. The changes to Section 3 – Terms of Membership establish a rolling membership on the Gold Coast Advisory Council and ensure the terms of office of only three of the nine external members expire at any one time.

Council resolved to approve the following appointments: Mr Glen Hoppner, Mr Jeff Johnson and Dr John Kearney for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012; Ms Joan McDermott; Mr Alan Rickard and Ms Ann Robilotta-Glenister for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013; Mr Graham Dillon, Ms Helen Raptis and Mr Terry Robertson for the transitional period 7 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 and subsequently, for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

AMENDMENT TO STUDENT MISCONDUCT POLICY

Council approved a revised policy on “Student Misconduct” (2009/0005251) to provide students with 20 working days to appeal any of the decisions in Section 10 of the policy.

AMENDMENTS TO POLICY ON STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

Council approved a revised “Policy on Student Grievances and Appeals” (2009/0005285) to provide for a delegate of the Pro Vice Chancellor (International) to undertake formal reviews of decisions in relation to appeals.

AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

Council approved a revised “Fees and Charges Policy” (2009/0005287) to substitute 20 working days for 14 days in Section 9.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

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

DECEMBER 2009