COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
4 July 2005

GRIFTH UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2006 - 2010

Council approved the document “Griffith University Strategic Plan 2006-2010”.

Central to the new Strategic Plan is the focus on the core goals of learning and research and the need to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to support and attract the staff necessary to achieve the University’s goals. The Strategic Plan 2006-2010 sets explicit performance indicators and challenging targets in these key areas, scaleable to the different levels of the University.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS – BUSINESS AND LAW GROUP

Council considered a paper from the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) outlining a proposal for new arrangements for the Business and Law group. Council was advised that the proposal had been developed after wide consultation within the University and supported Griffith’s existing structural and management frameworks.

Council resolved to approve the following:

- that the Griffith Law School be transferred from the Business and Law Group to the Arts and Education Group with immediate effect for reporting purposes, with other consequential changes to be implemented over the remainder of the year;
- that the Arts and Education Group be renamed “Arts, Education and Law Group” with immediate effect;
- that the Dean, GBS, position be combined with the former Group PVC position, and that the current Dean, GBS be invited to apply for the new position of Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean (Business); and
- that the Dean, GBS (Professor Michael Powell) be appointed Acting Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean (Business) from 4 July 2005 until such time as an appointment to the position is approved by Council.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council noted that Ms Alison Steel (elected Convocation member) and Mr Brad Maher (elected part-time undergraduate student) had tendered their resignations with immediate effect:

Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contributions of Ms Steel and Mr Maher to the work of Council and its Committees during their terms of office.
REVIEW OF GRIFFITH BUSINESS SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS – INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ASIAN STUDIES, AND POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

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. Council noted that the Departments of Industrial Relations, International Business and Asian Studies, and Politics and Public Policy within the Griffith Business School were reviewed under the University’s policy during November 2004. The Departments were reviewed by an independent review committee, comprising three committee members who were external to the University and two committee members who were internal to the University but were not from the Business and Law group.

Council endorsed the document “Report of the Committee Reviewing the Griffith Business School – Department of Industrial Relations, Department of International Business and Asian Studies and Department of Politics and Public Policy” (05/0000452).

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

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

APPOINTMENTS

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Lorelle Frazer as Associate Dean, Postgraduate Studies – Griffith Business School for the period 4 July 2005 to 3 July 2008; Ms Janine McMaster-Kirkwood as Associate Dean, Postgraduate Studies – Griffith Law School for the period 6 June 2005 to 26 May 2006; Dr Louis Sanzogni as Head, Department of Management for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007.

Council also ratified the executive action of the Vice Chancellor in approving the appointment of Professor Joy Cumming as Acting Dean, Graduate Studies for the period 27 June 2005 to 24 March 2006.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL – “SCATTERED PEOPLE” RECORDING PROJECT

Council viewed a screening of a video – “Stand with Us Scattered People”. Council also noted a background paper on the “Scattered People” project. The Scattered People choir is comprised of asylum seekers and refugees from countries including El Salvador, Chile and Colombia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Russia, Bosnia, Iran, Sri Lanka and East Timor who found comfort and common ground in singing together. The University’s staff and students have worked together with the Scattered People choir in the development of a four track CD single and an internationally broadcastable music video clip.

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Council approved a new policy on Risk Management (05/0015). This policy sets out the principles, objectives and responsibilities for risk management within the University.
POLICY ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COUNCIL

Council approved a revised “Policy on Election of Members to Council” (05/0018). The policy has been revised to incorporate amendments to Council membership arising from recent changes to the Griffith University Act.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council noted the 2004 University Annual Financial Statements which had been audited by the Queensland Audit Office without qualification.

REPORT ON NATHAN CAMPUS ISSUES

At its February 2005 retreat, Council requested that a short report on key campus issues be prepared for the particular campus at which the Council meeting was scheduled. Council noted a report on Nathan Campus issues which addressed the following matters: strategic vision for the Nathan campus and planning for the future; development of teaching and learning profile including proposed new programs; new research initiatives and current research performance; linkages with community, industry and government; major capital development plans; staff and student issues; and strategic challenges and key opportunities.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Council approved the revised delegations outlined in the document “Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements Schedule of Delegations” (05/0014).

This document brings together into one schedule a list of delegations authorising officers to sign contracts and agreements on behalf of the University.