GRiffith 2015 – AreAs Of StrATegic InvestmenT

At its December 2007 meeting, Council endorsed the strategic directions set out in the paper “Griffith 2015 - Implementing the Vision”. The Vice Chancellor had advised Council that in order to achieve international recognition, the University needed to select and develop fields that were in the top 1 to 4 in Australia and in the top 200 to 300 in the world. In these key strategic areas the University would aspire to be the destination of choice for students and staff.

Council noted a tabled document “Griffith 2015 Areas of Strategic Investment”. The Vice Chancellor reported to the meeting on the identification of eight areas of strategic investment, as follows:

- Asian politics, trade and development
- Climate change adaptation
- Criminology with a focus on prevention
- Drug discovery with a focus on infectious diseases
- Health research with a focus on innovations in health care
- Music, the arts and the Asia Pacific region
- Tourism with a focus on sustainable tourism research
- Water science with a focus on freshwater, estuarine and urban water research

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Council approved the revised documents “Risk Management Policy” (2008/0026252) and “Risk Management Action Plan 2008”. The Risk Management Policy sets out the principles, objectives and responsibilities for risk management within the University. The Risk Management Action Plan identifies 11 high level risks facing the University together with current and planned risk mitigation actions.

PreSenTAtion On The instiTuTe For GLYComics

Professor Mark von Itzstein, Executive Director, Institute for Glycomics, made a presentation to the meeting.

Council noted that research at the Institute for Glycomics involved the study of glycans and glycan-binding proteins in various biological systems, and the design of novel drugs and vaccines. This approach presented an exciting therapeutic platform for the control of a wide-range of medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases, inflammation and immune disorders. The Institute for Glycomics is the only one of its kind in Australia and one of only six in the world. The Institute seeks to collaborate with leading scientists around the world to build a critical mass around carbohydrate-based research. Global collaboration together with a multi-disciplinary approach to research, are essential to achieving the Institute’s vision of bringing forward novel medicines and vaccines to the community.
2008 FEDERAL BUDGET REPORT

Council noted a report on the impact of the 2008 budget on the higher education sector.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the following key issues arising from the Federal Budget:

- **Establishment of the Education Investment Fund (EIF) of $11 billion** - Effectively $608m available in 2009/10. Allocations to be via appropriation, informed by the Bradley review.

- **Better Universities Renewal Fund** - One-off $500m to be distributed by end 2007/2008. Distributed by formula using domestic student load (70%) and Institutional Grant Scheme allocations (30%). Likely Griffith allocation $16.2m.

- **Phase out of full fee-paying domestic students** - $249 million to fund new undergraduate university places and phase out full fee-paying domestic students.

- **Encouraging students to study maths and science** - From 1 Jan 2009, the maximum HECS contribution for these disciplines will be reduced from the maximum ($7,405 per EFTSL) to the lowest national priority rate ($4,160 per EFTSL). Universities to be compensated, but no detail as to how. Funding of approx $67m set aside in the budget for this purpose.

- **Future Fellowships scheme** - $326m over four years to create a Future Fellowships scheme for 1000 top mid-career researchers (commencing 2009).

- **The Scholarships for a Competitive Future – Skills Shortages** - $238.6m over four years from 2008-09 for the Scholarships for a Competitive Future program, to increase the number of higher education graduates in areas of skills shortages. This program will double the number of students receiving Commonwealth Scholarships from 44,000 to 88,000 by 2012.

- **The Scholarships for a Competitive Future – Postgraduate Scholarships** - $209m over four years to double the number of postgraduate scholarships available to higher degree research students by 2012.

NAME CHANGE FOR FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCHOOL OF ARTS

Council noted that the Report of the Faculty of Arts Review Panel, which was endorsed by the December 2007 meeting of Council, had recommended that consideration be given to the change of name for the Faculty. The Faculty and Group Executive agreed that the current name did not profile the University’s established and current strengths in research and teaching in humanities and social sciences. The University has a national and international reputation for its early path breaking research in Humanities and for its outstanding research in Criminology. In addition the current name causes confusion in the market, as both current and prospective students and other external stakeholders find it difficult to differentiate the Faculty of Arts and the Queensland College of Art.

Council considered a recommendation that the name of the School be changed from School of Arts to School of Humanities, and that the Faculty be renamed Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Council was advised that extensive consultation had taken place within both the Faculty and the School concerning the proposed name changes.
Council approved the following with effect from 1 January 2009:

a. a change of name of the Faculty of Arts to Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
b. a change of name of the School of Arts to School of Humanities.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD, SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

Council resolved to offer Dr Deborah Cao appointment as Head, School of Languages and Linguistics for the period 1 July 2008 to 28 February 2009.

2007 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council noted the 2007 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified by the Queensland Audit Office without qualification. Council also noted a document which highlighted the major variances between the 2007 and 2006 financial statements.

JUNE 2008