COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
5 March 2007

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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

http://www.griffith.edu.au/vc/council/

2007 UNDERGRADUATE DOMESTIC ADMISSIONS

Council noted that the overall number of applications to QTAC for all universities had decreased this year by 1,160 to a total of 50,693. The University's first preference applications were 8,895, with a total of 46,040 preferences. These numbers had decreased from last year (7% and 13% respectively). Griffith made 7,967 admission offers through QTAC in the major offer round, and 968 offers in the final offer round for Commonwealth supported places. These offers are expected to enable the University to meet its Commonwealth supported load target for 2007.

Council was advised that the outcome of the 2007 round presented a mixed picture. On the one hand our OP cut-off had to be lowered for several programs in order to achieve target intakes. On the other hand, the median OP scores had stayed relatively stable indicating that the overall quality of the student intake remains good. Council noted that the cut-offs for several programs at UQ and QUT had also dropped, and this had a flow-on effect to the number of Griffith offers made and the cut-offs for programs.

REVIEW OF ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

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 Academic Administration had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review report and the associated action plan.

PRESENTATION ON TROPICAL RIVERS AND COASTAL KNOWLEDGE (TRACK) INITIATIVE

In 2006, an $8 million Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) grant was awarded over four years to establish a Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub with Griffith University being a leading partner, through the Australian Rivers Institute. Land & Water Australia also contributed $3 million in funding and, more recently, the National Water Commission has contributed an additional $5 million. Consortium partners will provide $11 million in cash and in-kind contributions.
The aim of the TRACK research hub is to provide the science and knowledge that government, communities and industries need for the sustainable use and management of Australia’s tropical rivers and coasts.

Council noted a presentation from Professor Stuart Bunn (Director, Australian Rivers Institute).

The Vice Chancellor paid tribute to the key leadership role played by Professor Bunn in the establishment of TRACK.

DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART

Council noted that Professor Mostyn Bramley-Moore had resigned from the position of Director, Queensland College of Art to take up a continuing position of Professor at the QCA.

Council delegated authority to the Selection Committee to make an offer of appointment to the position of Director, Queensland College of Art.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

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

APPOINTMENT OF DEANS

Council noted that the following appointments had been made under delegated authority:

a. Professor Kim Halford as Dean (Research), Griffith Health for a five year period from 16 April 2007 to 15 April 2012; and
b. Associate Professor Clyde Wild as Dean (Academic); Professor Gillian Bushell as Dean (Research) and Mr Dave Edwards as Dean (Learning and Teaching) in the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group for a three year period from 1 February 2007 to 31 January 2010.

APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Dr Belinda Beck as Head, School of Anatomy for the period 6 March 2007 to 31 December 2007 or until the appointment of a Professor of Anatomy, whichever is the sooner; and Associate Professor Alf Lizzio as Head, School of Psychology for the period 12 March 2007 to 11 March 2010.

Council noted that the Vice Chancellor had approved the following appointments under delegated authority: Professor Paul Turnbull as Head, School of Arts for a one year period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007; Associate Professor Howard Middleton as Head, School of Education and Professional Studies (Brisbane, Logan) for a two year period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009; Professor Frank Clarke as Head, School of Biological and Physical Sciences for a two year period from 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2009; Dr Michael Blumenstein as Head, School of Information and Communication Technology for a two year period from 3 January 2007 to 2 January 2009; and Professor Jane Hughes as Head,
The Griffith School of Environment for a three year period from 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2010.

UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA

At its December 2006 meeting, Council noted that the Australian Vice Chancellors’ Committee (AVCC) had undertaken a review of its role and functions and it was expected that changes to structure and governance would be implemented in 2007. The Vice Chancellor reported that the AVCC would be renamed Universities Australia and that the University would transfer its membership from the AVCC to Universities Australia.

Council noted a copy of the constitution for Universities Australia and resolved that Griffith University join Universities Australia as set out in the constitution.

AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

International students studying in Australia on student visas are required, under regulation by the Department of Immigration, to hold overseas health cover for the duration of their studies.

Council approved an addition to the Fees and Charges Policy to allow the University to levy a charge on overseas students for health cover. Students who can demonstrate that they have suitable cover will be exempted from the charge and have these fees refunded.

AMENDMENTS TO ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY AND STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY

Council approved a revised Academic Misconduct Policy to include a new section clarifying the University’s stance regarding additional instances of academic misconduct that occur during an investigation of an academic misconduct complaint.

Council also approved a revised Student Grievances and Appeals Policy to include a revised section clarifying the University’s practice of acknowledging a student’s notice of appeal and the further notification they will receive should there be an unforeseen delay in finalising the consideration of an appeal.

AMENDMENT TO SMOKING POLICY

In light of recent changes to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act, Council approved the following addition to the University’s Smoking Policy:

Smoking is prohibited:

- in any outdoor area of a food outlet, or any outdoor area where food and drink is provided

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