COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
3 March 2008

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


2008 UNDERGRADUATE DOMESTIC ADMISSIONS

Council noted that the overall number of applications to QTAC for all universities decreased this year by 1,070 to a total of 48,918. Overall applications for Queensland institutions are down by 2.1%, with the largest decline from non-Year 12 applicants (-3.5%). Against that background of declining number of applicants, Griffith increased first preferences by 6.47%, while UQ increased by less than 1%. QUT declined by over 9%. In terms of total preferences Griffith increased by 6.04%, UQ by 0.79%, while QUT declined by 6.83%.

Griffith made 7,763 admission offers through QTAC in the major offer round (slightly fewer than in 2007), and 1,173 offers in the final offer rounds for Commonwealth supported places. These offers are expected to enable the University to meet its Commonwealth supported load target for 2008. In the majority of programs, the University has been able to either maintain or improve its cut-off scores. The median OP band for those to whom the University made offers based on OPs in the first round improved overall from OP 10 in 2007 to OP 9 in 2008. Council noted that this was a pleasing outcome considering the competitive tertiary education and job market the University is currently facing.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The Vice Chancellor advised that the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Honourable Kim Carr, had announced the outline of the new research quality and evaluation system: Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). This initiative to be developed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in conjunction with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, will assess research quality using a combination of metrics and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

UPDATE ON AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES QUALITY AGENCY (AUQA) AUDIT

As advised at the December 2007 Council meeting, the University undertook a trial audit in November 2007 to assist in preparation for the AUQA audit. The trial audit panel reviewed a draft portfolio and interviewed 128 staff and students. The panel provided important advice on the content and structure of the portfolio and the preparation of staff for the audit. The panel stressed that the portfolio should differ significantly from the 2003 portfolio. The three chapters should reflect the University’s plan/implement/review/improve (PIRI) cycle and closely follow the prescriptions of the audit manual.
Council noted a copy of the performance portfolio.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) made a presentation to the meeting. He advised that the University was addressing a number of key issues identified by the trial audit including the following:

- the need to ensure that staff at all levels have a clear understanding of the Griffith quality management framework as described in the portfolio and the interrelationships of its various components. The portfolio has been completely rewritten embedding the PIRI cycle;
- the need to more clearly articulate how the University used systematic benchmarking to improve performance;
- inclusion in the portfolio of more examples of improvements which have been made as part of the quality management cycle;
- the need to expedite the process for embedding internationalisation more holistically in all aspects of the University’s operations; and
- the importance of closing the cycle on recommendations in external reviews of Faculties/administrative support divisions.

**REVIEW OF GRIFFITH INTERNATIONAL**

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 Griffith International had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review report.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK**

At its October 2007 meeting, Council approved a new *Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity among Students* for trial in semester 2, 2007 in the Faculties of Arts and Education as well as the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group. For these academic areas, the process set out in the Framework replaced the process set out in the University’s Academic Misconduct Policy from Tuesday 9 October 2007 to 29 February 2008.

Council was advised that initial feedback from the Academic Integrity Change Management Group, and from other staff involved in the trial, had been very positive. Council noted a revised *Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity among Students*.

Council resolved to approve the following:

- that the trial under the revised *Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity among Students* (2008/0026501) continue to apply to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in programs hosted by the Faculties of Arts and Education, and the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group in semester 1, 2008; and
to consider at its May meeting whether the trial should be extended University-wide in semester 2 2008.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COUNCILS

Council approved appointment of external members to the Gold Coast, Queensland College of Art and Queensland Conservatorium Advisory Councils, for a three-year term from 7 April 2008 to 6 April 2011.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (INTERNATIONAL) – GRIFFITH BUSINESS SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Professor Christopher Auld appointment as Dean (International), Griffith Business School for the period 4 March 2008 to 3 March 2011.

APPOINTMENTS TO EQUITY COMMITTEE

Council approved the appointment of Dr Michael Blumenstein and Ms Catherine Longworth to Equity Committee for a two year term of office up to 31 December 2009.

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