VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


GRIFFITH RESEARCH PLAN 2009-2013


Council noted that the University had four key research objectives for the period 2009 – 2013 as elaborated in the Research Plan 2009 - 2013:

- build world class research strength in selected areas of strategic investment;
- demonstrate research of international standing and excellence in all our discipline areas;
- develop a culture of research quality and performance that is well supported by infrastructure (physical and electronic) and resources (financial and human);
- maintain our core commitments as a University to innovation, bringing disciplines together, and undertaking socially relevant research which provides demonstrable community benefit.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) advised that the new Research Plan provided an overarching picture of research at Griffith; a framework for research and postgraduate studies strategies; and key actions to progress research objectives and performance indicators.

2009 UNDERGRADUATE DOMESTIC ADMISSIONS

Council was advised that in spite of the current economic climate, and an increase in numbers nationally applying to tertiary education, overall QTAC first preferences were down -0.8% this year compared to 2008, and all preferences were down -4.75%. Following on from a very good year in 2008, Griffith experienced a decrease in QTAC first preferences of -5.6% and in total preferences of -9.4% this year, but had nevertheless maintained an overall increase of 2% in first preferences over the period 2007-2009.

Council noted that Griffith had made a total of 8 047 offers in the early and major QTAC rounds (6 548 in the main offer round), and 1168 offers in the February QTAC round. For Gold Coast programs the University had made 441 offers in the main UAC round, and a further 91 and 30 offers in the 4 and 11 February rounds respectively. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) advised that the University is expected to fill all of its commencing Commonwealth Government Supported (CGS) places.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)
Council noted that the Australian Research Council (ARC) had recently released a draft set of Guidelines for preparing ERA submissions specifically in relation to two disciplinary clusters:

- Physics, chemistry and earth sciences (PCA) and
- Humanities and creative arts (HCA)

Council noted that the University had submitted its response to the ARC on the draft ERA Submission Guidelines, expressing concern about the unexpectedly short timeframe for submissions and the failure of ERA to recognise excellence in interdisciplinary research areas. The Hon Kim Carr (Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research), has subsequently announced that the timeframe for submissions on the two clusters has been extended from the original April commencement date (to June in the case of the PCA cluster and August in the case of the HCA cluster).

**NEW UNIVERSITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

At its August 2008 meeting, Council noted the document “Report to Executive Group Health and Safety Taskforce – June 2008”. One of the recommendations of the Taskforce was that the existing University Health and Safety Committee be disestablished and replaced by a new University Health and Safety Committee with terms of reference and membership which satisfy the requirements of the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act.

Council resolved to disestablish the current University Health and Safety Committee and replace it with a new University Health and Safety Committee as set out in the document “University Health and Safety Committee Constitution” (2009/0001758).

**PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL)**

Council resolved to offer Mr Chris Madden a further appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor (International) for the period 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Nick Buys as Dean (Learning and Teaching), Griffith Health, for the period 3 May 2009 to 2 May 2012; Professor Mike Levy as Head, School of Languages and Linguistics, for the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2011; and Professor Christine Smith as Head, Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics for the period 9 March 2009 to 31 December 2012.

**MARCH 2009**