VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with section 16 of the Griffith University Act, Council appointed Mr Clinton Dines as an additional member to Council for a term of office commencing immediately up to 31 December 2011.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Council congratulated the Deputy Chancellor, Mr Henry Smerdon, and Professors Ron Quinn and Roger Kitching who were appointed Members in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2010 Australia Day Awards.

- Mr Smerdon AM was recognised for his service to financial management, as a contributor to reform in a range of public and private sector organisations, to tertiary education, and to the arts.
- Professor Ron Quinn AM was recognised for his service to scientific research, in the field of chemistry as a leader in the development of therapeutic compounds from marine organisms and plant materials.
- Professor Roger Kitching AM was recognised for his service to conservation science as an academic, researcher and educator, particularly in the field of tropical rainforest ecology and ecosystem management.

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-2012


2010 DOMESTIC STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Council was advised that there was a significant increase in demand for commonwealth-supported places in Queensland for semester 1 2010. QTAC applications rose from 49,013 in 2009 to 57,510 in 2010, an increase of 17.3% at the time of the main offer round. Demand for Griffith programs also strengthened with 1st preference applications rising from 9,811 in 2009 to 11,376 1st preferences in 2010 (+15.95%).

Student quality, as measured by OP levels, improved in 2010 with 68 programs improving their cut-off; cut-offs in 55 programs remained unchanged and 21 programs have worse cut-offs than last year. Forty-six percent of offers (4,195) were made in programs with an
improved cut-off and only 5.2% of offers (475) were made in programs with a worse cut-off. The overall median OP for the University improved from OP 10 to OP 9 in response to increased demand and improved applicant quality.

REVIEW OF THE GRIFFITH GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

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 the Griffith Graduate Research School had been reviewed under the University’s policy. Council endorsed the review report.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

Council noted that the Australian Research Council has recently released a new research rating scale for use in ERA 2010. The rating scale differs substantially from the scale used during the 2009 trial. The new scale is informed by the experience of the Research Evaluation Committees in the earlier trial, and allows for international comparison where appropriate.

Results from the 2009 ERA trial exercise for the Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA) cluster were released in December and the overall result for Griffith was positive.

Preparations are well underway for the full ERA exercise, which includes eight discipline clusters. Deadlines for this are very tight, with Griffith’s submission due in June. Each academic element at Griffith has an ERA Project Team of senior researchers who are helping the University prepare its submission.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (ACADEMIC) AND APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (RESEARCH) IN THE SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Clyde Wild an appointment as Dean (Academic) Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group, for the period 2 March 2010 to 31 December 2012, and Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein an appointment as Dean (Research) Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group for the period 2 March 2010 to 31 December 2012.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Lizzio an appointment as Head, School of Psychology for the period 12 March 2010 to 31 December 2010.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council conferred the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professors Roger Braddock and David Burch in recognition of their distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.
PRESENTATION ON GRIFFITH YOUTH FORENSIC SERVICE

Professor Stephen Smallbone, Deputy Dean (Research), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, made a presentation to the meeting on the Griffith Youth Forensic Service.

Council noted the Griffith Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) was established in 2001 and is the largest and longest continuously funded project in the sexual violence and abuse prevention sub-program which forms part of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance (KCELJAG) Crime Causes, Control and Prevention program. The vision of GYFS is to bring together a team of researchers and practitioners in a sustained collaboration focused on understanding and preventing youth sexual violence and abuse.

Council was advised GYFS gives priority to high-risk, high complexity youth, and to youth in regional and remote locations. The work of GYFS in remote Indigenous communities has provided a foundation for trialing community-level prevention with the potential for international dissemination. To date, GYFS has generated $4.3 million in State government funding and currently employs five full-time academic and one administrative staff. A total 280 referrals have been managed by GYFS during the period of its operation. GYFS entered into a fourth 3-year funding agreement in 2009.

AMENDMENT TO DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Council approved a revised Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements Schedule of Delegations to reflect changes to the staffing structure of the Queensland Conservatorium, with immediate effect.

AMENDMENT TO ACADEMIC TITLES POLICY

Council approved a revised Academic Titles Policy to change the process for approval of award of academic titles to Professor to include reference to the Director, Griffith Medical Research College and the Director, Queensland Institute for Medical Research, with immediate effect.

AMENDMENT TO ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES POLICY

Council approved a revised Election of Members to University Committees policy to reflect disestablishment of certain University Committees and to ensure consistency of terminology in University policy regarding retention of records.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council approved an appointment to the Finance and Resources Committee.

MARCH 2010