COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
7 March 2011

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Members welcomed Dr Dwight Zakus, elected academic staff member and Ms Sarah Gardiner, elected postgraduate student member to their first meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT – AREAS OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT (ASI)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) made a progress report to Council on the eight Areas of Strategic Investment (ASI). Council noted that ASI investments were already showing strong returns following the first full year of investment, and that long-term gains are indicated for the University, potentially in all ASIs. Council noted the ingredients of success have been:

- building on a strong foundation
- diversifying recruitment
- demonstrating a commitment to supporting strategic research areas
- strengthening of ties with partners of international standing

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) reported to Council on the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 results. Council noted that the results profile the University as a comprehensive, research-active University. Based on the ERA 2010 outcomes, the University is ranked at eighth in Australia for the total number of fields of research (2-digit level) assessed at world standard or above, and ninth in Australia for the total number of fields (4-digit level) assessed at world standard or above. These results will have a positive impact on the University’s reputation both nationally and internationally and will be used to great effect in terms of staff and student recruitment and partnering with high quality Australian and international institutions.

PRESENTATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES SURVEY

Professor A.J. Brown, Griffith Law School, made a presentation to members on the Australian Constitutional Values Survey, and discussed its significance for current proposals for reforms to the Australian Constitution to recognise Indigenous Australians, and to recognise local government.

Council was advised that only eight of the previous 44 referendums to change the Constitution were approved by voters. The results of the October 2010 Australian Constitutional Values Survey indicate that considerable work will need to be done to prepare
the way for constitutional change, including formulating sound and sensible proposals, and engaging Australian voters in the debate before going to referendum on the two issues.

Council noted that these are key issues for the nation and that this very important, Australian Research Council-funded research was led by the University. The Chancellor thanked Professor Brown for his informative presentation.

2011 STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Council was advised that there was a marginal increase in demand for Commonwealth-supported places in Queensland for semester 1, 2011 equating to a 0.2% increase at the time of the main offer round. Council noted that this was the highest number of applicants for the last 10 year period, and improved on the significant upswing from 2010.

Council noted that demand for Griffith programs through QTAC and UAC had strengthened, and that this increase was above the QTAC state average for all Universities in Queensland (+1.1%). Council was advised that 60% of Griffith programs offered though QTAC had improved OP cut-offs in the main round.

The Vice Chancellor reported on 2011 international student enrolments and advised that commencing undergraduate enrolments are slightly over target, while postgraduate enrolments are slightly under target. While 2011 commencing international student enrolments are close to target, Council noted it is anticipated 2012 may be a more challenging year due to the decline in student visa applications and declining postgraduate enrolments.

REVIEW OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Council noted that a review of the effectiveness of Academic Committee and its sub-committees in contributing towards assuring the quality of the University’s educational activities and attaining its strategic goals was undertaken in 2010, and that Emeritus Professor Andrew Lister had coordinated the review.

Council noted the review recommendations were predominantly concerned with improved focus on and alignment with the University’s strategic and operational plans; committee functions and membership; meeting arrangements; and sub-committee quality assurance functions.

Council resolved to approve the following:

(a) The recommendations outlined in the “Academic Committee Review Report Griffith University” (2010/0011553).
(b) The Review of Academic Committee Proposed Implementation Plan 2011-2012 (2010/0011600)
(c) The revised Academic Committee Constitution (2010/0011607), with effect from 1 July 2011.

REVIEWS OF THE QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART, AND THE CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2010 the Queensland College of
Art, and the Careers and Employment Service had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD, CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Janet Ransley an appointment as Head, Criminology and Criminal Justice for the period 8 March 2011 to 6 February 2014.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council resolved to confer the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professors Michael Davidson, Janet Delpratt, Lesley Johnson, Anne McMurray, Bill Shepherd, Max Standage and Nancy Viviani in recognition of their distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

AMENDMENT TO ACADEMIC STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC MANAGER POSITIONS POLICY AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES

To ensure that terminology, academic manager positions, and reporting arrangements are consistent and accurate across University policies following the disestablishment of faculties in the Arts, Education and Law Group effective 1 January 2011, Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, the rescission of the Dean of Faculty Position Statement and a revised Academic Structure of the University and Academic Manager Positions policy (2010/0012777) and revisions to the following associated policies, constitution and position statement documents: Group Board Constitution (2010/0012781); Health Group Board Constitution (2010/0012816); Staff Committee Constitution (2010/0012786); Dean (Academic) Position Statement (2010/0012780); Head of School/Department Position Statement (2010/0012784); Consultancy and Commercial Research Policy (2010/0012806); Group Promotions Committee Constitution (2010/0012782); Policy on Election of Members to University Committees (2010/0012814); Research Centre Director Position Statement (2010/0012785); Students with Disabilities Policy (2010/0012818); University Reviews Policy (2010/0012819); Approving Authorities for University Policies (2010/0012805); Staffing Delegations – Academic Groups (2010/0012788); Appointment of Academic Managers in Groups (2010/0012777); Group Pro Vice Chancellor Position Statement (2010/0012783); Dean (Learning & Teaching) Position Statement (2010/0012811); Dean (Research) Position Statement (2010/0012812).

REVISED ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, a revised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Constitution (2010/0012807).

AMENDMENT TO STUDENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY AND RELATED POLICIES

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, a revised Student Academic Misconduct Policy (2010/0012817); Student Grievances and Appeals policy (2010/0012815); Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity Among Students (2010/0012813); and Academic Awards, Programs, Nomenclature and Abbreviations policy (2010/0012804) to clarify that, following the disestablishment of faculties in the Arts, Education and Law Group,
the four Deans (Learning and Teaching) are the Chairs of Assessment Boards and are the relevant authority for assessment decisions in the respective academic groups.

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