VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA) OUTCOMES REPORT

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) reported to Council on the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012 results.

Council noted that the key reference dates for ERA 2012 were 2005-2010 for research outputs and 2008-2010 for research income, and that citation analysis and peer review of research outputs had been the main determinants of ERA 2012 ratings. It was noted that this approach had differed from the ERA 2010 exercise which had relied on a ‘balanced scorecard’ approach where indicators were not weighted.

Council was advised that an analysis of the ERA results showed that:

**Two Digit Level (broad Fields of Research [FoR])**

- The University received an improved rating in five fields, the same rating in twelve fields and a lower rating in three fields when compared to the ERA 2010 results;
- 85% of the University’s 20 broad (two-digit) FoRs that reached the assessment threshold were rated as world standard or better;
- Approximately 88% of the University’s eligible researchers were associated with these broad (two-digit) FoRs; and
- The University ranks equal 11th nationally for number of broad (two-digit) fields of research (FoRs) rated at world standard or better.

**Four Digit Level (specific Fields of Research)**

- At the four-digit level, 51 fields were assessed in both ERA 2010 and ERA 2012; of these, nine were rated higher, 24 were rated the same and 18 were rated lower;
- 63% of the University’s 60 specific (four-digit) FoRs that reached the assessment threshold were rated as world standard or better;
- The University ranks equal 14th nationally for number of specific (four-digit) FoRs rated at world standard or better;
- For ERA-related research block funding (Sustainable Research Excellence Threshold 2 funding) derived partly on the basis of ERA 2012 outcomes at the four-digit level, the University received $1.27 million and maintained 12th position within the University sector – the same ranking following ERA 2010.

Council noted it was anticipated that the key reference dates for ERA 2015 (2008-2013 for research outputs and 2011-2013 for research income) would better align with research published following the University’s investment into the Areas of Strategic Investment, and academic profile growth into several other fields.

Council noted that a change to the assessment approach had been foreshadowed for ERA 2015, including the introduction of research impact measures. It was noted that the
University would be better positioned for ERA 2015 given that the *Griffith University Strategic Plan 2013-2017*, approved by Council at its December 2012 meeting, had introduced new research key performance indicators, including the development of a research impact register, and the use of field normalized citation rates in relevant disciplines.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) answered questions from members about the 2012 ERA results and preparations for ERA 2015. It was noted that the University would adopt strategies for ERA 2015 which would best reflect the reputation and performance of the University as a large, comprehensive research university, while adapting to the new ERA guidelines.

**2013 DOMESTIC STUDENT ADMISSIONS REPORT**

Council considered the report ‘*Outcomes of 2013 Domestic Admission Round as at 31 January 2013.*’ Council noted that overall demand for Commonwealth supported places in Queensland for Semester 1 2013 was flat and had declined slightly with total QTAC applications decreasing in 2013 (-1%), and UAC applications increasing slightly (+2%).

Council noted that demand for Griffith programs was steady with combined TAC 1st preference applications declining marginally from 10,977 in 2012 to 10,926 in 2013 (-0.5%).

Council noted that the University had maintained or improved OP cut-offs for over half of its programs: 45% maintained their OP cut-off; 16% improved their OP cut-off and 36% decreased their OP cut-off in 2013. It was noted that the OP1-6 Guarantee Scheme had contributed to the proportion of high performing Queensland school leaver applicants attracted to Griffith with an additional 84 first preference applications (+13.2%) and 512 total preferences (+10.7%).

**REVIEWS OF THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORK**

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2012 the School of Environment and the School of Human Services and Social Work had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Council *resolved to offer* Professor Mark Forwood an appointment as Head, School of Medical Science for the period 5 March 2013 to 4 March 2016.

**2012 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Council received the 2012 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified by the external auditors without qualification on behalf of the Auditor-General.

**AMENDED PHILANTHROPY AND FUNDRAISING POLICY**

Council *resolved to approve*, with immediate effect, an amended ‘*Philanthropy and Fundraising Policy*’ (2012/0009541) to authorise that the acceptance of donations be delegated to members of the Donations Acceptance Committee based on a tiered approach, and to clarify the separate process of accepting Griffith Artworks donations.
AMENDED APPROVAL AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION MARKERS ON GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES POLICY

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, an amended ‘Approval and Installation of Information Markers on Griffith University Campuses Policy’ (2013/0002755) to change the delegated authority to the Vice Chancellor; to specify that a Marker will not normally be installed for a person who is actively associated with the University; to specify that variations to the design of Markers require the Vice Chancellor’s approval; and to include guidelines for the removal of a Marker.

CODES OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE – DELEGATION TO GROUP BOARDS

Council resolved to delegate to academic Group Boards the authority to approve Codes of Professional Practice that apply to students’ behaviour in courses that have practical sessions.

Council noted that the delegation to academic Group Boards does not extend to imposition of a penalty for breaches of professional practical standards more severe than exclusion from the practical course in question.

PRESENTATION – SELECTION OF WORKS FROM THE GRIFFITH FILM SCHOOL

Professor Herman Van Eyken, Head, Griffith Film School presented a recent selection of students’ work including editing work undertaken on Lord David Puttnam’s Masterclass Seminars, an animation entitled ‘the Guardian’s Tale,’ and the trailer for a computer game entitled ‘Dr Drab.’

Professor Van Eyken updated the members about some of the School’s recent successes on the international stage:

- nine films by nine student film-makers were showcased at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival;
- last year the School hosted the Asia-Pacific Symposium on Creative Post-Production; and also hosted the inaugural CILECT Asia-Pacific Association (CAPA) Conference ‘Screen Education for the Asia Pacific Century: New Partnerships and Future Directions.’

Professor Van Eyken answered questions from the members about the Griffith Film School. The Chancellor thanked Professor Van Eyken for his interesting presentation.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council resolved to make appointments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee as set out in the paper (2013/0002754).

MARCH 2013