“GRiffITH PROJECT: NEXT PHASE” PROGRESS REPORT

Council noted the document “Next Phase Progress Report”. The paper summarised feedback from the “Next Phase” consultation process and the approach for the new Strategic Plan, as well as the key internal and external planning issues that the University must address in the next decade. Council noted that the proposed Strategic Plan will seek to focus the University’s activities by:

- bringing to the foreground that the core goals of the University are learning and research;
- setting explicit and challenging targets which are scaleable to the different levels of Griffith; and
- differentiating Griffith by its approach to these core activities.

The Vice Chancellor advised Council that the final draft of the Strategic Plan and associated Performance Indicators would be brought forward for Council’s approval at its July meeting.

RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK

At its March 2005 meeting, Council noted that the Federal Government was consulting universities and research bodies concerning the establishment of a Research Quality Framework to measure the quality and impact of research conducted in universities and publicly funded research agencies, as well as its benefits to the wider community. In late March 2005, Minister Nelson released the paper “Research Quality Framework: Assessing the quality and impact of research in Australia.”

Council noted the University’s response to this discussion paper.

QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART REVIEW REPORT

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. The Queensland College of Art was the first faculty to be reviewed under this new framework in October 2004. It was reviewed by an independent review committee, comprising three committee members who were external to the University and two committee members who were internal to the University but were not from the Arts and Education group.

Council endorsed the document “Queensland College of Art Review Committee Report”. (05/0000323). The report supports a number of directions and initiatives already being pursued, including the development of a research profile in the creative arts, addressing gender issues in senior positions and overall staffing profile, attending to the lack of career progression and the comparatively junior staffing profile, reviewing the role of the Indigenous degree program and the bringing together of art theory with studio practice. Council was advised that the report had added impetus to the development of an exciting and innovative program structure for all QCA undergraduate degrees.
UNIVERSITY’S RESPONSE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION PAPERS

Council noted the University’s consolidated response to the following Federal Government discussion papers:

- “Building Better Foundations for Higher Education in Australia: A discussion about re-aligning Commonwealth-State responsibilities.”

VOLUNTARY STUDENT UNIONISM

Council noted a paper relating to the Federal Government’s proposed introduction of voluntary student unionism.

At this stage, the University’s understanding is that the effect of the legislation will be to prohibit completely the current Student Services Charge. Council was advised that the three student bodies and Campus Life are currently analysing the potential impact if the legislation is passed in its current form. The analysis will include options for the future. Once this work is completed, a report will be made to Council through the Finance and Resources Committee.

FORMATION OF COMPANIES

Council approved the incorporation of a company to be known as Aqua Diagnostics with the University holding 50% of the issued stock.

Council also approved the establishment of a company to commercialise the QsRAM technology as recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL/HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Associate Professor Stephen Stockwell as Head, School of Arts for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008; Associate Professor Richard Wortley as Head, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007; Associate Professor Brendan Bartlett as Head, School of Cognition, Language and Special Education for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005; Dr Glenice Watson as Head, School of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008; Professor Peter Renshaw as Head, School of Education and Professional Studies for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005; Dr Howard Middleton as Head, School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008; Professor David Peetz as Head, Department of Industrial Relations for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006; Professor Jane Hughes as Head, Australian School of Environmental Studies for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008; and Professor Peter Healy as Head, School of Science for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008.

REPORT ON LOGAN CAMPUS ISSUES

At its February 2005 retreat, Council requested that a short report on key campus issues be prepared for the particular campus at which the Council meeting was scheduled. Council noted a report on Logan Campus issues which addressed the following matters: strategic
vision for the Logan campus and planning for the future; development of teaching and learning profile including proposed new programs; new research initiatives and current research performance; linkages with community, industry and government; major capital development plans; staff and student issues; and strategic challenges and key opportunities.

CAPE YORK INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP REPORT - 2004

The Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership was established in 2003 to drive policy innovation and promote active Aboriginal participation in public policy debates.

Council noted the document “Report to Council – Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership 2004”.

SCHOOL OF NURSING NAME CHANGE

Council approved the change of name of the School of Nursing to the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

POLICY ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council approved a new policy which outlines election procedures in respect of University Committees such as Advisory Councils, Academic Committee and Faculty/Group Staff Committees.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Council approved the revised delegations outlined in the document “Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements Schedule of Delegations”(05/0010).

This document brings together into one schedule a list of delegations authorising officers to sign contracts and agreements on behalf of the University.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council approved appointments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee and the Audit Committee.