COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
8 May 2007

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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

http://www.griffith.edu.au/vc/council/

GRIFFITH 2015 DISCUSSION PAPER

Council noted the paper “Griffith 2015: Beyond Top 10” which summarised progress against the University’s strategic agenda in the areas of research, learning, staff and resources. The paper also highlighted the major contextual challenges facing the University now and in the future.

In proposing a strategy to position the University for the years beyond 2010, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the following:

- the need for Griffith to make the transition from aiming for top 10 across the board to developing peaks of excellence. In order to achieve international recognition, the University needed to select and develop fields that were in the top 3 or 4 in Australia and in the top 200 to 300 in the world.
- the need to promote distinctive claims to excellence for each campus and develop program and research profiles that reflect the campus flavour.

Council considered a number of immediate actions which would be put in place to guide the University’s planning for the next phase of development. In particular, Council approved the establishment of a new full-time senior executive position – the Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning and Student Outcomes). This position will be responsible for assisting the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) in implementing key strategies concerning learning and the student experience at Griffith. Council also resolved to appoint the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) as Provost of the Nathan campus in light of the key role this position will play in campus planning at Nathan.

Council was advised that “Griffith 2015: Beyond Top 10” would be circulated to the University community for comment and feedback on the strategies proposed.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Marilyn McMeniman as Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012; Professor Allan Cripps as Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) for the period 26 May 2008 to 25 May 2013; and Mr Colin McAndrew as Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012.

GOLD COAST HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT
Council approved a recommendation from the Vice Chancellor concerning the development of the new Gold Coast Hospital and associated activities on University land.

**REVISED “GRIFFITH STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION”**

At its October 2006 meeting, Council approved the document “Griffith Statement on Reconciliation”.

At its March 2007 meeting, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee recommended that a number of amendments be made to the Reconciliation Statement to ensure the inclusion of terminology which was more empathetic to Indigenous aspirations.

Council approved a revised “Griffith Statement of Reconciliation”

**UPDATE ON AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES QUALITY AGENCY (AUQA) AUDIT**

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) provided an update to Council on the University’s preparation for the AUQA audit in 2008. Council noted that as part of the audit documentation the University will be required to provide a progress report on recommendations and affirmations from cycle 1 audits, as well as advice on changes to quality systems and processes. The audit will also require a detailed analysis of two thematic areas – one on international activity and the other to be determined in conjunction with AUQA. Council was advised that Griffith’s second theme will be Supporting Student Success (focused on student recruitment, orientation, engagement and transition, first year student support, support for equity groups, work integrated learning and research based learning)

**REVIEWS**

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 Faculty of Science and the School of Public Health had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the two review reports.

**CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS COUNCIL**

Council noted a copy of the constitution for the University Chancellors Council (UCC) which had been adopted by the 19 March 2007 meeting of the UCC. The function of the UCC is to: (a) assist Australian Universities in the carrying out of their respective and collective functions; (b) provide a means of voicing appropriate concerns on behalf of Australian Universities on matters of governance; (c) liaise with Universities Australia Limited and similar organisations on the advancement and promotion of Australian Universities; (d) provide a forum for communication and discussion concerning Australian Universities and related institutions; and (e) carry out such activities as are necessary to further the above objects.
REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR EQUITY PORTFOLIO

At its May 2006 meeting, Council resolved that the responsibility for the equity portfolio be shared between the two Deputy Vice Chancellors, with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) responsible for equity matters relating to staff and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) responsible for equity matters relating to students. In approving the revised responsibilities, Council had noted that the new arrangements would be reviewed after 12 months.

Council noted a review report which highlighted that the decision to embed the lead role for the equity portfolio at the most senior level of management had ensured the successful alignment of equity goals with the core goals of teaching and learning and research.

A particular achievement in the last year has been the development of a new “Griffith University Equity and Diversity Plan 2007-2010” which will be considered by Council at its August 2007 meeting. A key objective of the new plan is to achieve clear and consistent alignment between equity and diversity goals and strategies and the University’s overall strategic directions and core activities.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION POLICY

Council approved a new Recruitment and Selection Policy which had been developed after wide consultation within the University. The policy contains a set of overarching principles which will guide strategic recruitment of staff and allow the University to respond to organisational needs.

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Members noted that the elected undergraduate student position on Council had been declared vacant as the incumbent, Mr Brenton Hill, was not currently enrolled in a degree program at the University. Council placed on record its appreciation of the contributions of Mr Hill to the work of Council and its committees during his term of office.

Council noted that the position will be filled in the next election round scheduled for September 2007.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART

Council noted that Associate Professor Paul Cleveland had been appointed as Director, Queensland College of Art for the period 28 March 2007 to 31 December 2009.

APPOINTMENT TO QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Council approved the appointment of Mr Andrew Trump, Coordinator - Cultural Planning and Development, Gold Coast City Council, to the Queensland Conservatorium Advisory Council for a term of office up to 6 April 2008.
APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Professor Richard Wortley as Head, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008; and Dr Louis Sanzogni as Head, Department of Management for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2010.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council approved the re-appointment of Mr Graham Dillon as Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee for a term of office up to 31 December 2008. A revised constitution for the Advisory Committee was also approved.

MAY 2007