VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


RE-ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR

Council resolved to re-elect Ms Leneen Forde AC as Chancellor of the University for a further three year term from 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2012.

MINUTES OF APPRECIATION

Council noted that Professor Lesley Johnson – Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) and Professor John Dewar – Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) had attended their last meeting of Council in March 2009.

Council resolved to adopt minutes of appreciation in recognition of the outstanding contributions of Professors Johnson and Dewar to the development of the University in their respective Deputy Vice Chancellor roles.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

At its December 2008 meeting, Council approved new arrangements concerning the allocation of senior portfolios, including the redesignation of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) position as Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor. Council had also approved the appointment of Professor John Dewar as Senior DVC. Shortly after the Council meeting Professor Dewar was offered and accepted a position at the University of Melbourne.

Following an international search undertaken by Cordiner King, and a selection process chaired by the Chancellor, the conclusion was reached that the University would be better served by two Deputy Vice-Chancellor positions given the scope of work involved and the significant external and internal developments that had arisen since the December 2008 Council meeting. Consequently, a recommendation was made to Council to retain the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) position and create a new position, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost. The latter position will be responsible for campuses (including the role of Provost of Nathan, Mt Gravatt and South Bank), social inclusion (including student and staff equity), external engagement, and development and alumni. Council was advised that this re-alignment of executive responsibilities will ensure that key priorities of the Griffith 2015 agenda are delivered. Council noted that some further refinement of senior portfolios may be required as a result of the proposed changes.
Council resolved to:

- approve the retention of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) position (in place of the Senior DVC position) as set out in the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) position statement (2009/0005259);
- approve the establishment of the new position of Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost as set out in the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost position statement (2009/0005260);
- offer Professor Sue Spence appointment to the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) with immediate effect; and
- offer Professor Marilyn McMeniman appointment to the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost from a date to be determined by the Vice Chancellor.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Council noted a copy of the 2008 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified without qualification by the external auditors – Thomas, Noble and Russell – acting on behalf of the Auditor General.

Council also noted the paper “Global Financial Crisis – Implications for Griffith University”. Council was advised of the potential impacts of the current economic situation on the University in the areas of:

- income (Commonwealth funding, State Government support, international student fees and charges, investment income and consultancy contracts);
- expenditure (employee related expenditure, asset depreciation/amortisation, repairs and maintenance, finance costs, and impairment of assets); and
- balance sheet (assets and liabilities).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

At its October 2007 meeting, Council approved a new Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity among Students for trial in semester 2, 2007 in selected elements. At its May 2008 meeting, Council approved that the trial be rolled out for application to all undergraduate and relevant postgraduate students of the University in Semester 2, 2008. This trial was further extended by Council until the end of Semester 1, 2009 to allow the University to carry out a full evaluation of the new Academic Integrity Framework in February/March 2009.

Council considered the following documents:

- “Review of the Academic Integrity Framework and Implementation Action at Griffith University” (2009/0003266)

Council noted that the review report recommended that the University develop a new policy on student academic misconduct as a companion document to the Academic Integrity Framework. Council was advised that a new policy and a revised Academic Integrity Framework document had been drafted, however, the finalisation of both documents was
subject to further consultation with Faculty Boards and the receipt of appropriate legal advice. In light of this fact, Council approved the extension of the current trial until the end of the 2009 academic year.

Revised documentation on the Academic Integrity Framework, including a recommendation on whether the new policy and Framework be implemented in Semester 1, 2010, will be brought back to Council (through the Academic Committee) for consideration at a later meeting in 2009.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

Council was advised that the most important announcements since the March 2009 meeting concerned the first two clusters – PCE (Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences) and HCA (Humanities and Creative Arts) – which will undergo preliminary analysis in 2009. It was previously stated that both clusters would be due for submission by 8 May 2009, however it had now been agreed by the Minister that the PCE submission must be completed by 3 July and the HCA submission by 21 August. The 2009 exercise had now formally been designated as a trial and the results of individual institutions will not be published. In 2010, all eight disciplinary clusters will be assessed simultaneously, and all institutional results will be published.

Council noted that data to be collected and submitted for ERA included publications and other research outputs, research income and applied research indicators. Esteem indicators had been removed for the trial exercise in 2009 but were expected to make a return in 2010. Peer review will not apply to the PCE cluster in the current round however journal outputs will be subject to citation analysis. For the HCA cluster only, a total of 20% of the University’s total research outputs must be selected for peer review. Both trial clusters will be analysed according to distribution of outputs across ranked journal listings.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTS OF MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT, GRIFFITH BUSINESS 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 Departments of Marketing and Management in the Griffith Business School had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review report.

APPOINTMENTS

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Associate Professor Wendy Loughlin as Dean (Learning and Teaching), Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012; and Dr Mark Mourell as Acting Head, Department of Employment Relations for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY 2009-2012
Council noted a copy of the University’s “Indigenous Australian Employment Strategy 2009-2012”. The Strategy was last revised in 2004 and has been updated to take into consideration changes within the University and within the external political and social environments. The new Strategy continues to focus on the three areas of recruitment, retention and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

Council conferred the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professor John Stevenson in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Council appointed Ms Ann Robilotta-Glenister to the Audit Committee for the period 6 May 2009 to 31 December 2010; Ms Gail Stephenson to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee for the period 6 May 2009 to 31 December 2010; and Professor Michael Balfour to the Equity Committee for the period 6 May 2009 to 31 December 2010.

**MAY 2009**