VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


STRATEGIC PLAN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Vice Chancellor made a presentation to Council on the revised consolidated University key performance indicators (KPIs). Council was advised that minor changes to the current University level KPIs and targets will enable and align the cascading of targets and indicators to Group/School/Department/Centre levels, and facilitate the University’s response to forthcoming changes in the external environment arising from the Commonwealth’s reform agenda for higher education and research.

Council noted, in recognition of the social inclusion agenda, that emphasis on benchmarking in the equity area has been increased, with the inclusion of extra KPIs and targets relating to Participation, Retention and Success of Students from Low Socio-economic Status (SES) and Indigenous backgrounds. To give expression to Griffith’s Equity and Diversity Plan, two indicators aimed at increasing the proportion of female senior academic (Levels D and E) and administrative staff (HEW Level 10 and above) have also been included.

Council noted the revised University KPIs are consistent with both the University’s Strategic Plan, and external reporting requirements. Additionally, the revised KPIs are less time-lagged than the current indicators, and will more clearly show progress over time. For these reasons, the revised KPIs will be more meaningful to the academic elements, and provide greater clarity about progress and performance, and transparency in relation to allocation of budget resources.

Council approved the new Strategic Plan KPIs, and their incorporation into the Strategic Plan 2009-2013, in place of the existing KPIs.

2009 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council noted a copy of the 2009 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified without qualification by the external auditors – Thomas, Noble and Russell – acting on behalf of the Auditor General.
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Council noted that while the Student Guild at the Gold Coast campus has continued to operate, the SRC has been dormant since 2006, following the introduction of voluntary student unionism. Council recalled that students at the Brisbane and Logan campuses were consulted during Semester 2 2009 and at that time, students indicated strong support for a revival of the Student Representative Council (SRC). The University subsequently developed a draft constitution which was widely publicised to the student community for the purpose of consultation and feedback via broadcast email and a Website. Additionally, the Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) conducted consultation sessions at the Brisbane and Logan campuses during March 2010.

Council was advised that student responses indicated unanimous support for a strongly campus-based structure of the SRC. Students were also in favour of the Constitution which is capable of amendment over time, as the revived SRC develops and becomes established.

Council noted that following approval of the Constitution, the following steps will be taken by the University to support the revived SRC to begin operations:

(a) The Vice Chancellor will make provision in the University Budget for funding for the SRC.
(b) An information and publicity campaign will be conducted in the first part of second semester in order to raise awareness among students about the SRC and the elections which will be held in October in accordance with Section 16 of the Constitution.
(c) The University will conduct the elections in October (in the absence of an SRC at that stage).
(d) The University will provide a training program for elected SRC officers in order to assist them to take up their new roles.

Council resolved to approve the Griffith University Student Representative Council Constitution (2010/0012767) with immediate effect.

UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (SRE) and EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

Council noted that the SRE program delivered $1.19 million to the University in 2010 and this is projected to increase to $3.76 million in 2013. Universities wishing to receive SRE program funding are required to engage in the ERA initiative, and also participate in a trial of Transparent Costing, involving the completion of two surveys by academic staff and the provision of accompanying financial information. The University’s response rate on the first survey was an impressive 84%.

Council was advised the Research Quality Taskforce has reviewed all data assembled for the University’s ERA 2010 submission. 12,047 weighted research outputs, including 644 creative outputs (2003-2008) and $131 million in research income (2006-2008) will be submitted for assessment. The University’s research data is eligible for assessment in approximately one-third of all four-digit fields of research, while the remaining data will be assessed at the two-digit level. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) will keep the
University community informed regarding Griffith’s submission and any policy implications of ERA as these emerge.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (RESEARCH) GRIFFITH BUSINESS SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Professor Graham Cuskelly a further appointment as Dean (Research) Griffith Business School for the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2013.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD, SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Peter Bernus an appointment as Head, School of Information and Communication Technology for the period 11 May 2010 to 10 May 2012.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

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

POLICY ON ACADEMIC AWARDS, PROGRAMS, NOMENCLATURES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Council approved the new Academic Awards, Programs, Nomenclature and Abbreviations policy (2010/0011520) which replaces the Awards, Nomenclature and Abbreviations Policy (91/1217). Council noted the key aspects of the new policy, which specifies:

- the academic awards that may be conferred or granted by the Council;
- the processes associated with the conferral of awards;
- the provision of transcripts, testamurs and the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement;
- the University’s approach to naming its programs and awards.

AMENDMENTS TO SMOKING POLICY AND UNIVERSITY SITE POLICY

Council noted the “Smoke Less” pilot project conducted at the Mt Gravatt campus during Semester 2 2009 was considered successful, and that it is planned to extend designated smoking areas to all campuses during the course of 2010. Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, a revised “Smoking Policy” (2010/0012765) and a revised “University Site Policy” (2010/0012766) to enable the introduction of designated smoking areas at all campuses.

AMENDMENT TO UNIVERSITY REVIEWS POLICY

Council resolved to approve a revised “University Reviews Policy” (2010/0012001) to include an additional term of reference to “Review the element’s effectiveness in providing high quality student-focused support and services” for all reviews from 2010.

AMENDMENT TO DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS
Council **resolved to approve** a revised “Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements Schedule of Delegations” (2010/012763) to enable new delegations to sign Commercialisation Opportunity Deeds and Griffith Enterprise Innovation Fund – Funding Agreements, and to reflect a change to the staffing structure of Griffith Enterprise, with immediate effect.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

Council resolved to make appointments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, and the Equity Committee.

**MAY 2010**