COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
3 May 2011

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

Council noted that a review of the University’s Intellectual Property (IP) policy was undertaken to ensure the University can:

- operate confidently in relation to the IP provisions and undertakings required in its research grant and commercial contracts;
- give confidence to granting bodies and collaborative or industry partners that the University can enter into and act upon such provisions.

Council noted that the revisions to the IP policy were developed following wide consultation with the University community and that the key objectives of the proposed IP are:

- to ensure that the University is empowered to deal in IP created at the University and to comply with terms and conditions of other parties the University contracts with;
- to protect freedom for staff to publish;
- to confirm that students own the IP they create;
- to clarify the processes for assessing the commercial potential of IP;
- to share an equitable percentage of net commercialisation revenue with staff; and
- to ensure that, where staff own and commercialise IP (without the assistance of the University), they comply with the requirements of the Private Practice Policy.

Council noted that the University’s assertion of an over-arching right to own IP created by staff at the University is unchanged from the existing Policy and that, as before, the revised IP Policy does not restrict the freedom to publish research outcomes. Therefore, it contains a licence of rights in IP in scholarly works and educational materials, to the extent required for publication. This licence also grants staff the right to use their scholarly works and educational materials for publication, teaching, academic research and personal promotion, after they have left the University.

Council noted that the University also acknowledges the benefits of the dissemination of creative works throughout the community. Therefore, in relation to original works created by staff, the University waives its rights, title and interests provided that:

- staff acknowledge that the creative work was created at the University; and
- the University retains a right to use reproductions of the original creative work for teaching, academic research and promotion of, and commercialisation (where appropriate) by the University.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) answered questions from Council members regarding the IP policy. In response to a query from one of the members, Council was advised that it is
the explicit intention of Section 2.2 Granting of Rights that the University has no claim on copyright on published works such as books. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) advised Council that the new provisions of the Intellectual Property Policy would not operate to change staff members’ conditions of appointment unilaterally.

Council noted that Intellectual Property is a complex area and the new Policy has been written as simply as possible. Council agreed that the terms of the Policy are generous and advantageous to staff. It was agreed that an ongoing, significant staff education program is of key importance to the successful operation of the policy to assist staff to understand their rights and obligations and those of the University.

Council resolved to approve the following:

(a) rescission of the current "Intellectual Property Policy" (2006/004537) and the "Intellectual Property Procedures" (2005/0038510)
(b) the new Intellectual Property Policy (2011/0006013).

ANNUAL REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013

Council considered the document ‘Report to Council on Griffith University Strategic Plan 2009-2013” (2011/000258) and noted that it details historical data from 2006 for each of the Strategic Plan indicators and the performance for each indicator based on the targets set out in the Strategic Plan.

Council noted that the Strategic Plan seeks to focus the University’s activities by:

- setting explicit benchmarked performance indicators and targets in the areas of teaching and research, including for those Areas of Strategic Investment in which the University seeks to be world class; and
- setting explicit benchmarked performance indicators and targets in Equity areas encompassing low Socioeconomic Students (SES) and Indigenous Students participation, retention and success and the level of female staff in senior levels in both the academic and professional areas.

Council noted that the Report indicates overall steady and significant progress towards Strategic Plan targets. The following aspects of the Report were noted:

- the 2010 results in Learning and Teaching have shown a marked improvement in the Good Teaching and Overall Satisfaction indicators, and both have substantially closed the gap against national averages.
- all of the research indicators have shown continued improvement in 2010 with particularly good results in the indicators relating to publications and percentage of academic staff who are research active.
- although the report covers the year 2010, in the Student Equity area, it does not reflect the results of much of the activities undertaken under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) funding which commenced in Semester 2, 2010. Significant initiatives implemented in the second half of 2010 under HEPPP have lead to improved rates in participation, retention and success as reflected in preliminary 2011 data.
- additional HEPPP funded activities during 2011 and 2012 should have a positive impact on the achievement of the Equity goals in the Griffith University Strategic Plan 2009-2013.
2010 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council noted a copy of the 2010 Annual Financial Statements which had been certified without qualification by the external auditors – Thomas, Noble and Russell – acting on behalf of the Auditor General.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to Council on Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). Council noted that Senator Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, announced in October 2010 that another round of ERA is scheduled for 2012. Council was advised that information regarding the submission guidelines and timing of submissions has not yet been released, pending a review of ERA 2010 procedures, guidelines, ranked outlets and research indicators which is being undertaken by the Australian Research Council.

Council noted that the University is planning for ERA 2012 on the assumption that the timing and guidelines will be similar to ERA 2010. Therefore a series of activities has been timetabled for 2011 and early 2012 based on a June 2012 submission date.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY PLAN 2011-2013

Council resolved to approve the “Griffith University Equity and Diversity Plan 2011-2013” (2011/0002775).

PHILANTHROPY AND FUNDRAISING POLICY

Council resolved to approve the Philanthropy and Fundraising policy (2011/0006009) with immediate effect.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, a revised School Committee Constitution (2011/0006012) to remove the reference to ‘Dean’ in the membership provisions.

REVIEWS OF THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2010 the School of Information and Communication Technology, and the Department of Politics and Public Policy had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

PRESENTATION ON GRIFFITH ENTERPRISE

Mr Nicholas Mathiou, Director, Griffith Enterprise made a presentation to Council on the operation and activities of Griffith Enterprise. Council was advised that Griffith Enterprise functions as the University’s technology transfer and commercialization unit, and supports the
University’s academic and research goals by connecting it with government, industry and the community.

Council noted that the three key activities employed by Griffith Enterprise to facilitate the University’s innovation strategies are consulting and commercial research, technology transfer, and enterprises. Council was provided with several recent examples of each of these areas of activity. It was noted that the Griffith Enterprise model applies across all discipline areas of the University and that this successful initiative, in addition to generating significant income, contributes to learning, teaching and research, advertises the University’s brand and promotes its reputation, and provides a range of opportunities for staff and students.

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 2011/006014.

MAY 2011