MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Council noted that Ms Margaret Lee (elected academic staff member) had tendered her resignation from Council with effect from 1 October 2006. Council placed on record its appreciation of the contributions of Ms Lee to the work of Council and its Committees during her term of office.

Under Section 20A of the Griffith University Act, Council appointed Dr Dwight Zakus, Senior Lecturer – Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management, to fill the casual vacancy left by Ms Lee. Dr Zakus’ term of office will be from 3 October 2006 to 27 October 2009.

Council noted that Ms Rachel Hunter had been appointed to the position of Director-General of the Department of Education, Training and the Arts, and that Ms Karen Struthers had been appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health. Council congratulated Ms Hunter and Ms Struthers on these important appointments.

GROWING GRIFFITH – UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2007-2009

Council adopted the document “Growing Griffith – University Budget 2007-2009”.

In accordance with the University’s Strategic Plan which was approved by Council at its July 2005 meeting, a new three-year budget and planning cycle will commence from 2007. As foreshadowed in last year’s budget document, a review of the current methodology has been carried out to arrive at this budget. The new budget model will align the budget with the strategic priorities of the University, ensure sustainability over the foreseeable budget horizon, and provide the capacity for strategic investment. The new model also embeds appropriate budget signals to encourage revenue growth, contain costs and to reward positive performance in research and learning and teaching activities.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to Council on the Research Quality Framework.

Council noted that Working Parties on Metrics and Impact had reported back to the RQF Development Advisory Group which was due to make its recommendations to the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Education, Science and Training, during October. It is hoped that the final RQF Model will be released to the sector before the end of 2006.
PRESENTATION ON THE CAPE YORK INSTITUTE

In 2003, the Vice Chancellor established the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership with the aim to drive policy innovation and promote active Aboriginal participation in public policy debates. The Institute is a Centre of the Department of Politics and Public Policy in the Griffith Business School and is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Council noted a presentation from the Institute Director, Mr Noel Pearson, outlining the current initiatives of the Institute.

PRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Dr Gavin Moodie, Principal Policy Adviser, made a presentation to the meeting on University rankings. Council noted that Griffith’s main strategy for improving its performance on the criteria used to rank universities internationally was to improve its substantive performance in research, as this will improve the University’s fundamental quality, have a long-lasting effect and be recognised in the forthcoming research quality framework.

REVIEW OF FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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.

Council noted that the Faculty of Environmental Sciences had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the document “Report of the Committee Reviewing Griffith University Faculty of Environmental Sciences 6-10 March 2006 (2006/0040280)”.

GRIFFITH STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION

Council adopted the document “Griffith Statement on Reconciliation”.

Council noted that the Learning and Teaching Committee had adopted the final report of the Inclusive Curriculum Working Party in November 2005. One of the report recommendations involved the development of a University Reconciliation Statement. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee played a lead role in developing the Reconciliation Statement, identifying the principles and attributes that it considered to be a reflection of the University’s commitment to its Indigenous communities and which valued and respected their cultural heritage and shared humanity.

An official launch of the Reconciliation Statement is planned for 2007 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. A detailed proposal for a program of activities that will demonstrate the University’s commitment and intent will be prepared.
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY – APPOINTMENT OF DEANS AND HEADS OF SCHOOL

Council noted that at recent meetings, it had delegated authority to the relevant Selection Committee to make an offer of appointment in respect of specified senior academic manager positions. These delegations were necessary to allow the Selection Committee to move urgently to make a firm offer of appointment following the conclusion of the interview process.

Council resolved to delegate authority to the relevant Selection Committee to make an offer of appointment in situations where a Dean or Head of School position is advertised externally. Such a delegation will expedite the appointment process and ensure that offers are not delayed by being subject to Council approval. Council will continue to approve appointments to senior academic manager positions which are advertised internally.

SENIOR PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE – REVISED CONSTITUTION

At its August 2006 meeting, Council approved constitutions for the Senior Promotions Committee and Group Promotions Committees. The Senior Promotions Committee is responsible for assessing and approving applications for promotion to Associate Professor and Professor. This was previously one of the key functions of the Senior Selection Committee, together with appointments to personal Chairs and the approval of the award of academic titles to Associate Professor and Professor.

Council resolved to disestablish the Senior Selection Committee and delegate responsibility for appointing personal Chairs and approving the award of academic titles to Associate Professor and Professor to the Senior Promotions Committee, as set out in the revised constitution (2006/004533).

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN, GRIFFITH LAW SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Professor Paula Baron appointment as Dean, Griffith Law School for a five year term from a date to be determined by the Vice Chancellor.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD, GRIFFITH FILM SCHOOL

Council ratified the executive action of the Vice Chancellor in appointing Professor Craig Caldwell as the Head, Griffith Film School for a three year term from a date to be determined by the Vice Chancellor.

REPORT ON GRIFFITH REVIEW

Council noted a report on the Griffith Review from the Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law). Griffith Review is a national themed quarterly of fine writing and debate published by the University in conjunction with ABC Books. Griffith Review was launched in 2003 with the key objective of raising the University’s profile, both as a contributor to public policy and debate, and as a forum for new ideas and a showcase for informative, interesting and innovative writing. In its first three years, Griffith Review has achieved a remarkable degree of impact and engagement with the community, industry and government.
REPORT ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE AT GRIFFITH

Council noted that Griffith had been ranked among the top ten Australian workplaces (and the top university) for offering staff a good work-life balance, according to a survey released in May by independent consultants Managing Work/Life Balance International. Griffith was ranked eighth out of 410 organisations.

Council noted a report which highlighted the University’s work-life balance initiatives.

GRIFFITH CONNECT PROGRAM – PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Council noted that the Griffith Connect - Valued Partners program was launched in 2006 to recognise and maintain mutually beneficial relationships between high schools in Griffith's key catchment areas. The program, which offers a range of benefits and opportunities, aims to facilitate open communication and strong collaboration between Griffith and partner high schools. 84 high schools were targeted as part of the program. These schools represent those in Griffith's catchment areas, or those which had formal Memoranda of Understanding with Griffith, and did or had the potential to provide high achieving students to the University. Of the original 84 target schools, 74 have joined the program.

Council noted a list of the 74 schools participating in the Griffith Connect program.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Wednesday 27 December, Thursday 28 December and Friday 29 December 2006, and authorise the granting of equivalent time off in lieu of one or more of these days to staff required to work on any or all of those days.

OCTOBER 2006