VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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

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

TOWARDS 2015 – UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2008-2010

Council adopted the document “Towards 2015 – University Budget 2008-2010” which can be accessed from the following web site:

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

Council noted that this would be the second budget based on the new budget model introduced for 2007 which sought to deliver the commitment of the Strategic Plan – to align the budget with the strategic priorities of the University by:

• transparently attending to income and expenses in the distribution mechanism, thereby providing a direct incentive to increase income and/or reduce expenditure, and to increase the return on activities;
• rewarding research and learning performance; and
• providing capacity for strategic investment.

Council noted that the new budget model was well suited to the strategic directions foreshadowed in the Vice Chancellor’s Griffith 2015 paper. In particular, the model lends itself to underpinning identified “peaks of excellence” and more strongly differentiated campus characteristics.

The Vice Chancellor advised that the budget would continue to maintain a Transitional Fund to allow the University to respond to any significant government changes over the next budget period, to assist with the implementation of the Griffith 2015 agenda, and to reinvigorate the University’s staffing profile. An amount of $4 million p.a. had been allocated for this purpose. An allocation of $2 million p.a. (up from $1.5 million in the previous budget) has also been made to help offset the adverse impacts of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU). This money will be allocated directly to student activities and the student campus experience.

ACADEMIC PLAN 3 – LEARNING FOR SUCCESS

Council adopted the document Academic Plan 3 Learning for Success: A Plan for Student Learning and Success at Griffith, 2008-10

Council noted that the new Academic Plan reflected the evolving strategic directions of the University as set out in the Vice Chancellor’s paper “Griffith 2015 – Beyond Top Ten”, as
well as the increased complexity and challenges arising from the external environment. Academic Plan 3 gave expression to the University’s strong commitment to supporting the success of its students at key transition points in their university careers. In particular, the new plan articulated a coherent and compelling vision for the University as an institution of learning, and for the student experience it seeks to promote.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council re-appointed the following additional members to Council under section 16 of the Act, for a term of office from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009: Dr Bob Anderson, Ms Sandra Anderson, the Hon Rob Borbidge and Ms Karen Struthers.

Members congratulated Ms Heather Douglas who was re-elected unopposed to the postgraduate student position on Council in the recent election round. Council noted that Ms Douglas’ term of office would continue for a further two years up to 27 October 2009.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

Council considered a proposal for a new two stage process for managing academic integrity. The new process is to be trialled in semester 2, 2007 in the Faculties of Arts and Education as well as the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group.

Council resolved to establish the *Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity among Students* (2007/0017530) for the purpose of dealing with incidences of academic misconduct among undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in programs hosted by the Faculties of Arts and Education, and the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group that are reported in semester 2, 2007 from Tuesday 9 October 2007 to 29 February 2008.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to Council on the Research Quality Framework (RQF). Council noted that membership of the 13 RQF panels had been announced and that Professor Huib Schippers from the Queensland Conservatorium had been appointed to the Creative Arts, Design and Built Environment panel. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) advised that the University had identified 26 interim RQF Groups, and that the RQF team was working with nominated Group Co-ordinators to complete draft group evidence portfolios by the end of November.

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 membership of the AUQA Review Panel had been confirmed, as well as the date of their visit to the University (2-6 June 2008). The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) advised that preparations were currently under way for a trial audit at the end of November. A draft copy of the University’s performance portfolio would be included in the agenda papers for the December 2007 meeting of Council.

GOLD COAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Council considered an update on the Queensland Government’s plans for the new Gold Coast University Hospital and its implications for the University, and approved recommendations set out in the document.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

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 Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review report.

APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Dr Jayne Clapton as Head, School of Human Services for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010; Associate Professor Elizabeth Patterson as Dean and Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010; and Professor Nerida Smith as Head, School of Pharmacy for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Thursday 27 December, Friday 28 December and Monday 31 December 2007, 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 2007