COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
6 October 2008

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013

Council noted a copy of the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2013 which will replace the current Plan with effect from the start of 2009. The redrafted Plan incorporates a number of important initiatives that have already been endorsed and now need to be reflected in an updated Plan, including:

- endorsement of the Griffith 2015 strategy, which moves the University beyond the 'top 10' agenda and sets some more ambitious and focussed targets;
- the significant progress made by the University in recent years to internationalise all aspects of its activities, and the continued need to do so; and
- the endorsement of a new 'global citizen' brand positioning for the University, which needs to be reflected in all aspects of what we do.

The structure of the Plan retains a focus on the two core areas of Research and Learning with the supporting areas of staffing, resources and funding aligned behind those core areas of business. The Plan recognises the major role of Areas of Strategic Investment in achieving the research goals of the University. The KPIs have been reviewed and in some cases refined or altered to reflect the new strategic agenda. In particular, the research KPIs recognise that research will in future be measured by quality metrics and by international ranks. The indicators of quality in learning and teaching have been broadened to include measures of student satisfaction, while the indicators of program distinctiveness have been altered to reflect the internationalisation objectives of the University.

Council indicated its support for the strategic directions set out in the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2013.

The Vice Chancellor advised that he intended to engage in a process of University wide consultation in relation to the draft Plan with a view to bringing a final version to Council for approval at the December 2008 meeting.

TOWARDS 2015: UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2009-2011

Council adopted the document “Towards 2015: University Budget 2009-2011” which can be accessed from the following web site:

This is the third budget based on the new budget model introduced for 2007 which seeks 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.

Only one change has been made to the budget model. The performance indicators used in the 'Learning and Teaching Performance Allocation' have been broadened from the single indicator of retention to include three new indicators based on metrics derived from the Course Experience Questionnaire and the Australian Graduate Survey (good teaching, overall satisfaction and graduate success). The research performance fund has been left as is, pending outcomes of the new research assessment scheme, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) that has superseded the Research Quality Framework (RQF).

Additional funds have been provided in the budget which are explicitly linked to supporting areas core to the realisation of the University's strategic goals. These increases include support for the internationalisation of the student curriculum, an allocation of funding for English language support to be provided to international and, if necessary, domestic students, additional funding for developing philanthropic donations and engaging with university Alumni, for supporting the research agenda, and funding to promote environmental sustainability within the University.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES QUALITY AGENCY (AUQA) AUDIT – FINAL REPORT

Council noted a copy of the final report of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The Cycle 2 AUQA audit focussed on two themes, Supporting Student Success and International Activities, together with a follow-up on selected recommendations from the AUQA Cycle 1 audit.

The Vice Chancellor reported that the University had received 11 commendations, 11 affirmations and 8 recommendations. Foremost among the Commendations was the Panel’s endorsement of the Griffith 2015 strategy. The Panel were impressed with the evidence they saw of staff engagement with, and understanding of, the University’s strategic intent. They commended the progress the University had made in the last five years in improving its quality systems, and its explicitly benchmarked approach to planning and quality assurance. They were also very impressed by the extent of Griffith’s engagement with its local communities, and with the development of the Gold Coast campus.

An implementation plan and progress report addressing the affirmations and recommendations will be brought forward for Council’s consideration at the December 2008 meeting.
BUSINESS CONTINUITY FRAMEWORK


The business continuity framework sets out the University’s approach to the management of incidents that disrupt normal academic and business processes and provides templates for individual Offices to prepare specific Business Continuity and Business Resumption Plans for the critical business functions for which they are responsible.

The adoption of the business continuity framework necessitates an amendment to the current Risk Management Policy to recognise the relationship between risk management and business continuity planning.

PRESENTATION ON VIOLENCE RESEARCH AND PREVENTION

Professor Paul Mazerolle, Director of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and the Violence Research and Prevention program, made a presentation to the meeting.

Council noted that the Violence Research and Prevention program at Griffith is designed to:

- increase knowledge and understanding about the causes, consequences, prevention and control of violence;
- inform government departments about available evidence on effective policies and programs;
- raise public awareness and consciousness about the costs and consequences of violence, and effective prevention strategies; and
- develop effective research collaborations and partnerships.

CHANGES TO FACULTY BOARD ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE ARTS, EDUCATION AND LAW GROUP

Council approved the following with effect from 1 January 2009:

a. that the existing four Faculty Boards in the Arts, Education and Law Group (i.e. Contemporary Arts, Music and Media Board, the Faculty of Arts Board, the Faculty of Education Board and the Griffith Law School Board) be disestablished.

b. that the membership provisions of the Faculty Board constitution be amended as set out in the document (2008/0026271) to establish a single Arts, Education and Law Group Faculty Board.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES NAME CHANGE

Council approved a change of name of the School of Human Services to the School of Human Services and Social Work with effect from 1 January 2009.
APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Associate Professor Penny Bundy appointment as Head, School of Educational and Professional Studies (Brisbane, Logan) for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Monday 29 December, Tuesday 30 December and Wednesday 31 December 2008, 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 2008