VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


TOWARDS 2015: UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2010-2012

Council adopted the document “Towards 2015: University Budget 2010-2012” which can be accessed from the following web site:


This is the fourth 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.

The Vice Chancellor reported on the following key features of the budget:

- the budget was constructed using a newly developed student load projection model, incorporating more granular and detailed information and supporting a more informative and flexible future projection.
- as far as possible, the implications of the Bradley and Cutler reviews had been factored into the budget, but it was likely the out years would require further review as more information became available.
- risks to revenue streams had been considered in the formulation of the budget, with appropriate contingencies set aside.
- allocations from the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund over the next triennium had been made almost entirely to the academic Groups, principally to support the recruitment of top class researchers. A major commitment of the Strategic Development Fund would be the allocation of $8 million p.a. to the eight areas of strategic investment in the academic Groups to achieve further international excellence by 2015.
- the budget implemented the final year of the current Capital Management Plan 2008-2010 and provided additional capital allocations for the next phase of the Capital Management Plan 2010-2012. It was expected that the new Plan would be brought forward for Council’s consideration at the December 2009 meeting.
Council re-appointed the following additional members to Council under section 16 of the Act, for a term of office from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011: Dr Bob Anderson, Ms Sandra Anderson, the Hon Mr Rob Borbidge and the Hon Ms Karen Struthers.

Members noted that Associate Professor Barry (elected academic staff member), Ms Heather Douglas (elected postgraduate student member) and Ms Julie Kennedy (elected undergraduate student member) were attending their last Council meeting. Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contributions of these members to the work of Council and its committees during their terms of office.

**NATHAN CAMPUS MASTER PLAN**

Council endorsed the Nathan Campus Master Plan 2009 and noted a presentation from Mr Michael Rayner of Cox Rayner on key aspects of the Master Plan.

Council was advised that the Master Plan proposed a number of key changes to the planning structure of the Nathan campus and of its social settings, including:

- creating an integrated Campus Heart and Student Centre at the Willett Centre/Macrossan juncture.
- revitalising the Johnson Path as the major pedestrian spine, with a continuous canopy and with continuous retail and social spaces.
- redefining the grassed area between Macrossan and the Law/Business precinct as an expanded University Lawn.
- truncating The Circuit to create a vibrant address plaza which, at a future date, could also accommodate a major new arrival building.
- forming an East-West Spine perpendicular to the Johnson Path and connecting the campus to a new 'Eastern Gateway'.

**CHANGES TO DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE GRIFFITH BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Council considered the document “Proposal for Changes to Departments within the Griffith Business School” which had been developed after an extensive round of consultation following an external review of the Departments of Management and Marketing in September 2008. The proposed changes to Departments addressed recommendations for structural change detailed in the review report (which was considered by Council at its May 2009 meeting), with additions and amendments generated through the consultation process.

Council noted that the proposed changes will align the GBS more closely with University strategic goals such as internationalisation and multi-disciplinarity; build on existing strengths and support emerging areas of strategic importance; and respond to clear market signals in terms of student demand.

Council approved the following with effect from 1 January 2010:

- the disestablishment of the Department of Management;
- the establishment of a new Department of Employment Relations and Human Resources which will comprise academic and general staff from the existing Department of Employment Relations and relevant academic and general staff from
the Organisational Behaviour and Human Resource Management disciplines within the existing Department of Management; and

- the transfer to the Department of International Business and Asian Studies of relevant academic staff from the disciplines of Strategy and Supply Chain Management and related supporting areas (including Operations Management and Business Analysis) who are currently located within the existing Department of Management.

CONSULTANCY AND COMMERCIAL RESEARCH POLICY

Council noted that as a result of concern that the University was not optimally served by the current Consultancy, Private Practice and Contract Research (CPPCR) Policy and Commercial Project Work framework, a major review of the framework had been undertaken over the last year. Council was advised that the review process had included extensive University-wide consultation which had identified a number of key issues in respect of current arrangements.

Council was advised that the following key changes were proposed:

- Private Practice activities will be administered by the Office of Human Resource Management under a new policy entitled Private Practice Policy (draft currently under development).
- Consultancy and commercial research (CCR) activities will be administered by Griffith Enterprise under the new policy entitled Consultancy and Commercial Research Policy (CCR Policy).
- Overhead rates are based on project costs (inputs) rather than the total price of the project and are calculated as follows:
  - an ‘Infrastructure Cost Charge’ of 45% of salary costs (including on-costs) for CCR projects priced at greater than $50,000, and those CCR projects priced at $50,000 or less and using a standard University contract.
  - an ‘Infrastructure Cost Charge’ of 65% of salary costs (including on-costs) for CCR projects priced at $50,000 or less and not using a standard University contract. This reflects the greater cost to the University of managing projects in this category.
  - an ‘Administration Fee’ of 10% of non salary costs (excluding large equipment greater than $5,000).
  - no Administration Fee for large equipment cost (which is funded by clients and retained by the University).
- These overhead cost charges are aligned with those utilised by competitors.
- Salary buy-out cost is included in CCR project costs only in the event that replacement staff must be employed to cover a CCR project staff member’s employment obligations.

Council approved the new Consultancy and Commercial Research (CCR) Policy (2009/0005280) and rescinded the current “Consultancy, Private Practice and Contract Research (CPPCR) Policy” (2005/0030254) with the exception of the provisions relating to Private Practice which will continue to operate until the approval of a new Private Practice Policy.
UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

Council noted that the University submissions for the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) trial exercise had now closed. The trial exercise consisted of two discipline clusters, submitted separately two months apart. The second cluster, Humanities and Creative Arts was due in August. The Australian Research Council (ARC) will be reporting the outcomes of this trial exercise in November and December.

Council noted that in the meantime, the University was preparing for the 2010 ERA exercise, which will be a full implementation of the initiative and will include eight discipline clusters. On 11 September, the ARC visited the University to discuss with all levels of staff how ERA will impact upon them and the institution in two open forums titled ‘Everything you need to know about ERA 2010’. The forums were held at the Gold Coast and Nathan campuses and were a great success, with more than 315 staff attending. The ARC was represented by Leanne Harvey (General Manager, ARC), Andrew Calder (Director, Performance and Analysis Section), and Liz Visher (Director, Assessment and Outreach Section). This was an important opportunity for University staff to raise concerns they had about the exercise, as well as seek clarification on what was required of them and how the results might affect them.

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF ANATOMY

Council disestablished the School of Anatomy with immediate effect and in its stead established anatomy as a discipline under the direction of a Head of Discipline within the School of Medical Science.

AMENDMENTS TO HEAD OF SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT POSITION STATEMENT AND THE “APPOINTMENT OF ACADEMIC MANAGERS IN GROUPS” POLICY

Council approved a revised Head of School/Department Position Statement (2009/005273), as well as an amendment to the current “Appointment of Academic Managers in Groups” policy in relation to terms of appointment. Council noted that the revised position statement placed a clear emphasis on leadership; leading and managing performance outcomes; using data to improve outcomes; clarifying relationships with others; and expectations regarding professional development.

AMENDMENTS TO ACADEMIC TITLES POLICY

Council approved a revised Academic Titles Policy (2009/0005275) with immediate effect. The amendments are largely aimed at more accurately reflecting the progression of titles through the medical profession and do not change the current approved policy in any substantive way.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council conferred the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professor David Pegg in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.
UNIVERSITY REVIEWS POLICY


STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Council was advised of the Vice Chancellor’s commitment to the revival of student representation across the University’s five campuses, particularly on the South Bank, Mt Gravatt, Nathan and Logan campuses where the former Student Representative Council (SRC) has been dormant since the introduction of voluntary student unionism in 2006. Council noted that the Student Guild had been operating at the Gold Coast campus.

Council noted that although the Student Services and Amenities Bill was not supported by the Senate in August 2009, the Vice Chancellor wished to proceed with plans to revive student representation with effect from Semester 1, 2010. With this aim in mind, the University was seeking legal advice about the best option to re-introduce student representation on the University’s Brisbane and Logan campuses where the SRC previously operated. It was expected that the outcome of this advice would be brought forward for Council’s consideration at its December 2009 meeting. The strong preference expressed by students at the August consultations was for student representation to be implemented on a campus-based model.

MEMBERSHIP OF SENIOR PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Council approved an amendment to the Senior Promotions Committee constitution (2009/0005279) to include the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost as an ex officio member.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Tuesday 29 December and Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 December 2009, 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 2009