VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2012-2014

Council adopted the document “Towards 2015: University Budget 2012-2014” which can be accessed from the following web site:


Council noted that this is the sixth budget based on the new budget model first introduced in 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 issues in relation to the budget:

- While there is uncertainty in the domestic and international student markets, the University is in a strong position to hold to its strategy and to move forward.
- The University has maintained a very strong track record of careful planning supported by appropriate resource allocations. The University’s overall strategy will continue to be campus specific with only the Gold Coast campus being a comprehensive campus in respect of its academic profile.
- There will be a 22% increase in income over the budget period and the fee income component will rise by 20%
- The budget was constructed in a period where Government regulations and policies are changing, and all of the enabling legislation, except one has now been passed. 2012 will be the first year under which Universities will operate with no quotas on Commonwealth Supported undergraduate places except in medicine.
- The student numbers will continue to grow but at a significantly slower rate than previously.
- The University’s domestic enrolment strategy will be to hold intakes around current levels for the period of this Budget. This is partly a reflection of infrastructure constraints but also to ensure that the University continues to enrol good quality students.
- A range of steps have been undertaken to protect the University’s local market share in the new era of uncapped domestic undergraduate places, including the new advertising campaign.
• There is ongoing uncertainty regarding the international fee-paying market and the University’s potential to achieve the targets set, given the continued impact of the global financial crisis and the fluctuations in and volatility of exchange rates. Reforms to the student visa system in accordance with the recommendations of the Knight Review will have a positive impact on the international student market following the introduction of these changes in the second half of next year.

• The academic Groups and Griffith International, as in previous years, continue to monitor international student markets. International intakes are projected to be lower however fee income continues to increase as the pipeline from the strong intakes in the previous two years flow through and as higher fees take effect.

• As in previous budgets all Groups and Divisions are required, as part of this budget, to establish a contingency fund as a precaution against any shortfall in income.

• Domestic fee-paying postgraduate (FPPG) coursework student numbers continue to be a difficult cohort in which to achieve targets. FPPG will continue to be an area to focus strategies to increase enrolments. In particular, attention will be given to online provision, flexible mode delivery and the use of Open Universities Australia.

• The Vice Chancellor’s Strategic Development fund has an aim of reaching 5% of General Fund income. The fund for 2012 is set at $22.0m or 3.3% and grows to $30.5m (4.0%) by 2014. This is considered sufficient to allow for any unforeseen strategic issues, strategic staffing appointments and facility/infrastructure support requirements.

• Overheads budgets have been reviewed and known impacts have been factored in (e.g. energy & water cost increases as well as estimated increases to insurance costs). No impact of the carbon tax has yet been provided for in this budget as there is still too much uncertainty about how and where the costs impacts will impact the University.

Council agreed that the University is in a strong financial position and that University managers have demonstrated a sound and conservative approach to managing risk in this and previous budgets, and that the proposed budget has the capacity to deal with unexpected changes should they arise.

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 2012 to 31 December 2013: Dr Robert Anderson OAM, Ms Sandra Anderson, the Hon Mr Rob Borbidge AO DUniv and Mr Clinton Dines.

Members welcomed Mr Nilesh Vaniya, (elected postgraduate student member) to his first meeting. Council noted that Mr Will Barker (elected undergraduate student member) was attending his last Council meeting. Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contributions of Mr Barker to the work of Council during his term of office.

REVIEWS OF GRIFFITH ENTERPRISE AND OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – PLANNING, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEY SERVICES
In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2011 Griffith Enterprise and the Office of Planning and Financial Services – Planning, Business Intelligence and Survey Services had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

Council **resolved to approve** the *Sustainability Policy* (2011/0006029) with immediate effect.

**UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Council **resolved to declare** as ex gratia University holidays Wednesday 28 December, Thursday 29 December and Friday 30 December 2011, and to 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 2011**