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 2013-2017

Council considered the draft Strategic Plan 2013-2017 which can be accessed from the following web site:


Council noted that the draft Plan incorporated the new statement of the University’s Vision, Mission, Values and Commitments, and the University’s strategic direction, which had been detailed in the Griffith 2020 document and endorsed by Council at its August 2012 meeting.

Council noted that there were five goals of the draft Strategic Plan:

- To provide an excellent educational experience to attract and retain students who, regardless of their background, will succeed at University and become graduates of influence.
- To continuously improve our research performance and, through our research, deliver social dividends.
- To attract and retain excellent staff who through their teaching, research and professional support will positively contribute to Griffith’s development as a university of influence.
- To be a sustainable University.
- To enhance our engagement with Asia and the near Pacific and to consolidate our reputation as one of Australia’s most Asian-engaged universities.

Council considered the proposed targets associated with each of the five goals of the draft Strategic Plan and noted that there would be an annual report to Council on progress towards achieving the targets to ensure continuity with the goals of the Plan.

Council provided comments on the draft Plan and noted that the final version of the Strategic Plan would be brought forward to Council for approval at the December 2012 meeting.

UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2012-2014

Council adopted the document “Towards 2020: University Budget 2013-2015” which can be accessed from the following web site:

Council noted that this budget continues to be based on the model first introduced in 2007 and continues the methodology of delivering a commitment of the Strategic Plan – to align the budget with the strategic priorities of the University.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the following key features of this budget:

- The Budget has been developed in a context of considerable volatility and uncertainty in both the domestic and international student markets.
- The strong Australian dollar, the continuing impact of the global financial crisis, and strong competition from the US, UK and Canada all contribute to a difficult international student market.
- There will be a federal election before the end of the first year of this Budget period which may result in a change of government and, with it, possible significant changes in higher education policy parameters.
- Student numbers were not expected to increase in 2013 and there would be only small growth in 2014 and 2015.
- After a period of rapid growth, there would be a shift to one of consolidation.

The Vice Chancellor advised that this budget aims to support the goals of the Strategic plan and that the specific initiatives within the budget directed at those goals were:

- The continuation of performance based funding for Learning and Teaching and for Research aims to strengthen the overall outputs of the University.
- Ongoing allocation of funds to the Vice Chancellor Strategic Development Fund (VCSDF) with initiatives included in relation to retention of students as well as ongoing allocation for the Areas of Strategic Investment including four new areas funded from 2012 onwards.
- The University continues to work closely with Open Universities Australia and this budget also includes funding for a strategy to develop Griffith’s own online teaching strategy – “Griffith Online”.
- Higher Degree Research scholarships initiatives and funding have been increased and continue to be a significant strategy to support ongoing University research activities.
- Domestic student load strategies which commenced in 2009 to increase load has placed the University in a strong position to maintain market share as the full implementation of the Bradley report takes place.
- Reviews of cost structures have been undertaken with an aim to reduce costs where possible and within the overheads categories (energy, cleaning, security etc) to identify strategies for cost control in order to maximize funding available to groups.

Council noted that the University enters the coming budget period in a good financial position, with Groups and Divisions aware of the many issues facing the University that continue to impact on market share and performance based funding outcomes.

REVIEWS OF THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION, AND THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during March and April 2012 the Information and Communication Technology Services, Systems and Infrastructure Division,
and the Office of Human Resource Management had been reviewed under the University’s policy.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, LEISURE, HOTEL AND SPORT MANAGEMENT NAME CHANGE

Council resolved to approve a change of name of the Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management to the Department of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management with effect from 1 January 2013.

SENIOR APPOINTMENT

Council resolved to offer Professor Allan Cripps a further appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) for a five year period from 26 May 2013 to 25 May 2018.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE GRANTING OF ACADEMIC AWARDS

Council resolved to delegate authority, with immediate effect, to:

- the Deans (Learning and Teaching) of the relevant academic group to approve the granting of academic awards to undergraduate students, and coursework postgraduate students who have satisfied the academic requirements for the award of a degree;
- the Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School to approve the granting of higher degree by research awards, and doctorates and higher doctorates by publication awards to candidates who have satisfied the requirements for the award of a degree.

APPROVING AUTHORITIES FOR UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, amendments to the document ‘Approving Authorities for University Policies’ document (2012/0007806) to delegate the approving authority for scholarship policies to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost in accordance with their respective portfolio responsibilities.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Monday 24 December, Thursday 27 December, Friday 28 December and Monday 31 December 2012, 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 2012