GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONALISATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee was held on Monday, 1 August 2011, from 1:30pm – 3:30pm via videoconference in Room 2.06, Bray Centre (N54), Nathan campus and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34), Gold Coast campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Gillian Bushell (Chair)
Mr Chris Madden
Ms Ilva Sporne
Dr Ray Hibbins
Professor Paul Cleveland (for Dean (Academic) (AEL))
Professor Chris Auld
Ms Joanna Peter
Ms Nicole Brigg
Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

APOLOGIES:
Professor Parlo Singh
Ms Lucinda Chappell
Professor Yew-Chaye Loo
Ms Margaret Price
Mr Tony Shiel
Professor Debra Henly

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2/2011 meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee (IAC), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO ACADEMIC COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

2.0 PEARSON TEST OF ENGLISH

2.1 Griffith International requested that the Internationalisation Advisory Committee consider and recommend to Academic Committee the use of the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic and recommended admission scores at Griffith University.

2.2 Members recalled that in June 2010, Griffith International presented information on the Pearson Test of English. At that time, insufficient information was available to resolve Common European Framework and IELTS equivalencies, and very few Australian Universities had accepted the test. That situation has now changed, and Griffith International submitted the memorandum, Pearson Test on English, 27 July 2011 to the IAC seeking support for a recommendation to Academic Committee that the test be recognised by Griffith.

2.3 Ms Brigg introduced this item and advised the IAC that over one hundred institutions in Australia now recognise PTE Academic. Since the June 2010 IAC meeting, many Australian universities have also formally recognised PTE Academic as an alternative English language entry test. Pearson advise that Griffith is one of four remaining
universities not to indicate to Pearson whether they will or will not recognise PTE for
entry to degree programs. Both DIAC and the UK Border Agency recently announced
changes which include the acceptance of PTE Academic for student visa applications in
both countries.

2.4 The matter of test score equivalences continues to be contentious yet, due to the
number of quality proficiency tests gaining credibility and acceptance, institutions need
to establish comparable levels for the setting of appropriate cut-off scores. Pearson’s
equivalencies based on empirical research against the CEFR and the widget (a quick
reference equivalence tool) can be found as follows:

http://www.pearsonpte.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PreliminaryEstimatesofConcordanceUS.pdf

2.5 Ms Brigg advised the IAC that at the national level, as of July 2011, twenty-two
Australian universities formally accepted PTE Academic with more in the process of
recognising it and setting cut-off scores. The Go8 were late in commencing
recognition. However, to date UNSW, Adelaide and UWA officially accept PTE while
Monash and Sydney will be official very shortly. ANU and UQ are in the process of
taking it to their Senates (expected to be approved by September) while the University
of Melbourne has not made its intentions clear.

2.6 In terms of comparability with the IELTS test, IAC members noted that the University’s
Admission Centre (UAC) English Proficiency Expert Working Group was convened to
agree common equivalencies to recommend to its NSW and ACT member institutions.
Their draft in-principle concordance for the high stakes proficiency tests IELTS, TOEFL
iBT and PTE Academic was attached for members’ consideration. In each case the
UAC Working Group have chosen the score in the middle of those recommended by
the PTE research:

IELTS 6.0 set at PTE 54 (Pearson recommended in the range of 50-57)
IELTS 6.5 set at PTE 61 (Pearson recommended in the range of 58-65)
IELTS 7.0 set at PTE 68 (Pearson recommended in the range of 65-73)

2.7 Ms Brigg advised that the Australian Government’s acceptance of PTE Academic was
confirmed in July when DIAC announced that it would recognise three additional tests,
as well as IELTS, for student visa applications: TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic and
Cambridge Advanced. A further announcement is due on 1 November regarding the
minimum scores required on each test. This is the first time that any test other than
IELTS has been accepted by DIAC and is a major policy change. The UKBA
announced their updated list of accepted test in April and also now accept IELTS,
TOEFL iBT, TOEIC, PTE Academic and other Cambridge ESOL exams for various visa
tiers.

Resolution

In the light of the acceptance by most Australian universities as well as Australian
Government Agencies (DEEWR and DIAC), the Internationalisation Advisory
Committee resolved to recommend to the Academic Committee that Griffith University
recognise PTE Academic and admission scores and that Griffith University utilises the
same equivalencies as UAC.

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL
SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS
(TO PERSONS/COMMITTEES OTHER THAN THE PARENT COMMITTEE(S))

NIL

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION

6.0 GRIFFITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES: A QUANTITATIVE SNAPSHOT OF ISB 2010 FINDINGS

6.1 At its 2/2011 meeting, the IAC considered a copy of the ISB 2010 Report. In considering the ISB Report, the IAC noted that the findings indicate that Griffith is performing well in relation to students’ perceptions of their Learning Experience. The IAC also noted that, in relation to the responses on the Learning Experience, concerns were raised by International students regarding opportunities for work experience/work placements as a part of their studies; a response which is 62% (n=601) up by 3% this year, but behind the IRUA and ISB mean (both 65%). At the June meeting members agreed that, given Griffith’s recognised strengths in, and public commitment to ‘service learning’ and work-integrated learning, levels of student satisfaction should be higher in this category.

6.3 Further to these comments, the PVC (International) advised that students from Germany and the Scandinavian countries in particular are keen to gain suitable work experience as part of their studies in Australia. The PVC (International) suggested that he consult with Carol-Joy Patrick and Calvin Smith on this matter with a view to presenting a briefing paper to the IAC at a future meeting.

6.4 The PVC (International) advised that he had not had the opportunity to discuss this item with his colleagues, and suggested that it be brought forward to the October meeting.

7.0 JOBS ON CAMPUS PROJECT

7.1 Griffith, like other universities, provides opportunities for students to get paid employment on campus while studying. This can take a variety of forms including:

- PASS (Peer Assisted Study Support) leaders – academic support provided by trained and coordinated senior level students;
- Peer mentors – while some peer mentoring activity is volunteer (or may be service learning), some peer mentors are paid;
- Student Partners – students trained and employed to perform a variety of roles on campus (events, marketing campaigns etc);
- Research assistants; and
- Casual employment eg with INS, Campus Life.

7.2 The University has a central system called CareerBoard for brokering vacancies for both graduate employment and for student employment – including student employment in Jobs on campus. Student Services is keen to expand the Jobs on campus concept and the Director, Student Services has forwarded a summary that outlines some of the issues experienced in developing this initiative.

7.3 The Director, Student Services introduced this item and referred members to the attachment, which outlined some background to the Jobs on Campus project. Ms Peters highlighted the point that “paid employment for students” is not necessarily only salaried hours - it can also take the form of commissioned work for students. Examples could include commissioning student designed gifts (artwork, prints, jewellery, music
etc) as corporate gifts for international delegations or speakers at events, or even for annual activities such as Christmas cards to sponsors or VC gifts to staff.

7.4 The IAC also discussed ways in which Jobs on Campus can align with unpaid work experience such as Service Learning, Volunteerism and Work Integrated Learning - and that all of these activities bring particular and different benefits to students, and to the University.

7.5 The Chair suggested that, as the meeting was due to close, this item be on the next IAC agenda to allow for further discussion around issues for international students in particular.

8.0 OFF-SHORE INDUCTION

8.1 Members of the IAC recalled that at the June 2011 meeting, Dr Ray Hibbins provided a verbal report on Off-shore Induction, and tabled copies of the current Off-shore Induction brochures at the meeting. Dr Hibbins advised the IAC that the two brochures – one concerning orientation and the other induction – are due to be updated and that, while he has undertaken some revisions to the brochures, he is keen for the Committee to consider the revised documents before they are published. Dr Hibbins reminded members that the booklets had been developed in collaboration with Professor Michelle Barker.

8.2 Members noted that responsibility for the production of these booklets, which are largely concerned with preparing academic staff responsible for teaching Griffith’s off-shore programs, rests with the DVC (A) and agreed that ongoing responsibility for them may be better placed with GIHE, given the staff development nature of these publications.

8.3 The two booklets: 1676-11 Offshore Academics Orientation and GU 8484 Offshore Booklet were attached for members' comments. Dr Hibbins asked that comments on the content of the booklets be forwarded to him by the end of August.

9.0 WEBSITE - INTERNATIONALISATION

9.1 Members of the IAC recalled that information concerning and relevant to international students on the Griffith website is under review, which is led by the DVC (Academic)'s office in consultation with the Chair (IAC). The focus of the review is to examine the current content with a view to updating this and its position on the Griffith website.

9.2 Ms Gillian Collom, who is working on the revisions to the Internationalisation area of the Griffith Website, attended the meeting for this item. Ms Collom tabled a draft of the proposed left column navigation for the revised Internationalisation site. Members noted that they main headings include:

9.2.1 Strategies and policies (Planning, Quality and review, Policies, and partnerships);

9.2.2 Staff resources (Student support resources);

9.2.3 Transnational education (Transnational programs, Transnational partners, Transnational academic calendar, Teaching offshore, Transnational resources);

9.2.4 Education resources for overseas students (Framework); and
9.2.5 Contact us.

9.3 Members agreed that, where possible, headings should be linked to existing sites, particularly those for student administration and services, key areas of interest and support for international students.

9.4 Members also agreed to forward to Ms Collom links to current, effective sites on Internationalisation within the higher education sector. Ms Collom thanked the IAC for the opportunity to present this material and advised that she will be in contact with the committee as further work is completed.

10.0 BROADER IMPLICATIONS FROM A DOWNTURN IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The IAC noted that Universities Australia commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to provide an independent assessment of the impact of the downturn in international student numbers, both for the higher education sector and the broader Australian economy.

The report models the downturn of international student enrolments over time and estimates that in net present value terms the reduction in GDP over the 2010-2020 modelling period will be $37.8 billion. Due to the direct and spillover effects from international student enrolments, the modelling also suggests that Australian employment will fall by over 45,000 through to 2020.


11.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

11.1 The Chair reported on the following matters:

11.1.1 The QUT Symposium on Internationalising the Student Experience at Australian Universities (guest speakers Professors Simon Marginson and Sophie Arkoudis).

11.1.2 TEQSA will now regulate ESOS.

11.1.3 The current edition of Campus Review features an article on the IEAA and pathways for international students.

12.0 PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR’S (INTERNATIONAL) REPORT

12.1 The PVC (International) drew members’ attention to the following key factors that have impacted on Griffith’s International student body since the Committee last met in March, 2011:

12.1.1 EFSL Figures for International Cohort – there is currently a 6% drop for commencement in semester 1, with an anticipated 18% drop for semester 2.

12.1.2 The Australian Economy – the strength of the Australian dollar, particularly in relation to the US dollar, has resulted in a significant increase in the cost of living in Australia, impacting on the ability of International students to meet basic living requirements, including accommodation and food.

12.1.3 One of the options put forward in response to the cost of living and studying in Australia is to explore alternative models that include
blended-learning options, combined study abroad and study in Australia components. Ms Briggs advised that recent studies have confirmed that in the USA, the major growth area within higher education is in the on-line study mode. The Chair also confirmed that Open Universities Australia (OUA) is undergoing significant growth, again as an external/online study option.

12.1.4 The PVC (International) agreed to bring a discussion paper on this matter to the October meeting.

13.0 DEANS AND DIRECTORS (INTERNATIONAL) REPORTS

13.1 As a new initiative for 2011, the Chair invited each of the Deans/Directors (International) to provide a brief report on internationalisation activities in their areas.

13.1.1 Arts, Education and Law (AEL) – Professor Paul Cleveland (Director QCA) spoke to this item and asked for advice regarding a recent situation involving students of the QCA going to study in Japan, where the host institution accepted them without prior knowledge of Japanese, whereas Japanese students coming to Australia are required to comply with English standard entry requirements (i.e. IELTS 6.5 minimum). The PVC (International) advised that it is possible for the English language entry requirements to be waived where students are undertaking top-up studies and that the Director (QCA) should raise this request with Griffith International in an email.

13.1.2 Griffith Business School (GBS) – Professor Chris Auld advised that the GBS is seeking to secure a stronger footprint in the Hong Kong top-up studies market, as this will allow the GBS to tap into the accreditation sector for business graduates and ideally facilitate access to the offshore higher education markets in mainland China.

13.1.3 The Director, Student Services advised that the International Career and Development section is going to China later this year. Student Services will again launch the Individual mentoring program, which includes peer support and mentoring and involves 800 Griffith peer mentors, many of whom are international students.

14.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, 13 October from 1:30pm – 3:30pm via videoconference in Room 2.06, Bray Centre (N54), Nathan and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34).

Confirmed: .......................... (Chair)

Date: ..........................
DISTRIBUTION LIST

CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE
DEPUTY CHAIR, ACADEMIC COMMITTEE       ex officio
Professor Gillian Bushell

PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL), OR NOMINEE
Mr Chris Madden

DEAN, GRIFFITH GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL       ex officio
Professor Parlo Singh

DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH) OR NOMINEE
Mr Tony Shiel (nominee)

DEAN (STUDENT OUTCOMES) AND DIRECTOR, GIHE OR NOMINEE FROM AMONGST THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE GIHE
Dr Ray Hibbins for semester 2 - Professor Michelle Barker on ASP leave (nominee)

A DEAN OR DIRECTOR FROM EACH ACADEMIC GROUP WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONALISATION
Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith (Arts, Education and Law) up to 31 December 2011
Professor Chris Auld (Griffith Business School)
Professor Debra Henly (Griffith Health)
Professor Yew-Chaye Loo (Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology)

ACADEMIC REGISTRAR OR NOMINEE
Ms Margaret Price (nominee)

DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES OR NOMINEE
Ms Joanna Peters

DIRECTOR, GRIFFITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE OR NOMINEE
Ms Nicole Brigg

ONE UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT, APPOINTED BY THE DEPUTY CHAIR, ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
Vacant One year up to 31 December 2011

ONE POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT, APPOINTED BY THE DEAN, GRIFFITH GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL
Ms Ilva Sporne One year up to 31 December 2011

COOPTED MEMBERS – ANY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY OR AN EXTERNAL EXPERT WHERE PARTICULAR EXPERTISE OR INSIGHTS ARE REQUIRED
Nil

Secretary: Ms Rosemary Marson (ext 54393)

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