A meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee was held on Thursday 24th March 2011, from 2:00pm – 3:30pm via videoconference in Room 2.06, Bray Centre (N54) and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor Gillian Bushell (Chair)
Mr Chris Madden
Mr Tony Shiel
Professor Michelle Barker
Professor Paul Cleveland (for Dean (Academic) – AEL
Professor Chris Auld
Professor Debra Henly
Professor Yew-Chaye Loo
Ms Joanna Peters
Ms Ilva Sporne

Present by invitation: N/A

Secretary: Ms Rosemary Marson

APOLOGIES:

Professor Parlo Singh
Ms Kathy Grgic
Ms Nicole Brigg

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 5/2010 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

NIL

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

1.0 UNDER 18 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1.1 The Committee considered the new policy and accompanying memo (14 March 2011), both attached, for Under 18 International Students Strategy for Australia (Doc no. 2011/0004001). Ms Lucinda Chappell (Senior Manager, International Administration) introduced this item.

1.2 Ms Chappell advised that the National Code and DIAC student visa regulations require any international student visa holders under the age of 18 to have appropriate accommodation, welfare and support mechanisms in place. If students are coming with applicable family members to reside in Australia, this support is provided by the family. However, there are students who do not come with family and the University must provide this support if accepting these students to study with us. This policy sets a framework for provision of these services by the University.

1.3 The IAC noted that this policy and procedure includes feedback from Campus Life as they have a significant role in service provision for our under 18 students.

1.4 The IAC noted that the University currently has ten students that are under 18 and therefore will be subject to this policy.

1.5 Although the IAC supported the introduction of this policy, members raised a number of concerns regarding the wording of the policy, these included:

1.6 2.1 (g) – travel away from home or stay overnight at an address other than that agreed to with the University in the local area – need to clarify what is meant by “local area”. 2.1 (i) – student must maintain a high standard of personal and social behaviour, to conduct themselves responsibly and not partake in risk-taking behaviour – clarify role of parent intervention and of University Ombudsman here; also clarify what is meant by ‘standards of behaviour’ with Student Services. Section needs to describe the approved complaints process.

1.7 Section 3 – 3.1 – All reasonable efforts will be made – by whom? Who will be responsible here? 3.2 Grounds for University withdrawal of support...members requested that the wording here be revised, particularly the removal of the use of ‘support’ in 3.2. 3.4 - Members also raised concerns about who signs what – if both parents and students are asked to sign documents, and the student is under 18, then the student’s signature has no legal standing.

1.8 4.2 Griffith signed documentation of CAAW letter, together with the Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) to apply for a student visa – members noted that without this documentation, students cannot apply for a student visa.

1.9 The IAC resolved to request that the proposed policy Under 18 International Student Policy and Procedure, as described in 2011/0004001, be revised to reflect the concerns raised in 1.6, and 1.7 above and returned to the IAC for further consideration at its June meeting. Following successful endorsement by the Internationalisation Advisory Committee, the policy will be recommended to the Academic Committee for immediate implementation.
2.0 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXTENSION OF STUDY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

2.1 Ms Chappell introduced this item and advised members of the IAC that in 2009 Academic Committee approved the International Student Extension of Study (COE) Policy and Procedure. This policy sets a framework for extensions of study beyond the normal full-time duration for international student visa holders in accordance with ESOS legislation. Members were further advised that this policy is due for review in 2011.

2.2 The IAC was advised that the proposed revisions to the policy, as outlined in the document 2011/0004002, have been prompted by the following factors: a number of students unsuccessful with their applications for a Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) to extend their study have successfully appealed; a number of these successful appeals related to students not enrolling correctly, adding another major, courses only being offered in alternate semesters on a campus; and difficulties undertaking a full-time load due to pregnancy.

2.3 A review of the policy has taken into account successful appeals and recommends additional compassionate/compelling grounds be included in the policy. These changes have been approved by the PVC International. Under section 3.0 of the policy grounds for compassionate or compelling circumstances, these include the addition of the following two points:

- Pregnancy, as evidenced by a medical certificate; and
- Where program structure requirements, incorrect student enrolment, or the addition of a new/changed program plan prevent students from completing within the standard full-time degree duration.
- Addition of “core courses” in the existing clause - Where the University is unable to offer pre-requisite or core course(s) needed to meet award requirements;

2.4 That International Advisory Committee considered these two points and while, endorsing the first point, raised some concerns about the second point. Under the University’s current academic planning policies, all propose changes to majors, minors, streams, program structures can only be approved by Group Boards and Programs Committee if all parties are assured that no current student will be disadvantaged by such changes. Therefore the current wording of the inclusion of the second dot point listed under 2.3 needs to be revised to reflect University policy.

2.5 The IAC agreed to endorse the revised policy International Student Extension of Study (COE) Policy and Procedure, as described in 2011/0004002, subject to adequate correction made to the point regarding incorrect student enrolment. Members agreed that the Chair (IAC) will executively approve the revised policy and recommend it to Academic Committee for implementation.

3.0 REPORT ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADMISSION PATHWAYS

3.1 Ms Chappell reported on English language admission and prior institution of study for international students commencing in Semester 2, 2010, including data concerning the intake of Pacific Island students. The tabled memorandum, English Language Admissions – Semester 2 2010 New International Students, 16 March 2011 refers.
3.2 Ms Chappell advised that English language proficiency used to meet admission requirements is now centrally recorded for all commencing international degree students. For Semester 2 2010 this data is complete, except for the offshore Bachelor of Nursing programs (1326/1327) and higher degree research students. There are student system issues with this data recording. Currently English proficiency is recorded at the student level without a mechanism to link to an application/degree. This is a significant issue when students change their program of study.

3.3 Members noted that in Semester 2, 2010 the international intake entered using six English language admission pathways. Over 50% of our students entered using English as the language of instruction (LOI). The other pathways were formal tests of IELTS, TOEFL and ISLPR as well as Schedule A qualifications and the Direct Entry Program at GELI. Members further noted that the majority of our Semester 2, 1010 commencing degree cohort was admitted on the basis of Language of Instruction (LOI). 391 of these students commenced postgraduate programs and 673 undergraduate programs. Ms Chappell advised that, as a general comment, our own undergraduate cohort is providing us with the great number of postgraduate international students.

3.4 The PVC (International) advised that Griffith has maintained a level of 4.5 as an appropriate GPA for our students, however, QUT has recently lowered their GPA to 4.0, which is attractive to many of our students and has impacted on our international students numbers. The Chair (IAC) was supported by the Committee when she expressed concern over lowering our current level without detailed consideration and due reason.

3.5 The IAC agreed that the English Language Working Party would also be interested in this Report.

3.6 The IAC resolved to recommend that:

(a) INS provide a recommended solution to link English proficiency to an application/degree program so academic performance of any cohort can be easily tracked; and

(b) Griffith International provide an analysis of the academic performance of this Semester 2 2010 student cohort to IAC in mid Semester 2 2011, and that this be brought to the June meeting of IAC.

4.0 WEBSITE

4.1 The Chair (IAC) advised that the Internationalisation information on the Griffith website is under review. The Review is led by the DVC (Academic)'s office, in consultation with the Chair (IAC) on content. Members were asked to consider what information should be where, in relation to the target audience. Members are asked to bring their suggestions to the June meeting.

5.0 INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

5.1 Internationalisation Advisory Committee recalled that in 2010 considerable time was spent preparing the Internationalisation Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2011-2013. The Committee noted that the Plan was forwarded to the DVC (A) for comment and Professor Spence has reviewed the document; the revised version was circulated to members for comment in early February. Members' comments have been collated and forwarded to the DVC (A) and the Internationalisation Strategy and Implementation Plan will be considered by the University’s Executive Group at its March 2011 meeting.
5.2 The final, approved copies of the plan and strategy were circulated for members’ information.

6.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY’S INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

6.1 The Chair drew members’ attention to an initiative of the DVC(A), who has asked the Internationalisation Advisory Committee to consider the University’s Register of International Agreements. The University’s record of its International Agreements is held by Griffith International, who have been consulted over this project. Members noted that this item will be brought forward for future discussion.

7.0 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA 2010-2014

7.1 The Committee considered the International Students Strategy for Australia 2010-2014, recently released by the Council of Australian Governments. Ms Chappell introduced this item.

7.2 Members noted that the Report made a number of recommendations around two central themes:

a) Ensuring students are better supported through improved information, management of education agents, stronger consumer protection mechanisms and enhanced support to study and live in Australia, including having somewhere to go when problems arise; and

b) Improving regulation of Australia’s international education sector and ways to streamline ESOS to ensure Australia maintains its reputation as a high-quality study destination.

7.3 To achieve these end results, the Report includes a range of desired outcomes organised under four main themes – student wellbeing, quality of education, consumer protection, better information. The Report is currently circulated for discussion in the higher education sector and Griffith International will report back to the IAC in June on the University response.

8.0 REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ VISA PROGRAM

8.1 The Federal government has commissioned a review of the Student Visa Program. The discussion paper has been released and was attached for the Committee’s consideration. Ms Chappell introduced this item.

8.2 Ms Chappell advised that Griffith International has already been involved in IRUA discussions with Michael Knight. Ms Chappell is also a critical reader for the Universities Australia Knight Review Advisory Group, so the University has input in these and other forums. Griffith will be including a submission. In addition, public submissions addressing the terms of reference are due 15 April 2010.

8.3 Members were asked to provide input to the Griffith submission by forwarding their responses to Ms Aleicia Kersey (Manager) International Compliance by Friday 1 April.
9.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

9.1 The Chair drew members’ attention to the Internationalisation Strategy and Implementation Plan, which after several months of preparation and circulation for comment, was now approved.

9.2 The Chair also asked members of the IAC to note that, as a result of the review of the Academic Committee, each sub-committee will submit an annual report on its activities. The Chair has asked the Secretary to draft appropriate headings so that after each meeting suitable material can be inserted, thus facilitating the preparation of the first IAC Annual Report, which will be due at the end of 2011.

10.0 PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR’S (INTERNATIONAL) REPORT

10.1 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 October, 2010:

a) Global Financial Crisis – a crisis that really impacted on the advanced Western economies, and in large part averted by the economic activity and growth of the so called BRIC nations – Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

b) Severe Climactic Events – impacts on us in terms of students able to come to Australia.

c) Political Crisis in Middle East – Griffith has a number of Libyan students, either here or in transit, who are now in some difficulty in respect of their academic-student future in Australia.

10.2 More generally, the PVC (International) advised that Griffith has experienced a 10-20% drop in commencing international students for the 2011 academic year. However, due to the diversification strategy employed for recruiting international students, Griffith’s figures are still relatively strong in this area.

10.3 Griffith International has recently appointed a Community Liaison Officer, Ms Camie Chow, who will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies for dealing with community groups; particularly those in the immediate vicinity of Griffith’s Nathan and Mt Gravatt campuses, including Macgregor, Sunnybank, and Robertson, where there have been instances of unrest from houses accommodating our international students.

11.0 DEANS AND DIRECTORS (INTERNATIONAL) REPORTS

11.1 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.

a) The Director, Student Services (AA), Ms Joanna Peters, advised members that some funds from the Griffith Appeal can be directed to support international students, particularly from the areas affected by recent political and climactic conditions listed above, in the form of bursaries. Ms Peters also reminded members that Student Services continues to run an International Orientation program for Griffith’s students from overseas.
b) SEET – Professor Yew-Chaye Loo reported on the SEET Group’s International marketing Plan, which is revised each year and which has proven to be highly effective in focusing the Group’s attention and activities on how it can best concentrate its resources on attracting international students. For example, in 2011 the SEET Group will focus on recruitment in China, Korea; SEET is also working closely with relevant agencies in Nepal and Thailand.

c) Griffith Health – Professor Debra Henly reported that Griffith Health is focusing its recruitment strategies and resources on the Singapore and Canadian markets.

d) Arts, Education and Law Group – Professor Paul Cleveland (Director QCA) spoke to this item and advised that the basis of his report would be the activities at the Art College. Professor Cleveland advised that the current high level of the Australian dollar is having an impact on the College’s off-shore programs, particularly the degrees offered in Hong Kong. In contrast to this, the on-shore programs were maintaining their current levels.

e) Griffith Business School (GBS) – Professor Chris Auld advised that the Semester 1, 2011 numbers for incoming international students into the GBS has held satisfactory levels, despite the international economic climate. The GBS Student Club continues to grow and support international students, with 40% of its membership now occupied by international students.

f) Office for Research – Mr Tony Shiel reported on the positive outcomes from the ERA findings for Griffith and recommended that members use these as an opportunity to emphasis the research strengths of Griffith to their international communities. Mr Shiel also reported on the recently released *Nature Supplement*, which listed the top 10 universities that have published in *Nature* and advised that the listed included Griffith ranked as number 7, between the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

12.1 The next meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, 9 June from 1:30pm – 3:30pm via videoconference in Room -1.18, Business 2 Building (N72), Nathan and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34).

Confirmed: ……………………………………….

(Chair)

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

Committee Members

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

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

DEAN, GRIFFITH GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL
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
Professor Michelle Barker (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 Kathy Grgic

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

COORDINATED 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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