A meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, 17 November 2011, from 9:30am – 11:30am via videoconference in Room -1.18, Glyn Davis Building (N72), Nathan campus and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34), Gold Coast campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Gillian Bushell (Chair)
Professor Parlo Singh
Ms Ilva Sporne
Mr Tony Sheil
Dr Ray Hibbins
Professor Afshin Akhtarkhavari (for Dean (Academic) (AEL))
Professor Chris Auld
Ms Joanna Peter
Ms Nicole Brigg
Professor Yew-Chaye Loo
Ms Margaret Price
Ms Annette McCarthy (for item 2.0)

Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 3/2011 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

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
2.0 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BAROMETER

2.1 The IAC recalled that the International Student Barometer (ISB) is a worldwide benchmarking survey that compares student experiences at Griffith University with the experiences of other international students studying at universities throughout the world. The IAC was advised that on Friday, 7 October 2011 the Director of Client Services Australia at i-graduate, Mr Kevin Brett, presented a report on the ISB survey undertaken in Semester 1, 2011.

2.2 The IAC considered the summary of the findings of the Semester 1, 2011 ISB, which were attached for members’ information, and highlighted the following during the Committee’s discussion:

2.2.1 Griffith’s response rate had again increased above the national average;

2.2.2 Overall, students’ decisions on where to study are largely informed by comments and input from their friends and social peers and the university website;

2.2.3 Concerns around enhancing employment prospect, both during and after degree study, continue to be a significant concern for Griffith’s international students;

2.2.4 Griffith continues to receive slightly below-average scores for the University’s Orientation program for international students; and

2.2.5 International students continue to register concerns over the quality and variety of food and beverages at Griffith’s campuses.

2.3 The IAC was advised that in relation to 2.2.3, Griffith operates a number of schemes, including Jobs-on-Campus (run through Student Services) that has been designed to secure employment opportunities at Griffith for international students. The IAC was also advised that the GBS has recently re-vamped the School’s Orientation program for its international students by involving the Griffith Business Student Association and including an array of student-focussed activities for international students.

2.4 In relation to 2.2.5, the IAC resolved to raise this matter formally with Campus Life, as members agreed that the provision of quality food and beverages to this significant student cohort should be a priority for the University.

3.0 KNIGHT REVIEW OF THE STUDENT VISA PROGRAM

3.1 The IAC recalled that the Australian Government has made a number of recent reforms to strengthen the international education sector including:

- implementing the outcomes of the Baird Review of the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000;
- amending the ESOS Act to require all providers of international education to re-register by the end of 2010;
- releasing the Council of Australian Government’s International Students Strategy for Australia;
• implementing a package of changes in April 2011 that included reducing the student visa assessment levels for 38 countries across one or more student visa sub-classes; and

• announcing the recent new English language test providers for student visas.

3.2 The IAC was advised that in December 2010 the government appointed the Hon Michael Knight AO to conduct the first independent review of the student visa program, which was designed to address the above-mentioned reforms. Mr Knight reported to the government on 30 June 2011 and a copy of his full report was attached for members’ consideration. See: www.immi.gov.au/students/knight/

3.3 Ms Annette McCarthy, Senior Manager, International Administration, introduced this item and drew members’ attention to Recommendation 3 – Streamlined Visa Processing for Universities, which includes the following recommendations:

3.3.1 That all students in the categories set out below, irrespective of their country of origin, but subject to the provisions in 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7, should be treated as though they are all Assessment Level 1.

3.3.2 This treatment should apply to the following university student applicants:

• Bachelor Degree,
• 2 plus 2 (or 3 plus 1) arrangements with partner universities, and
• Masters Degree by coursework.

3.3.3 The special treatment should not apply to:

• short courses
• Associate Degree
• Graduate diploma
• Graduate certificate
• Diploma and Advanced Diploma
• non-award courses (except as provided for in Recommendation 18)
• the non-university courses at the six universities which are dual sector (VET and university).

3.3.4 The benefits should also apply to courses which are explicitly packaged with an eligible university course at the time when the offer of university enrolment is made. This might include English language (ELICOS) and/or foundation or pathway courses in circumstances where non compliance by the student at any part of the package would be regarded as non-compliance with the university enrolment.

3.3.5 The government should continue to require appropriate health checks, health insurance, character (predominantly criminal record/connections) and security checks.
3.3.6 The underlying Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) powers in regard to every individual student application should continue to exist.

3.3.7 The government should also reserve the right to exclude certain high risk groups from the streamlined approach for university applicants

3.4 The IAC was advised that it is essential that the University complies with these recommendations so that Griffith maintains an Assessment Level 1. The IAC further agreed that the recommendations and their potential impact on Griffith’s capacity to recruit and admit international students needs to be fully understood by the managers who are responsible for our international portfolios, as well as Griffith’s agents overseas who advise Griffith International on our international student cohorts.

3.5 The IAC noted that Griffith’s current English entry requirements for international students are lower than the recommended level in the Knight Review and DIAC. The Committee agreed that the impact of this situation needs to be monitored.

3.6 The Chair recommended that the Senior Manager, International Administration assists the IAC in monitoring the impact of these recommendations as they are implemented in the higher education sector.

4.0 DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP – PUBLICATION OF TESTS OF ENGLISH

4.1 The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has published its guide to English test equivalences for all four proficiency tests available to individuals applying for student visas, including the IELTS, TOEFL, PTC, and Cambridge tests.

4.2 The IAC noted that some student visa applicants are required to provide the results of an English language test and that from 5 November 2011, the Department will accept test results from the following specified English language tests for Student visa purposes taken in any country:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based test (TOEFL iBT);
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic; and
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test (also known as Certificate in Advanced English).

4.3 The IAC was advised of the following new test score equivalencies being used by DIAC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Test Score Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>4.0  4.5  5.0  5.5  6.0  6.5  7.0  7.5  8.0  8.5  9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL iBT</td>
<td>31   32   35   46   60   79   94  102  110  115  118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTE Academic</td>
<td>29   30   36   42   50   58   65  73   79   83   86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)</td>
<td>32   36   41   47   52   58   67  74   80   87   93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL PBT</td>
<td>433  450  500  527  550  n/a  n/a  n/a  n/a  n/a  n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.griffith.edu.au/committees
4.4 Listed below are the current English language requirements that apply to international applicants and other applicants whose previous study was undertaken in a language other than English who wish to gain entry to the majority of Griffith’s programs. The IAC noted that the amendments highlighted in red have been approved by the Programs Committee and the Board of Graduate Research and are to be considered by the Academic Committee at its November 2011 meeting.

4.4.1 Undergraduate Programs

International applicants, and domestic applicants for whom English is not their first language, seeking admission to undergraduate programs that are taught and assessed in English are required to meet the following prescribed minimum proficiency standards in English language to be considered eligible for admission unless otherwise specified in the program catalogue:

- A minimum overall band score of 6.0 on IELTS (Academic) (International English Language Testing System) with no sub-score of less than 5.5; or
- A minimum score of 550 on TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language); or
- An internet-based (iBT) TOEFL score of 79 (no score less than 19)
- No score less than 3 in each skill of the ISLPR (International Second Language Proficiency Rating);
- a minimum grade of C on the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), or
- a minimum grade of C on the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), or
- a minimum score of 54 in Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic).

English test results must be no more than two years old.

4.4.2 Postgraduate programs

International applicants seeking admission to postgraduate programs are required to meet the following prescribed minimum proficiency standards in English Language to be considered eligible for admission to the University's postgraduate programs:

- A minimum score of 575 on TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language); or
- An internet-based (iBT) TOEFL score of 88 (no score less than 21);
- A minimum overall band score of 6.5 on IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with no sub-score of less than 6.0;
- No score less than 3+ in each skill of the ISLPR (International Second Language Proficiency Rating), or
- a minimum grade of C on the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), or
- a minimum grade of C on the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), or
- a minimum score of 61 in Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic).

English test results must be no more than two years old.
4.5 The IAC noted that Ms Nicole Brigg, Director, Griffith English Language Institute prepared a paper that responds to DIAC’s decision on test score equivalencies.

4.6 Ms Brigg advised that the purpose of the paper is three-fold. Firstly, to gain approval for Griffith University to accept the PTE Academic test as an additional means of providing evidence of English language proficiency for entry to degree programs. Secondly, to gain approval to recalibrate TOEFL iBT scores accepted for entry based on recent empirical research. Thirdly, to gain approval to specify percentage requirements as well as grades when accepting CAE in the light of recent research findings.

4.7 The IAC agreed that the first point need not be discussed, as the Committee had already considered the introduction of PTE Academic at its August meeting and that this proposal was to be considered by Academic Committee at its November meeting. The IAC focussed its discussions on the second point – the request to recalibrate TOEFL iBT scores accepted for entry based on recent empirical research; that is, that Griffith adjust the TOEFL iBT overall acceptable for admission to be in line with those accepted by DIAC. Ms Brigg advised that such a step would ensure that Griffith’s international admission requirements are consistent with those of the DIAC. Ms Brigg asked the IAC to note that, as the Federal government department responsible for issuing student visas, their decision around English language equivalencies will be taken as the official one in overseas countries, and that therefore it is in Griffith’s interests to comply with the DIAC recommended equivalencies, for example IELTS 6 = PTE 50.

4.8 The IAC noted that the proposed ‘recalibrated’ scores were lower than the ones currently approved by Griffith and expressed concern over this, particularly in relation to the potential for negative impact on academic standards and retention of the University’s international student cohort. The IAC also agreed that the DIAC recommendations can change without referenced to the academic needs of the higher education sector.

4.9 The IAC agreed that this is a complex matter, and one that is highly topical at the moment, given the recent recommendations of the Knight Review and the release of the Victorian’s Ombudsman’s Report into the treatment of international students at Victorian universities. The IAC agreed to that the proposed DIAC equivalencies to admission scores for international students should be considered within the context of the wider debate on this issue, as well as the desirable academic entry standards appropriate to a top 10 research university.

5.0 VICTORIAN OMBUDSMAN – INVESTIGATION INTO HOW UNIVERSITIES DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

5.1 The Chair introduced this item and advised members of the IAC that in late 2010 the Ombudsman of Victoria decided to undertake an investigation into how four Victorian universities deal with international students. The ‘own motion’ investigation was undertaken under the Ombudsman Act and examined the following universities: Deakin University, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, and the University of Ballarat. The Final Report of the Victorian Ombudsman and an Executive summary were attached for members’ consideration.

5.2 The IAC noted that the investigation was prompted by a significant increase in the number of complaints received by the Ombudsman of Victoria from international students about their treatment from Victoria’s universities (176 complaints received in 2007-2008; 534 received in 2010-2011).

5.3 Although the investigation initially focused on the universities’ handling of student complaints, the Ombudsman also identified issues of concern with:
- English language admission standards and support services;
- Academic standards and conduct; and
- Regulatory arrangements.

5.4 The IAC noted that the Ombudsman made 17 Recommendations that cover a range of issues including: student admission (minimum IELTS scores); provisions for English language support services; academic standards and conduct, including regulatory standards for quality assurance; and academic misconduct.

5.5 The IAC agreed that the Victorian Ombudsman is reasonably assertive in his criticisms of the Victorian university sector and its treatment of international students. The IAC also agreed that, although the report focused on Victorian issues, there was much to be learnt from the Ombudsman’s recommendations.

6.0 WEBSITE - INTERNATIONALISATION

6.1 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 IAC noted that the focus of the review is to examine the current content with a view to updating this and its position on the Griffith website.

7.0 PEARSON TEST OF ENGLISH

7.1 The IAC recalled that at its 3/2011 meeting the Committee had considered and recommended to the Academic Committee the use of the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic and recommended admission scores at Griffith for this scheme. The IAC noted that the relevant admissions policies have been amended to reflect the introduction of this English test and that these have been forwarded to Programs Committee and the Board of Graduate Research, before proceeding to the Academic Committee (November meeting) for final consideration.

8.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

8.1 The Chair advised the IAC that the key items of interest were included in the Agenda.

9.0 PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR’S (INTERNATIONAL) REPORT

9.1 As the PVC (International) was unable to attend the meeting, the Director GELI reported on the following matters:

9.1.1 EFSL Figures for International Cohort (2012 intake) – there is currently a 10% drop for applications to study in semester 1, with a 38% drop in acceptances; the high AUD$, the new Visa requirements and uncertainty around the introduction of the recommendations of the Knight Review are all considered factors in this drop.

9.1.2 There is intense competition for a number of Griffith’s key overseas sources of international students, including Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, and the Middle East, with many Australian universities offering a range of discount and scholarship packages for international students. Notwithstanding this situation, Griffith continues to hold its share of international students from China.
9.1.3 Griffith International and GELI have developed a package of 60 direct entry scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate programs that target Turkey (10), Morocco (5), 'Stan countries, (10), Indonesia (10) and Malaysia (15), and 20 Kuwait/Armenian sponsored scholarship students.

9.1.4 Libya – waiting on the new government to settle the visas and funding for up to 60 students, who have been offered places at Griffith.

9.1.5 The PVC (International) is a member of the International Education Advisory Committee, one of three academics appointed to the Committee, but the majority of the members are from the business sector.

10.0 DEANS AND DIRECTORS (INTERNATIONAL) REPORTS

10.1 The Chair invited each of the Deans/Directors (International) to provide a brief report on internationalisation activities in their areas.

10.1.1 The Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School reported that the Graduate School has recorded lower number of completions in HDR degrees for international candidates. Professor Singh suggested that designing the right projects for the candidate that can be fully supported by the academic element is critical in ensuring higher completion rates.

10.1.2 Griffith Business School (GBS) – Professor Chris Auld advised that the GBS is continuing to secure a stronger footprint in the Hong Kong top-up studies market, with considerable engagement between the GBS and Hong Kong in 2011, including 64 delegations involving some 236 visitors. The GBS is to offer a MA (International) in 2012 and is investigating a range of HDR scholarship options to maintain its international HDR student numbers.

10.1.3 SEET – Professor Yew-Chaye-Loo reported that he has recently led a delegation of academics from SEET to Malaysia designed to showcase the research undertaken by SEET staff.

10.1.4 The Director, Student Services advised that Student Services has successfully applied for a Griffith university-level teaching and learning grant to fund the development of an e-mentoring program for international students. Fostering employment outcomes and close working links with Griffith alumni will be key features of this project. The Director of the Multi-Faith Centre is planning to have a significantly increased international content and multi-cultural focus for Harmony Week (3rd week in March).

10.1.5 The Deputy Director, Office for Research, Tony Sheil, recounted a recent exchange between him and a member of the Griffith Council that occurred during Mr Sheil’s recent visit to Shanghai in which the council member had expressed concern over the lack of Griffith’s presence in recruiting suitable students from the various international schools based in China and Hong Kong. Mr Sheil advised the IAC that, in all likelihood, this matter would be raised with the Vice Chancellor.
11.0  **2012 MEETING DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Venue Allocated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>NA/GC</td>
<td>N54_2.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>NA/GC</td>
<td>G34_1.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>NA/GC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>NA/GC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 November *</td>
<td>NA/GC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* will only proceed if business warrants.

12.0  **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, 29 March, 1:00pm – 3:00pm via videoconference in Room 2.06, Bray Centre (N54), Nathan campus and Room 1.04, The Chancellery (G34), Gold Coast campus.

*For noting*

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 Sheil (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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