GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONALISATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Internationalisation Advisory Committee (IAC) will be held on Thursday, 11th October 2012, from 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.

Rosemary Marson
Secretary

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

SECTION I: MATTERS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

1.0 ADOPTION OF IELTS 6.5 MINIMUM UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY LEVEL

1.1 At its May 2012 meeting, the Griffith University Executive Group (EG) agreed to recommend to the Programs Committee, Internationalisation Advisory Committee, and Academic Committee that the University adopt a move to a minimum undergraduate entry level from the current IELTS 6.0, with no sub-score below 5.5 to an IELTS 6.5 (6.0) or equivalent test score or Language of Instruction provision.

1.2 Griffith International was asked to provide EG with a paper in August 2012, considering the pros and cons of making the proposed change in January 2014 versus January 2015. This analysis considered the potential impact of the move to IELTS 6.5 on the different pathways into undergraduate study at Griffith University, as well as the changing regulatory environment. A summary of the analysis is provided in the attached paper (2012/0002820), prepared by the Pro Vice Chancellor (International).

1.3 On balance, Griffith International recommended the move to a minimum IELTS 6.5 take place in January 2015. Executive Group accepted this recommendation, which is now before the Programs Committee and Internationalisation Advisory Committee for its endorsement and recommendation to Academic Committee.

Recommendation

1.4 The Internationalisation Advisory Committee is asked to recommend to Academic Committee the adoption of IELTS 6.5, with no sub-score less than 6.0, and equivalent test score or language of instruction provision in January 2015.

For consideration

2.0 TEQSA AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY/REQUIREMENTS

2.1 At a sector briefing conducted by TEQSA on 17 August 2012, TEQSA advised of its intention to conduct a thematic review on English language proficiency in universities. Griffith’s representatives at the meeting have advised that TEQSA will consider International students and domestic students from NESB and will focus on English Language standards at admission as well as English Language standards at exit. The University has been advised that the questions TEQSA wants to answer are

Does English competence improve or decline after higher education studies?
How do providers know the answer to this question?"
2.2 Further information is provided in the attachment, as summarised by Conor King, Executive Director, IRU. Attached also is a recently reported article in the HES (Wednesday 5 October) regarding NEAS and their 'future role' in accrediting English language training institutions.

2.3 Although TEQSA is yet to release the formal Terms of Reference for the audit, the DVC(A) has requested that consideration of this issue commence within the relevant University committees.

Recommendation

2.4 The IAC is asked to consider and advise on the ramifications and implications of such an external review for the University.

For consideration