TAFE QUEENSLAND AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY LINKS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee was held between 3.00 – 5.00 pm on Friday, 7 December 2007 in Room 2.02 (Council Chamber), Bray Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor John Dewar, Chair
Dr Richard Armour
Professor Max Standage
Ms Leesa Wheelahan
Ms Alicia Toohey (SBI)
Ms Deidre Stein (GCIT)
Mr Mike Diezmann (BNIT)

Ms Mary Hassard

APOLOGIES:

Professor Ian O’Connor
Ms Rachel Hunter
Mr Colin McAndrew
Mr Rod Arthur
Ms Janine Schubert
Ms Deb Daly
Ms Linda Brown
Mr Lindsay Perrin
Mr Fred Bevan
Mr Craig Sherrin
Mr Greg Harper

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 1/2007 meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee were taken as read and confirmed subject to noting attendance of GCIT Director, Education and Training at 1/07 meeting.

2.0 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

2.1 The Chair welcomed members and Institute representatives. Ms Leesa Wheelahan was thanked for her huge contribution in developing the University’s TAFE strategy whilst working as a Project Officer in the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor. Congratulations were also extended to Leesa for completing her Doctorate.

2.2 The Chair reported on two joint federally funded projects:

A position for an Indigenous Liaison Officer is currently being advertised and an interim progress report due shortly for Building aspirations in the Logan Region: A partnership between Education Queensland, Griffith University & Southbank Institute of Technology. The final report to the Department is due mid 2009.

A Project Leader has been employed for Developing new curriculum and pathways in Electronic and Computer Engineering through the establishment of an industry-education cluster in the Gold Coast with some work completed in gaining involvement from industry organisations and an educational needs analysis will be commenced in early 2008.
2.3 It was suggested that the 2008 round for dual TAFE/Griffith offers was unknown territory. The Chair advised that the University would extend the closing date until mid February to ensure all TAFE Graduates could take advantage of these new offers.

3.0 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Members noted that whilst Prime Minister Rudd had stated that education will be a high priority for his government, at this stage this was only speculation with no policies available for discussion. Advertised Labor Party policy for Education and Training included the introduction of trade training in all secondary schools, the provision of early childhood education for all 4 year olds and the allocation of 9,250 additional nurses to hospitals to fix the nation’s skills crisis.

Issues members considered should be addressed by the new Government included consistency for Private and Public Providers in the availability of FEE-HELP for VET programs and urgent consideration of an option, similar to HECs, for TAFE students.

4.0 DEST SUBMISSION – ASSOCIATE DEGREES

A letter sent to Vice Chancellors from the DEST Equity and Structural Reform Branch, Higher Education Group and Griffith’s response was circulated to members. DEST had requested relevant information in regard to “…a stock-take of activities around Associate Degree courses at your institution in the context of the new two-year Commonwealth Scholarships for Associate Degrees”.

Ms Wheelahan advised that a large number of these scholarships for Associate Degrees had not been taken up. Their introduction may not have been thought through appropriately and members were encouraged to make further contact with the Equity and Structural Reform Branch of DEST to advance the issues associated with the unsatisfactory take-up rate of these Commonwealth scholarships.

Members considered that the different State models for dual offerings were not necessarily understood by DEST and that institutions should ensure that the different models available to Queensland students were recognised for scholarship purposes.

5.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY PAPER – RELATIONSHIP WITH TAFE AND PRIVATE PROVIDERS

Members were asked to note the paper Building institutional partnerships with TAFE & other tertiary education providers. Ms Wheelahan advised that the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Chair, TAFE Qld and GU Links, had requested that a discussion paper be produced taking into consideration changes, since 2005, in the tertiary sector. The paper included a stocktake of the strategies and objectives included in the 2005 Griffith paper Building Griffith’s relationship with TAFE in the Brisbane Gold-Coast corridor and recommended strategies for further developing Griffith’s relationship with TAFE over the next few years. The paper also considered if the University should develop a broader strategy for building institutional partnerships with Private Providers.

Faculty Academic Boards had already considered the paper’s recommendations and had provided very positive feedback. The paper, with the Faculty recommendations, would now be forwarded for Academic Committee’s consideration.

Ms Wheelahan advised that the University does not wish to compete with TAFE and supports each institution delivering different programs. Where complementarity exists, institutions should collaborate to develop pathways for students. TAFEs
must compete with Private Providers whose programs are now eligible for Fee-HELP where the Private Provider is able to obtain a formal pathway arrangement with a University. As a result, Universities now play a role in the competitive VET market. Griffith may now need to develop criteria for its links with Private Providers.

An evaluation of the recommendations in the 2005 paper indicates that, in many instances, the required outcomes have not only been met but exceeded. Such outcomes are considered by Ms Wheelahan to be indicative of the successful but complex “zones of trust” built by Griffith University and Queensland TAFE, over a number of years, at a number of levels.

Ms Wheelahan advised that the paper invites discussion within the University community on where to from here with VET links, what plan is required for the next few years, what are the mechanisms to cover programs at all University levels, how best can Griffith promote partnerships, how can students with “transition shock” be assisted upon entry to University.

Eight recommendations are put forward in the paper in relation to:

- a model for building institutional partnerships
- criteria for developing partnerships with private tertiary education providers
- supporting student transition
- promoting pathways
- supporting work-integrated learning
- developing new markets through partnerships around associate degree and graduate programs
- supporting TAFE to make loans available to students
- building opportunities for collaboration between TAFE and Griffith Teachers.

TAFE members were particularly interested in identifying opportunities to support work-integrated learning at Griffith by a VET qualification/units being embedded in a University degree. It was considered that, to ensure a neat fit in such a specialised area, individual arrangements with Institutes would be the likely outcome. TAFE Institutes were also keen to work with Griffith to embed Associate Degrees and Vocational Graduate Certificates in University programs.

6.0 LOGAN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Professor Max Standage advised that the July 2006 Report of the Logan Task Force recommended that Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE be approached to jointly establish a partnerships committee for two years to implement the Task Force recommendations relating to the University’s partnership with the TAFE’s Loganlea Campus. This Committee has now been formally established and held its first meeting.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed providing an umbrella agreement to the existing relationship. Professor Standage explained that the Committee provided an avenue for discussion, every 6 months, and facilitated the planning of extra links. In particular, exploring on campus activities was considered a priority so as to encourage the flow-on of students from MSIT to Griffith. An increase in collaborative activities such as the English language/Diploma/Bachelor of Nursing for students from Kirabati would be welcomed.

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The teaching of Logan Adult Tertiary Program (LTAP) students, in 2007, on the Griffith Logan Campus was considered by Professor Standage to be a useful pilot from which both institutions had gained experience in a number of co-location issues such as parking, access to information technology and the Library, and campus timetabling of dual classes. The institutions were now exploring co-location of both LTAP and TAFE Loganlea’s Adult Tertiary Preparation programs on the University.
Campus in 2008. This would result in approx. 150 students undertaking TAFE studies on the University campus.

LTAP, for which accreditation had been extended, was considered by Professor Standage to be only one of many very positive activities resulting from the close links with MSIT and Griffith at Logan. Because of the adjacent location of the campuses it made sense to work towards more co-located activities. The University was keen to develop other programs similar to the Nursing model where an additional benefit results in reverse articulation from University studies into TAFE qualifications.

7.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY/TAFE REPORTS

The Chair invited members, who may wish to do so, to make a short oral report on current issues affecting their roles in TAFE/University links.

7.1 Ms Alicia Toohey, Educational Partnerships, from Southbank Institute of Technology advised that the dual offers through QTAC were raising the profile of Griffith and SBI’s pathways. Event Management had proven to be a very popular option and the Institute would be increasing the number of offers. Concurrent pathways had now been approved for Queensland College of Art programs and it was expected this new model would be in demand from students. Griffith and Southbank Institute were also developing pathways at the Graduate Certificate level, one of which was in the Science area.

Ms Toohey thanked the Chair and Ms Wheelahan for their contribution to the Southbank Institute of Technology Higher Education Academic Board.

7.2 Ms Deidre Stein, Director, Education and Training, Gold Coast Institute of TAFE advised that the Institute was continuing to pursue new pathways with the University including a concurrent offering in Hospitality and an offer to assist with embedding a VET Certificate in the Bachelor of Exercise Science to enable Griffith students to gain a workplace qualification for the Fitness Industry.

Areas the Institute wished to further develop with the University included opportunities for GCIT Adult Tertiary Preparation students, Teacher’s Aides progression into Education degrees and an articulation for the Real Estate and Property Diploma.

7.3 Mike Diezmann, Director Education and Training, explained that the geography of Brisbane North Institute of TAFE included South Brisbane and whilst the Institute did have many joint programs with Queensland University of Technology, there were areas in which Griffith and BNIT could explore articulation pathways of mutual benefit.

7.4 The Chair thanked TAFE representatives for their reports and thanked all members for their contribution to TAFE/Griffith University links in 2007.

8.0 STATISTICS TAFE ARTICULATION

Members noted a schedule listing details, by University program and prior TAFE Institute, of 653 students who articulated into Griffith University programs in 2008 and a current list of the 700 dual offers available in the 2008 QTAC Guide.
The Chair noted that whilst the numbers, admitted to Griffith, were very promising and represented increases in some areas, Griffith was still keen to grow the number of TAFE students articulating into Griffith University degree programs. The Chair thanked Institutes for their continued support in developing additional pathways.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting would be held Tuesday 27 May, 10.00 – 12 noon in Council Chamber, Bray Centre (N54), Nathan Campus, Griffith University.

Confirmed:……………………………………  Date:  27 May, 2008.
Professor John Dewar (Chair)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Chairperson of the Committee
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)
Professor John Dewar

Vice Chancellor and President
Professor Ian O'Connor

Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts
Ms Rachel Hunter

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), Griffith University
Mr Colin McAndrew

Academic Registrar, Griffith University
Dr Richard Armour

A/Director, Office of Facilities Management, Griffith University
Mr Lindsay Perrin

One group Pro-Vice Chancellor nominated by the Vice Chancellor
Professor Max Standage, Pro Vice Chancellor, Community Partnerships

Up to two members of the academic staff of the University nominated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Deputy President

Mr Fred Beven, School of Education and Professional Studies
Ms Leesa Wheelahan, School of Education and Professional Studies

TAFE representatives nominated by the Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts

Mr Rod Arthur – Deputy Director-General,
Mr Craig Sherrin - Director, Southbank Institute of Technology
Ms Janine Schubert – Director, Product Services
Ms Deb Daly – Director, Gold Coast Institute of TAFE
Ms Linda Brown - Director, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE
Mr Greg Harper - Director, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Secretary
Ms Mary Hassard, Manager, Credit Transfer and Articulations, Griffith University