TAFE QUEENSLAND AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY LINKS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee was held between 10.00 am – 12 noon on Tuesday, 29 May, 2007 in Room 2.02 (Council Chamber), Bray Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor John Dewar, Chair
Dr Richard Armour
Mr Lindsay Perrin
Mr Fred Bevan
Ms Leesa Wheelahan
Mr Rod Arthur
Mr Craig Sherrin
Ms Lynda Robertson
Mr Terry Clark
Mr Peter Laing
Mr Peter Harber
Mr Greg Harper

APOLOGIES:

Professor Ian O’Connor
Ms Rachel Hunter
Mr Colin McAndrew
Professor Max Standage
Ms Janine Schubert
Ms Deb Daly
Ms Linda Brown

By Invitation:

Dr Marion Mitchell

Secretary

Ms Mary Hassard

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2/2006 meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee were taken as read and confirmed.

2.0 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

2.1 The Chair welcomed members and Institute representatives attending by invitation. Mr Greg Harper, Director of Brisbane North Institute was invited to join the Committee as a member. As Open Learning Institute, which is now part of Brisbane North, had previously been represented on the Committee, members considered it appropriate for the Director to continue to contribute to the development of TAFE Qld/Griffith University links.

2.2 Dr Marion Mitchell, Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery who had been invited to talk to item 5.0 Joint Nursing Program – Logan was also welcomed.
2.3 The Chair was pleased to report that much had happened in 2007 which contributed to TAFE/Griffith University links, including new budget initiatives which would be discussed at length in item 3. Some recent developments included:

**Sharing of Facilities**

QIBT Diploma of Hotel Management GU courses, Food and Beverage Service Management and Food Production Management, are being delivered to QIBT students from MSIT campus.

MSIT Event Management, Nursing and Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation students are completing Griffith enhancement models at Griffith Logan Campus.

The Queensland College of Art has discussed with Southbank Institute of Technology access to the SBI auditorium for delivery of GU courses to a joint GU/TAFE cohort of students.

**The Logan Partnership Committee** comprising GU/MSIT representatives will meet shortly to implement recommendations from *Logan Task Force*, and develop an action plan for the development of links with MSIT. This Committee will be a sub-committee of TAFE/GU Links.

**Certificate IV in Tertiary Access to Griffith University** - MSIT and Griffith have agreed to make an application to extend this Cert. IV accreditation for a further six months to enable reaccreditation to be concurrently considered with reaccreditation of the Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation program. The preferred outcome is one Adult Tertiary Preparation program that TAFE Institutes can customise with Griffith to guarantee a place in a degree at Griffith upon completion.

MSIT advised that consultation had commenced to consider all options and gain endorsement for the preferred model. MSIT should be able to provide further feedback at the next meeting.

**Joint projects**

GCIT and Griffith have received a Commonwealth Collaboration and Structural Reform Grant with funding of $297,213.58 over three years. The aim of the project is to overcome problems in the supply and demand of education and training that has contributed to skill shortages in the electronic and computer engineering industry. The project will establish an industry-education cluster and will develop a new curriculum that incorporates the relevant VET and Griffith programs based on work-integrated learning. A Project Leader will be appointed and the project is being led by Dave Edwards from Griffith School of Engineering.

SBIT, *Education Queensland* and Griffith has received funds for a project to build aspirations among Indigenous students in the Logan region to participate in tertiary education (both TAFE and HE). $75,855 in funding has been provided from the DEST Indigenous Higher Education School to University Pathways Project.
2.4 The Chair advised that Griffith’s message to TAFE Institutes was *we would like to support you in any way we can.*

**Possible joint funding opportunities** in the future may include grants from a Diversity and Structural Adjustment fund (to replace the DEST Collaboration and Structural Reform Grant). The Minister had said that:

*Priority will be given to universities in regional areas and smaller metropolitan universities which can demonstrate the greatest need for structural reform and the greatest input on local labour markets*

Developing new and expanding existing dual-sector activities were explicitly included in the explanation of the new fund, and this Committee should try to take advantage of this.

Another area that could be explored further is the Queensland Skills Strategy where Griffith is already working with TAFE in the areas of early childhood, nursing and engineering. Coherent pathways in a range of areas could be developed jointly. Griffith understands that each TAFE is designated as a lead institute for specific industry areas, and that part of this process involves developing skills formation strategies for those areas. Griffith is interested in feedback if there is scope for collaboration in this area and what form that collaboration may take.

2.5 The Chair suggested that it would be useful to have reports from the projects mentioned in 2.3 at subsequent meetings.

3.0 **2007-2008 BUDGET – STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR TAFE/GU LINKS**

3.1 The Federal Minister for Vocational and Further Education announced that **FEE-HELP** will be extended to full-fee paying students in Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs that are accredited as VET qualifications, where agreed credit for a university degree is available to the student. The Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training announced that 2,000 of the **new Commonwealth scholarships** will be offered to students who may not otherwise qualify for a higher education place, to study two-year Associate Degrees as a pathway to full degrees.

The Chair invited members to consider how these two Budget initiatives may impact on Griffith University/TAFE Qld links.

3.2 TAFE Directors advised that some changes were required to State legislation before TAFE Institutes could benefit from the announced changes to the same extent as Private Providers would benefit. Members considered that students enrolled in TAFE Institutes in publicly funded programs should be entitled to the same Government benefits as students enrolled in similar programs delivered by Private Providers.

3.3 The Deputy Director-General advised that the Queensland State Government was reviewing the governance model for TAFE Institutes and a brief to inform the Minister would be presented by the end of 2007. The legislative timeline was March. Two Institutes were planning to develop into a statutory authority but it was expected that, in the future, multiple models could exist. Clarification for the sector as a whole was required by Government.
3.4 Southbank Institute delivers Diplomas which are funded from recurrent funding and full-fees. Some Diplomas can be solely funded from either and other Diplomas could be partially funded from both. Negotiating University pathways for TAFE students is not a Government regulation but Government issues for funding allocation are driving the need for governance changes.

3.5 Members considered that the Federal Minister was calling for diversity and the landscape was being transformed. Collaborating to develop programs by working together for a more coherent learning environment, enhancing curriculum and ensuring students transition well into University studies will benefit students in our regions. Associate Degrees being delivered by Southbank Institute are base models upon which to engage Universities in Curriculum Development Advisory Committees, as Associate Degrees must have an undergraduate degree to map into.

3.6 Members also raised the issue of recurrent funding being shifted in order to offer FEE-HELP. Governments may now need to determine priorities for any resultant shortfall in funds required to meet the significant demand for training to address skills shortages.

3.7 The Chair suggested that whilst the FEE-HELP and scholarship changes for VET students do not significantly alter the direction of this Committee, it was important to ensure that University pathways existed for all TAFE Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs.

3.8 The University Fund, also announced in the Budget, was viewed very positively by Griffith and the Chair advised that the University was well placed to leverage for funds. The long term potential size of the fund could be quite significant depending, of course, on how the Government delivers surpluses into the fund.

3.9 The Chair thanked members for their feedback and suggested that the sectors keep in close contact as the above issues, any changes in Institute governance and the availability of FEE-HELP and Associate Degree Scholarships for TAFE students, develop.

4.0 STATISTICS TAFE ARTICULATION

Schedules listing details of 485 students who articulated into Griffith University programs in Semester 1, 2007 and a summary of the 700 dual offers to appear in the 2008 QTAC Guide were provided for the information of members.

The Chair noted that whilst these numbers 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.

5.0 JOINT NURSING PROGRAM - LOGAN

5.1 The Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery, GU Logan Campus provided members with an overview of the joint development of an exemplar pathway for TAFE nursing students which commenced in February, 2007. TAFE and University Nursing teachers have collaborated to design a pathway, which provides dual enrolment and recognition at University and TAFE, for applicants who receive an offer for the Diploma of Nursing/Bachelor of Nursing through QTAC.
The purpose built pathway allows students to concurrently enrol in 1 University course per semester whilst completing the TAFE Diploma and at the point of full-time entry to the degree, students will have acquired 90CP towards the 240CP degree. These students not only benefit from the experience of on campus study in the degree but the University studies are credited back into the Diploma. The TAFE students come to Griffith as a group with their own tutorial and this has facilitated the provision of additional resources to assist with transition to University study.

5.2 This innovative joint program allows MSIT TAFE Loganlea Campus to share facilities and resources with Griffith University Logan Campus and this collaborative association has resulted in three separate pathways for TAFE/GU Nursing students.

1. Concurrent delivery of Diploma/Degree with shared credit arrangements.

2. Diploma/direct entry to second year of degree at completion of Diploma.

3. GU BN students may complete a MSIT Accelerated 8 week EEN Course in the summer semester. The on-site prac. is conducted at GU Logan.

In 2005, 25 Griffith students took up the offer of the MSIT Accelerated 8 week EEN course which not only provided these student nurses with a workplace qualification for employment with Queensland Health but also an additional substantial wage advantage. Also, Griffith students with an incomplete Nursing degree are able to apply for recognition of prior learning towards a MSIT Diploma of Nursing.

5.3 Dr Mitchell advised that all credit arrangements undergo constant monitoring and review by the School of Nursing Academic Board and both institutions have agreed to adopt a flexible approach if any changes are required for the new Logan Nursing pathways.

5.4 MSIT had been approached by other Universities but had opted to work with Griffith because of its proven long standing cooperative links with TAFE in the Nursing field. This established TAFE link provided a sound foundation upon which to build this new collaborative association which has resulted in new and improved pathways for Nursing students in the Logan area.

5.5 Members expressed much interest in this collaborative work, the credit arrangements and the opportunity to share facilities and teaching resources. It was expected that other TAFE Institutes would be interested in working with Griffith to assist bachelor Nursing students to obtain EEN status to address skill shortages within Queensland Health.

5.6 Dr Mitchell was pleased to report on other links with MSIT including the contracting of TAFE Event Management students, who are located on the University Campus, to cater for a School function. Their work was highly commended by all attending. Griffith and MSIT had also been successful in winning an AUSAID tender which allows students from Keribus to attend TAFE/University for English and Nursing studies.

5.7 The Chair thanked Dr Mitchell for her presentation and congratulated both MSIT and Griffith Nursing teachers for their innovative and exemplar work in developing these pathways for Nursing students. The Chair said that this was another fine example of what could be done and he was pleased that Griffith was gaining more expertise in this area.
6.0 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.

6.1 Gold Coast Institute of TAFE were continuing to educate students on the advantages of the many dual offer arrangements available and as the Lead Institute for Hospitality were hoping to develop a concurrent program with Griffith to commence from 2008. The Adult Tertiary Program again in 2007 had attracted a large enrolment of students, the majority of whom were keen to enter University in 2008. The electronic and computer engineering project funded by a joint CCRG grant with Griffith and the Gold Coast City Council has commenced.

6.2 Metropolitan Institute of TAFE as the Lead Institute for Teacher Training has enrolled 30 students in the first group of the new articulation for the Diploma/Bachelor of Training and the first group of students in the new Children’s Services pathway had commenced in the Cert. III. The Event Management Diploma delivered on the Griffith Logan Campus was an exciting new experience for TAFE students and it was hoped that this would lead to better student retention. MSIT was appreciative of the IT and parking facilities offered by Griffith for TAFE students attending Logan Campus.

6.3 Southbank Institute of Technology had included 16 Griffith dual offerings in the 2008 QTAC Guide and were currently finalising exemplar concurrent pathways with the Queensland College of Art for Design, Photography and Animation studies.

Credit transfer for SBI Graduate Certificates was being sought into University Master programs and discussions involving reverse articulation and the development of Associate Degrees were continuing. Griffith’s contribution and participation in SBI Curriculum Development Advisory Committees was valued.

6.4 Brisbane North Institute of TAFE has a strong relationship with QUT in recognition of the importance of regional relationships but also has to consider students living on the south side who may wish to complete their University studies at Griffith. A number of articulation arrangements with Griffith are available and it is hoped to identify more.

Brisbane North is the Lead Institute for Business and provides leadership in this area to all Institutes delivering Business qualifications. It liaises with industry to identify needs and develops strategies to address same. The Business Services Training Package will be reviewed in 2008. Training Packages have been a learning experience for both sectors.

6.5 Deputy Director-General, Dept of Education, Training and the Arts advised that a top priority for the Government was the Queensland Skills Plan. Lead Institutes has been established to work with industry to develop training strategies to increase skills in their areas. The Department was responsible for the integrity of vocational training, service delivery in TAFE and providing regional services for skills development. Challenges for the future included developing new synergies for to achieve better VET pathways, particularly in areas of weakness e.g. indigenous students. VET pathways to Higher Education are often viewed as an optional extra, with the choice now being work rather than study. The Department’s current key driver was to achieve the objectives in the Skills Plan.
6.6 The Chair thanked all TAFE and Griffith University representatives for their reports and continued contribution to TAFE/Griffith University links.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting would be held towards the end of 2007 at a date to be advised.

Confirmed: ……………………………………… Date: 7 December, 2007.
Professor John Dewar (Chair)

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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