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, 27 May, 2008 in Room 2.02 (Council Chamber), Bray Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor John Dewar (Chair)
Mr Craig Sherrin
Ms Janine Schubert
Dr Richard Armour
Professor Max Standage
Mr Fred Bevan
Dr Leesa Wheelahan
Ms Alicia Toohey (SBI)
Mr Mike Diezmann (BNIT)
Ms Andrea Harris (MSIT)
Ms Deidre Stein (GCIT)

Ms Mary Hassard (Secretary)

APOLOGIES:

Professor Ian O'Connor
Ms Rachel Hunter
Mr Rod Arthur
Mr Colin McAndrew
Ms Nicola Collier-Jackson
Ms Deb Daly
Ms Linda Brown
Mr Greg Harper

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2/2007 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 representatives of TAFE Institute Directors. Apologies received were noted. The Chair suggested that members may wish to reflect this pattern of apologies in the review of membership to be considered at Agenda Item 4.0.

2.2 In order to raise awareness of the availability of University scholarships to TAFE students, the Chair was pleased to report Griffith will offer annually a Bursary valued at $1,000 to a student, from each Partnership Institute, who enrolls in the degree from a dual offer program. In 2008, all eligible students applying for Commonwealth scholarships were successful in obtaining one. By 2012, the Government will double the number available. The University wishes to ensure that TAFE Graduates receive their fair share of the available Chancellor’s Scholarships and Commonwealth Scholarships which meet some of the costs associated with attending University, including accommodation.
2.3 To complement the Griffith Bursary, the Chair invited Institute Directors to consider offering a prize, in recognition of outstanding performance at University level, to an ex TAFE Institute student. Directors would be invited to present the prize at the Griffith Annual Prizes and Awards Ceremonies which are always well attended with over 100 prize presentations and 300+ people attending in Brisbane (Queensland Conservatorium) and Gold Coast (Convention Centre). These Ceremonies provide opportunities for the University to publicly acknowledge the support of sponsors/partners, and high achieving students across a range of categories and criteria.

2.4 Institutes welcomed the University Bursary, the opportunity to offer prizes to its Graduates based on University success and to participate in the Griffith University Prizes and Awards Ceremonies. Institutes were asked to provide feedback to the Secretary regarding prize details. With 30% of TAFE students proceeding into higher education, members agreed that every effort should be made to ensure all TAFE Diploma Graduates are aware of University scholarship opportunities. Institutes can assist in advertising and communicating scholarship information via links to the University scholarship website, TAFE e-brochures and at University/TAFE Information Days.

2.5 Members discussed how to increase and improve University marketing to TAFE students generally. MSIT requested that marketing be introduced across the year and suggested the University may wish to consider attending TAFE Open Days, e.g. for secondary schools. GCIT and SBI advised that Griffith was a regular participant in their University Information Days and was also invited to attend program specific opportunities.

2.6 Acting in response to an Institute request, the Chair reported that he was pleased that Griffith had opened up mid-year entry to the Bachelor of Nursing for TAFE Diploma of Nursing Graduates, as requested at a recent Institute event. Entry will be by direct application only and available at Gold Coast, Logan and Nathan Campuses. Direct application into other mid-year entry University programs would be accepted from eligible students up until Orientation week commences.

2.7 The Chair thanked Institute Directors and representatives for their support and willingness to participate in activities related to the audit of the University by the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

3.0 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Committee was asked to review the membership and nominate any changes required to reflect 2008 institutional roles and the current functions of the Committee. The document TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee Constitution which lists the Committee’s membership and was last approved in January, 2006, was provided for the information of members.

3.2 After discussion, including prior advice from current members not in attendance, the following amendments to the membership were recommended and accepted:

**Withdrawals**
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration)
Director, Campus Life Administration
Chair, TAFE Qld

**Amendments**
Up to two members of the academic staff to be extended to four.
Deputy-Director General to be replaced by the Assistant Director General.
3.3 The Committee was made aware that, due to the proposed changes in TAFE Governance, it may be necessary to review the membership in 2009 to ensure appropriate TAFE representation. Pending the finalisation of these changes, it was suggested that Institute Education Managers may wish to continue to accompany TAFE Directors to TAFE/GU TAFE Links meetings.

3.4 The Chair welcomed the increase in academic representation on the Committee. Participation from Learning and Teaching academics who work closely with pathway students, and approve articulation arrangements, will foster enhanced collaboration and enable identification of new links e.g. work integrated learning opportunities.

4.0 2008 BUDGET – STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR TAFE/GU LINKS

4.1 Members were invited to discuss any impact, from the Budget initiatives, on University/TAFE links. The 2008-09 Budget delivered funding for initiatives from early childhood to schools, from vocational education and training to higher education.

4.2 The Chair noted that the Education Investment Fund (EIF) now includes funds to support capital expenditure and renewal and refurbishment in vocational institutions as well as universities. Joint approaches were viewed very favourably and attracted large amounts. It would be well perceived for Griffith to put in collaborative bids with a TAFE partner. The Chair suggested regular meetings to discuss joint bid opportunities.

4.3 Whilst the Budget did not realise as much as was expected for the higher education sector, Griffith was very pleased with the $16.2 million it received for capital expenditure and welcomed the incentives for students willing to undertake teacher training in Mathematics and Science.

4.4 Members discussed initiatives aimed at retaining a high quality early childhood education workforce, the introduction of new industry training places and extra higher education nursing places, and a doubling of scholarships to encourage young people from low socioeconomic status backgrounds to go to university. The removal of TAFE fees for child care qualifications was welcome. However, the loss of full fee paying places that Institutes have worked to build, will change the market.

4.5 Members considered that Queensland Health needed to work more with Universities to ensure students took up the extra places allocated for Nursing degrees. More clinical placements are required, particularly in areas such as critical care. TAFE Institutes are able to take more Diploma students but placements continue to be a problem, and the significant costs involved cannot be recovered from TAFE or University fees. Members suggested that a central body to identify Nursing graduates and assist with their placement may alleviate the skills shortage.

4.6 Members agreed that any new requirements such as “contestable funding”, if introduced in the 2009 Commonwealth/VET State Funding Agreement, will impact on TAFE Institutes and their product delivery, and fees charged. As a result of statutory governance reform and the availability of FEE-HELP, Institutes may consider offering degree programs, rather than relying on articulation arrangements with Universities.
4.7 The Bradley Review is also expected to impact on TAFE/University links. Preliminary advice indicated that the Review was supporting an increase in University/VET collaboration, favouring dual sectors with closer ties. A paper would be available soon.

4.8 The Chair encouraged Committee members to continue to collectively review any proposed changes in the sector, to regularly meet and continue to organise for better integration between Universities and VET.

5.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY/TAFE REPORTS

5.1 Griffith reported that it was pleased with the outcome of the reaccreditation process for 39100QLD Cert. IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation. 39260QLD Cert. IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation will be delivered from 2009. The accreditation for 39096QLD Cert. IV in Tertiary Access to Griffith University will not be renewed. 39100QLD will be delivered across the State and will offer a new elective module University Study Skills which is a combination of the former Griffith Enhancement Modules (GEMs). University Study Skills, will be funded and taught by TAFE. All Universities on the CDAC strongly recommend that students include this elective module in their Cert IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation. Successful completion provides essential preparation for University study, and a special admission rank and a guaranteed offer of a place in a number of Griffith University programs. The reaccreditation process provided an opportunity to address some issues which will both streamline the course and provide greater variety of options for current learners, with no loss of content, quality or rigour of the course. TAFE Institutes were asked to consider offering a prize to the best performing ATP Graduate at University, to raise the profile of this excellent University preparation pathway.

5.2 Professor Standage was pleased to report that MSIT, in 2009, will continue to deliver the ATP program on the Griffith Logan Campus. So far, the practice of TAFE students participating in activities on the University campus had been successful. Early exposure to University life assists the students in their transition to University studies.

The University continues to work with TAFE Institutes in the regions of its campuses. The Economic and Development Committee is an avenue which fosters additional collaboration. The MSIT Exploring Aspiration Program with the Samoan community is looking at a numbers and literacy program which will extend to encouraging aspirations for tertiary study. School partners in the Logan area understand the issues and appreciate the leadership that a University can provide in lifting aspirations generally for students. Joint funding bids with school partners are encouraged.

5.3 Dr Leesa Wheelahan reported that the Griffith University – TAFE Links Committee Discussion paper on definitions had been forwarded to a project, being sponsored by the Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC), to develop a Common Terminology for Credit Transfer and Articulation. This project is in response to a MCEETYA recommendation from the 2006 Phillips KPA Report, Giving Credit where Credit is Due. Developing a common agreed national terminology should greatly add to policy and practice by creating a more simple, common and consistent language that will provide clarity of understanding and greater transparency for students and other persons involved in developing credit arrangements. Further feedback can be provided to Jane Carnegie whose contact details are included in the paper.
Dr Wheelahan also advised members that the draft guidelines for VET FEE-HELP were now available for public comment. It was proposed to link the amount of credit transfer a University would guarantee to a Provider to the availability of FEE-HELP for programs. Dr Wheelahan offered to provide her submission for the information of interested members.

5.4 Mr Fred Bevan advised that his School and its offerings were currently being externally reviewed. Any impact on the Griffith teaching programs caused by recent changes in the VET marketplace e.g. VET in Secondary Schools, was particularly being addressed. Mr Bevan will consult and keep the Committee informed of any proposed changes to the current Training and Adult and Vocational Education degrees which deliver teacher training for the VET sector.

5.5 The MSIT representative advised that a new staff member had been appointed to oversee responsibility for working with Universities in the development and finalization of articulation and dual offer arrangements. MSIT had enrolled 3,000 school students in VET Certificates and was working on raising the aspirations of students to complete higher level qualifications. A specially targeted group was Pacific Islander students who represent 40% of enrolment in the Woodridge area. Nursing and hospitality qualifications were experiencing higher levels of interest.

5.6 The BNIT representative assured members that whilst BNIT was a small but growing player in University links, BNIT was big on quality and this was reflected in the recently approved dual offers with Griffith IT programs which have resulted in substantial credit transfer.

5.7 Southbank Institute of Technology Education Manager, Educational Partnership circulated a current listing of all collaborative arrangements with Griffith. The list included 15 dual offer arrangements which appear in the 2009 QTAC Guide, another 6, including with Science and Visual Arts, currently being negotiated, additional articulation arrangements, and details of participation in curriculum development and other examples of collaboration for mutual benefit. In particular, this Institute is pleased with the renewed energy of both institutions in developing joint Arts pathways which have resulted in concurrent pathways for Creative Arts students. Demand for Nursing Diploma places continues to be high.

5.8 Director, Education and Training, GCIT advised that the Institute was continuing to both maintain existing arrangements which were well subscribed to, and continue to expand and develop new pathways. Targetted areas for current negotiation include moving towards Allied Health Services e.g. Pharmacy and Dental Technicians and Fitness. Education Support was also a priority to assist with upskilling Teachers Aides. GCIT also reported high demand for Nursing places and as a result, the admission rank for this TAFE Diploma was an OP8. Most GCIT Nursing Graduates sought entry to Griffith University to obtain registered nurse status.

5.9 The Director, Product Services advised that TAFE Qld were currently scoping a new portal which will advertise all University pathway arrangements with an availability for live links to University websites etc. The Director will keep the Committee informed of the progress of this new initiative.

6.0 STATISTICS – TAFE ARTICULATION

6.1 Members were provided with tables indicating:
. Nos of Griffith students who applied for credit transfer in 1/2008 on the basis of TAFE studies by prior TAFE Institute and GU program of enrolment.

. The list of dual offers with noting (in brackets) of number of students who took up offer into Griffith in Semester 1, 2008.


6.2 It was noted that Griffith University recognised credit transfer for prior TAFE studies for 529 students in Semester 1, 2008 and this represented a 9% increase on Semester 1, 2007 figures. The figures indicated, that whilst the dual offers applied across both semesters, there is capacity for more TAFE students to take up the offer of these direct University places.

6.3 TAFE representatives requested a running schedule from past years to enable comparison over a period of time of the numbers entering University. It was also suggested that TAFE could use such student performance data (30% obtained grades of Credit+) and the improved retention rates (85%+) in marketing materials so as to raise the level of knowledge of the success of TAFE students at University, and awareness of the availability of these pathways for parents and students.

6.4 The Chair suggested that the data provided may be useful for institutional research into retention rates for transferring pathway students and the effect of “transition shock”.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the 2/2008 meeting would be held on Monday, 10 November at 3.00pm – 5.00pm. The venue is Room 2.01 Bray Centre (N54), Nathan Campus.

Confirmed:........................................ Date: 10 November, 2008.
Professor John Dewar (Chair)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Professor John Dewar, Chair
Professor Ian O’Connor, Vice Chancellor
Ms Rachel Hunter, Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts
Ms Joanna Peters, A/Academic Registrar
Professor Max Standage, Provost Gold Coast and Logan Campuses
Mr Fred Beven, School of Education and Professional Studies
Dr Leesa Wheelahan, School of Education and Professional Studies
Ms Carol Webb, Assistant Director-General, TAFE Queensland
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 Mike Diezmann, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE
Ms Deidre Stein, Gold Coast Institute of TAFE
Ms Alicia Toohey, Southbank Institute of Technology

Ms Mary Hassard (Secretary)