A meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee was held between 3.00 pm – 5.00pm on Monday, 10 November, 2008 in Room 2.01, Bray Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

MINUTES

Present:

Professor John Dewar (Chair)
Ms Joanna Peters
Mr Fred Bevan
Dr Leesa Wheelahan
Mr David Edwards
Assoc. Prof. Alf Lizzio
Ms Carol Webb
Ms Janine Schubert
Ms Deidre Stein (GCIT)
Ms Alicia Toohey (SBIT)
Mr Joe Willis (MSIT)
Ms Lynne Foley (BNIT)

By invitation

Professor Sally Borbasi
Ms Siobhan Richardson

Ms Mary Hassard (Secretary)

Apologies:

Professor Ian O'Connor
Professor Max Standage
Ms Rachel Hunter
Mr Craig Sherrin
Ms Deb Daly
Ms Linda Brown

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 1/2008 meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee were taken as read and confirmed, subject to the deletion of the last sentence in 2.2 which was duplication of an earlier sentence in 2.2.

2.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2.1 The Chair welcomed members, Institute representatives and those attending by invitation and reported on the following:

- The student prizes offered by TAFE Partnership Institutes are a welcome addition to the range of awards currently available to Griffith students. Institute Graduates entering Griffith from 2009 will be eligible. The University’s TAFE Bursaries will be awarded to the recipients at the 2009 Prizes and Awards Ceremonies.

- The recent Griffith University Australian Universities Quality Audit Report was very positive. The Panel was very impressed with Griffith's TAFE Partnership arrangements and commended the University on this relationship in the Report. The Chair expressed thanks to members and representatives who directly and indirectly contributed to the audit process.
• Whilst the University was still awaiting the final outcomes, initial indications are that the Bradley Report may recommend that the University and non-University sectors become one, with subdivisions.

• The University is very interested in partnering with TAFE Institutes with collaborative bids to the Education Investment Fund. The first round will be open early in 2009. The Chair welcomed ideas from members in this regard and suggested that regular meetings be held with individual Institutes to both stocktake and forward plan such issues.

• As 2009 will be the first full cohort of TAFE Graduates entering Griffith from dual offer arrangements, the University is expecting an increase in numbers which should result from the positive impact of their availability in the QTAC Handbook.

2.2 Members advised:

• that a major focus of the Bradley Review will be increasing pathways between the sectors and also increased education and training opportunities for equity groups. Whilst the shape of the Report was being predicted, the detail was yet to be revealed.

• The Griffith University dual offer arrangements, whereby the credit transfer is built in from TAFE to University, certainly spreads the news to Careers Advisors and parents that there are different pathways available into a University degree.

2.3 The Chair concluded that Griffith University was pleased with the progress of pathway arrangements and other collaborations with TAFE Partnership Institutes and thanked all members for their contribution in 2008.

3.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY/TAFE REPORTS

The Chair invited members to report on current issues affecting their roles in TAFE/Griffith University links.

3.1 Assistant Director-General, TAFE Qld reported that:

• Mr John Dawkins had been appointed Chair of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council with the expectation that the Council would strengthen the AQF and the differences between the sectors. The Bradley Review would provide direction to the Council – one framework or sectorally divided.

• Southbank and Gold Coast Institutes were now statutory authorities and Metropolitan South and Brisbane North may shortly also be. These changes may have implications for University relationships by creating difference with collaboration due to competition issues.

3.2 Southbank Institute of Technology representative reported:

• growth in the area of visual and creative arts with pathways in design, photography, animation, and acting finalised with Griffith with Southbank students commencing in these concurrent pathways in 2009.

• A new SBIT program, STEP (Southbank Tertiary Entrance Program) which enables high school students to undertake Diploma units on the Institute campus, is working well.
• Griffith’s attendance on and contribution to the SBIT Higher Education Board was appreciated.

3.3 The Director, Product Services advised that development of the TAFE Qld website which will advertise all University pathway arrangements is progressing slowly. The Director will report again at next meeting.

3.4 Gold Coast Institute of TAFE representative reported that:

• 12 out of the 15 programs articulating into Griffith degrees have undergone changes due to the introduction of new Training Packages. Unit conversion charts are provided with the Packages and this should assist with transition arrangements.

• The first GCIT Graduates of the Diploma of Multimedia, completed at Benowa High School, should be entering Griffith in 2009. GCIT expressed thanks to Griffith for the transfer and admission assistance with this secondary school pathway program.

• Reverse articulation arrangements for the Bachelors of Nursing and Exercise Science to TAFE qualifications have been proposed.

3.5 Metropolitan South Institute representative informed members that:

• Health and Nursing numbers are very high - internationally driven plus the continuing cohort. An Advanced Diploma is being prepared for articulation development.

• MSIT is prepared to discuss shared infrastructure with facilities.

• MSIT is licensed to deliver the Diploma of Sustainability and interested in articulation arrangements.

• An articulation with the Bachelor of Public Health would be welcome.

3.6 Director, Brisbane North expressed interest in discussing further issues at individual Institute meetings with Griffith to further links of mutual benefit, in addition to the IT pathways recently created.

3.7 Dr Wheelahan advised that she had obtained a grant to research Higher Education in TAFE. A discussion paper will be available shortly on the NCVER (National Centre for Vocational Education Research) website. Members should note that a NCVER report indicates that 50% of TAFE Graduates proceed on to University and see TAFE studies as a good University access mechanism. Griffith’s dual offers are envied by interstate Universities and TAFE Institutes where only dual awards are available.

3.8 Assoc. Prof. Alf Lizzio reported on the following TAFE links with Griffith Health:

• Nursing – All Diploma Graduates enrol direct into second year of the degree and Logan Campus offers a concurrent program where TAFE students commence limited Uni study over 3 semesters whilst completing the Diploma.

• Nursing - Degree students complete summer semester at MSIT and obtain workplace qualification and AUSAID students from Kiribati complete English/Diploma/degree at Logan.
• Social Work/Human Services/Children's Services - articulations are available from Welfare Work and Children's Services Diplomas.

• Psychology - elective credit transfer for non-psy courses.

• Oral Health/Pharmacy - GCIT/GU keen to explore opportunities for Technician Diploma which ensures pathway into University/sharing of facilities at Gold Coast.

• Exercise Science - GCIT/GU exploring opportunities for reverse articulation for Diploma of Fitness and WIL opportunities embedded within the degree.

• Public Health - first articulation approved for Diplomas in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health and Indigenous Environmental Health.

3.9 Mr Fred Bevan advised that the Graduate Diploma in Adult and Vocational Education has been approved for registration through the Queensland College of Teachers and commenced this semester. With the increased delivery of VET programs in secondary schools, additional teachers are required, especially those with industry experience and teaching qualifications.

3.10 Mr Dave Edwards reported that pathway arrangements had been finalised with Skills Tech for Engineering programs and with Southbank Institute for Laboratory Technician into Science degrees. Discussions continue regarding Science related Vocational Graduate Certificates.

3.11 The Chair, in thanking members for their final reports for 2008, raised the issue of international student demand for TAFE study, particularly considering the current world financial situation. Institutes responded that 2009 demand was still good and targets were being met. However, all Institutes reported they had adopted a wait and see approach and in particular are watching for any early warning signals such as changes to migration requirements, feedback from Agents, and reduced conversion rate from enquiries to applications. In some areas, the workplace was very obviously driving migration numbers and demand for training.

4.0 ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE (EL) SKILLS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Chair welcomed Professor Sally Borbasi, Deputy Chair, Academic Committee to the meeting and thanked her for accepting the invitation to present to members the Griffith University English Language Enhancement Strategy.

4.1 Professor Borbasi noted in her presentation that:

• Griffith University provides a number of English language and academic skills support services for students. More recently a further strategy to enhance the English competency of international students has been developed. The aim of this strategy is to develop a series of initiatives through which:

  - more international students are well prepared in terms of EL skills prior to admission to the University and commencing their studies

  - those students for whom English language development is likely to hinder their academic success receive intensive support in their first semester of study, and
- GU is able to demonstrate its international students graduate with strong English language competency.

- A number of initiatives will be trialled throughout 2009 for full implementation in 2010. These include:
  - pre-entry English Language Preparation Program (PPP)
  - expanded EnglishHELP
  - English Immersion
  - compulsory English-for-Credit courses
  - English language exit testing.

- All (certain exemptions will apply) Griffith International students will be required to enrol in a semester long 10 credit point “for credit” English language course in their first semester of study at Griffith University.

- In 2009, the English Immersion Program has offered additional activities on all campuses with the aim of providing an “immersion experience” that encourages integration between domestic students and “native” English language speakers and international students.

- From 2009, all international students are offered the opportunity to sit an IELTS exit test in their final semester of enrolment, administered by the Griffith English Language Institute (GELI).

- Griffith has adopted a whole of organisation approach to English language development which includes staff training and development.

4.2 The Chair advised that:

- Included in the University’s international student cohort is a significant number of pathway students who have completed prior studies at TAFE Institutes or Private Providers. The number of applications from such students has increased over the past three years and is expected to continue to increase. Many of these students will require English language skills support during their University studies to achieve better educational outcomes and increase their employability as graduates.

- The Griffith University English Language Enhancement Strategy represented a serious financial commitment by the University. However, the University was fully committed to fully integrating international students, improving their retention rates, their capability for gaining employment and their student satisfaction with the GU experience.

- The compulsory English-for-Credit course will impact on degree program structures and existing articulation arrangements may need to be refigured.

The Chair thanked Professor Borbasi for her presentation and members asked for updates on the progress of this strategy.
5.0 STATISTICS – TAFE ARTICULATION

Members were provided with statistics, as follows:

- Schedule A – Students who have had credit applied, in 2008, to Griffith degree programs, on the basis of TAFE studies, by TAFE Institute and GU program of enrolment. 745 students received credit for prior TAFE studies. The highest number from a Partnership Institute was 200 from Southbank Institute of Technology. 300 students received credit, based on TAFE studies, into Griffith Business programs and over 200 students into Griffith Health programs.

- Schedule B – TAFE students awarded credit into Griffith degrees 2000-2008 has now exceeded 5,000.

Members were pleased to note that the statistics confirmed that Griffith University was meeting its objectives of both increasing the numbers of TAFE students enrolling at Griffith and also improving access and representation across the range of Griffith degree programs.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Members suggested that the Committee may wish to invite a representative from the Tertiary Placement & Performance Unit, to a 2009 meeting to advise on trends within TAFE admissions.

6.2 The Chair advised that Institute Directors would be asked for items for the Agenda for the 2009 meetings.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the 2009 meetings would be held in Room 2.02, Bray Centre N54, Nathan Campus on:

- 10.00 – 12 noon Friday, 22 May
- 10.00 – 12 noon Friday, 13 November

Confirmed:........................................ Date: 19 June, 2009.

Professor Sue Spence (Chair)
DISTRIBUTION LIST

Chairperson of the Committee and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) - Professor Sue Spence

Vice Chancellor and President - Professor Ian O'Connor

Director-General, Department of Education and Training - Ms Julie Grantham

Academic Registrar, Griffith University - Ms Kathy Grgic

Griffith Representatives
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 (on leave)

TAFE Representatives
Mr Rod Arthur, Deputy Director-General, Department of Education and Training
Mr Craig Sherrin - Director, Southbank Institute of Technology
Ms Janine Schubert – Director, Product Services
Ms Kaylene Harth - ADirector, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE
Ms Lynne Foley - Director, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Ms Mary Hassard - Secretary
Ms Donna Kalaentzis, Secretariat – information copy.