TAFE QUEENSLAND AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY LINKS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee was held between 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm on Monday, 16 November, 2009 in Room 2.01, Bray Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

MINUTES

Present:  
Professor Sue Spence (Chair)  
Ms Kathy Grgic  
Mr Fred Bevan  
Professor Max Standage  
Ms Lynne Foley (BNIT)  
Ms Kaylene Harth (MSIT)  
Mr Scott Meredith (GCIT)  
Ms Alicia Toohey (SBIT)  
Ms Robyn Tyler (SBIT)  
Ms Angela Jackson (Training QLD)  
Ms Mary Hassard (Secretary)

By invitation:

Ms Siobhan Richardson, Pathways Officer  
Ms Suzanne Wilkinson, Principal Adviser, Student Equity  
Mr John Miles, Director, Office of Student Recruitment

Apologies:  
Mr Rod Arthur  
Ms Deb Daly (GCIT)  
Ms Julie Grantham  
Professor Ian O’Connor  
Ms Janine Schubert  
Mr Craig Sherrin (SBIT)  
Dr Leesa Wheelahan

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 1/2009 meeting of the TAFE Queensland and Griffith University Links Committee were taken as read and confirmed.

2.0 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

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

- Mr John Miles, Director, Griffith Office of Student Recruitment was introduced to the Committee by the Chair who proposed that he be invited to fill a University vacancy on the Committee. Mr Miles accepted with the support of Members in attendance.
• TEQSA – Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency. DEEWR has now released a background paper on how TEQSA may be established and run, outlining the current thinking as:

- a regulatory and quality agency for HE
- funding will be performance based
- indicators of performance include quality (teaching and learning plans and internal framework documents), enrolment numbers (participation, including low SES), student attainment (completion and retention), and engagement (right policies and the 1st year experience).

There is no indication to date how TEQSA will impact on the TAFE Sector or if VET sector qualifications will be moving into another area of compliance and reporting.

• Griffith University staff have recently contributed to the following cross sectoral initiatives:

  1. DEEWR funded Dual-Sector Collaboration Project This project was selected by the Deputy Prime Minister for significant funding and it is anticipated that its outcomes will influence future education policy. The project aims to identify possible operational, organisational and pedagogical models that overcome the barriers to greater collaboration and cohesion between the vocational and higher education sectors within a dual-sector environment.

  2. Integrated Articulation and Credit Transfer This Project is being conducted by USQ/Department of Education and Training/ACPET and Careers Australia Group. The Project aims to provide stakeholders in education and industry with the infrastructure required for cross-sectoral design and delivery of industry-relevant education and training to support articulation between sectors.

  3. Curriculum Development and Advisory Committees (CDAC) - reaccreditation of 39134QLD Diploma of Business Studies. This course, an excellent pathway for TAFE students intending to articulate into second year University Business and Commerce programs, has been developed by TAFE Qld and embeds vocational skills which underpin knowledge-based modules developed at Diploma level.

  39150-39181QLD Vocational Literacy and Numeracy programs are currently being redeveloped by the Lead Institute, MSIT.

3.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY EQUITY SERVICES AND INITIATIVES

3.1 Student Equity Services is a University unit delivering integrated, specialist support services and targeted programs that facilitate equality of access, participation, retention and outcomes for prospective and enrolled students who have been educationally disadvantaged.

The Chair welcomed Suzanne Wilkinson, Principal Adviser, Student Equity Services, who informed members on the current activities and projects of this unit which include:

- University core equity programs and purpose specific disability services.
- University-wide staff assistance to achieve the University’s strategic equity goals.
• A schools’ outreach program, which has been run for the past 16 years and which provides students with transition support to University including financial support.
• The Unireach program which has been noted by DEEWR/AUQA as an example of best practice, particularly for student outcomes and participation.
• Transition student support – fast forward to second year pilot transition workshops.
• Adult Learner Social Inclusion Project (Low SES), a successful joint project bid with QUT to provide outreach, support and transition initiatives to adult learners of low socio-economic status, who are undertaking tertiary preparation. The Project aims to:
  - work collaboratively to develop successful transition pathways and increase adult learner participation in tertiary education
  - work with training providers in Brisbane’s Northern and Southern corridors
  - through support initiatives, enrich the current learning experience, allow for an easier transition to further study, and improve retention rates
  - increase adult learners continuing on to higher education
  - also target ATSI students and students with a disability.

3.2 Members were most interested in the Adult Learner Project due to its significance to Bradley Review recommendations. It was considered that the initiatives outlined for this project should significantly increase confidence and motivation, ease apprehension, make for an easier transition to university, and increase the likelihood of current and future study success for TAFE Adult Learners.

3.3 The Chair and Members thanked Ms Wilkinson for her presentation and expressed interest in receiving regular updates on the progress of the Project.

4.0 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY/VET CLOSER COLLABORATION

4.1 The government recently announced that it has allocated $437 million during the next four years towards raising the participation at university of students from the poorest 25 per cent of society. The bulk of this money, $325m, will be allocated as a loading for low-SES enrolments. A further $108m will fund closer collaboration between universities, schools and vocational providers.

The Manager, Educational Partnerships (Universities), SBIT advised Members that forums such as this Committee are unique and that other States frequently ask how does this all happen? The Committee was encouraged to seek funding for a project to document the outcomes from this Committee and assist with future initiatives between the University and its Partnership Institutes. Issues to be included in a project could be:

• research into dual offers i.e. who is taking them up etc
• student transition – what is the student’s experience
• what works well/what can work better
• student’s graduate outcomes/career focus
• can numbers be increased.

4.2 Members agreed that the Committee should support any proposal and be prepared to act quickly when funds became available.
5.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY/TAFE REPORTS

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

5.1 Gold Coast Institute of TAFE (GCIT) representative reported that:

- GCIT are continuing to work with the Gold Coast City Council, in a regional approach, assisting in the development of programs to address skills shortages in the Gold Coast community.
- The Cert III/IV Fitness 16 week program to be delivered to Griffith Exercise Science students will commence in March. Mapping has been completed from the Exercise Science degree content to the Certificates. Students will complete the required VET units for the Certificates in lieu of 2 degree elective courses.
- QTAC numbers for the GCIT/GU dual offer programs are slightly lower than previous years with the Diploma of Accounting into the BCommerce only attracting 1 first place preference.

5.2 Southbank Institute of Technology (SBIT) representatives reported:

- SBIT Business area programs continue to attract strong numbers.
- QTAC numbers for Nursing, Hospitality, Events and Justice Admin programs are also strong.
- VET programs administered through QTAC admissions are up on previous years.
- Information regarding English admission requirements for Nursing students could be improved. SBIT is raising English levels across all programs.

5.3 Brisbane North Institute (BNIT) Director reported that:

- BNIT Business programs were attracting increased QTAC numbers. This may be linked to gender issues e.g. women returning to the workforce whilst partners were experiencing unemployment.
- More work was being undertaken in increasing pathways to University and identifying new arrangements such as embedding Vocational Graduate Certificates and Diplomas in University programs.
- Open Learning has increased student numbers.

5.4 Metropolitan South Institute (MSIT) Director reported that:

- Both Griffith and MSIT were disappointed that the recent joint EIF bid was unsuccessful. Feedback would be sought after February.
- In 2010, MSIT offered 51 Diploma and or Advanced Diploma programs with 28 credit arrangements in Queensland.
- An MOU has now been signed with the Australian Catholic University for articulations and also with the Whitehouse Institute of Sydney for their Bachelor of Design. MSIT is currently working with QUT on creative industry pathways.
5.5 Senior Strategy Officer, Product Services, Training Queensland, reported on the progress of the Integrated Articulation and Credit Transfer Project being conducted in partnership with USQ, DET, ACPET and CAG. The project is funded by DEEWR and is being conducted from May 2009 to May 2011 and will focus on the following key areas:

- current and emerging articulation and credit transfer models in Australia and overseas
- effective best practice models of articulation and credit transfer for specific industry areas
- patterns of student movement between the two sectors
- awareness by students of articulation and credit transfer opportunities
- inter-sectoral infrastructure and system requirements to enable articulation and credit transfer arrangements
- key policy initiatives and research in the area of articulation and credit transfer arrangements.

Regular Newsletters are being circulated and a Phase 2 report will be available shortly. Phase 10 will be the final report to DEEWR with recommendations.

The Chair thanked TAFE Members and Representatives for their reports and their continued support during 2009 to Griffith University/TAFE Queensland links.

6.0 STATISTICS - TAFE ARTICULATION

For the information of members, the following 2009 GU/TAFE statistics were provided.

Attachment A – 864 students were awarded credit, on the basis of TAFE studies, to Griffith degree programs in 2009. The Schedule detailed prior TAFE Institute and GU program of enrolment. 864 represented a 16% increase on 2008 figures.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Members were asked to note the 2010 meeting dates, as listed under:

- Friday, 28 May 10.00am – 12.00 noon Room 2.02 N54
- Friday, 19 November 10.00am – 12.00 noon Room 2.02 N54

Confirmed:................................. Date: May, 2010.
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
Mr John Miles, Director, Office of Student Recruitment

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

Ms Mary Hassard – Secretary

Ms Donna Kalaentzis, Secretariat – information copy.