COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
5 December 2005

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Members noted that the following people had been appointed to Council as the Governor-in-Council appointees for a four year term of office from 28 October 2005 to 27 October 2009: Mr Ian Alderdice, Mr Mark Gray, Ms Rachel Hunter, Mr Michael Lake (new appointee – President, Warner Roadshow Studios), The Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo, Mr Garry Redlich and Mr Henry Smerdon.

At its October 2005 meeting, Council noted that the following new members were elected to Council: Ms Margaret Lee (Academic Staff), Ms Heather Douglas (Postgraduate Student), and Mr Brenton Hill (Undergraduate Student).

Members welcomed Mr Lake, Ms Lee, Ms Douglas and Mr Hill to their first meeting of Council.

Council noted that as a result of changes to Council membership under the revised Griffith University Act, the terms of office of three members of Council – Mrs Debbie Best, Ms Lesley Englert and Mr Gary Mortimer – ceased as at 28 October 2005. Council placed on record its appreciation of the contributions of Mrs Best, Ms Englert and Mr Mortimer to the work of Council and its committees during their terms of office.

REVISED ACADEMIC PLAN


The Academic Plan 2 retains the structure, language and concepts of the original Academic Plan, while aligning learning objectives and actions with the University's overall priorities as identified in the new Strategic Plan.

The Academic Plan 2 creates the framework for Griffith’s learning and teaching activities for the foreseeable future. The actions it sets out will ensure a significant shift in performance that will assist the University in achieving its overall targets by the end of the decade.

GROUP STRUCTURES

Council noted that three recent external reviews of the University (the Hume Report, the Report of the Review of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology and the PhillipsKPA report on accountabilities) have highlighted the importance to the University of ensuring that our management structures support our strategic objectives, and that accountabilities of senior managers, including Pro Vice Chancellors, Deans, Heads and Centre Directors, are well aligned with those structures. Each of these experienced external observers has expressed the strong view that our structures do not match this ideal, that they are not well aligned with our strategic objectives, and that this manifests itself in uncertainty about where responsibilities for particular matters lie.
Council approved the following recommendations as set out in the paper “Group structures and accountabilities of senior academic managers at Griffith University”:

a. that Council endorse the two alternative Group structures, with their associated accountable officer positions, and the proposal that Groups be required to adopt one or other of the alternatives;

b. that Council endorse the proposed changes to the recruitment and selection of senior managers in the University; and

c. that Council endorse the transitional arrangements as set out in the paper.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Council approved the establishment of the Griffith University Foundation as set out in the constitution (2005/0030260).

The establishment of the Foundation and associated Board will provide a governance structure to oversee the University’s fundraising activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE GRIFFITH SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

The recent review of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology proposed as one its recommendations that all existing Engineering Schools be merged into one Griffith School of Engineering responsible for the delivery of all engineering programs by January 2006.

At its August 2005 meeting, Council endorsed the recommendation concerning the merger of the Schools of Engineering (ENG) and Microelectronic Engineering (MEE), but noted that a consultation process needed to take place regarding the future of the School of Environmental Engineering. In carrying this forward, the Pro Vice Chancellor (Science and Technology) worked initially through an Engineering Merger Implementation Working Party (comprising relevant Deans, Heads of School, and academic and general staff representatives) to develop options for wider consultation. These options were firstly considered by Executive Group, following which a final consultation paper, “Engineering at Griffith, Structural Options for Consideration”, was distributed in October 2005.

Council approved the merger of the current Schools of Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Microelectronic Engineering to create a single Griffith School of Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, to take effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the paper “Engineering at Griffith – A Proposal”.

REVIEW OF FACULTY OF EDUCATION

In May 2003 the University Council adopted a framework for the regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent review of current activity and future plans of faculties and their constituent elements through a Faculty Review Process. Council noted that the Faculty of Education was reviewed under the University’s policy during September 2005. The Faculty was reviewed by an independent review committee, comprising three committee members who were external to the University and two committee members who were internal to the University but were not from the Arts, Education and Law group.

APPPOINTMENT OF DEAN, GRIFFITH LAW SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer Professor Rob McQueen appointment as Dean, Griffith Law School for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

APPPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL

Council resolved to offer the following appointments: Associate Professor Greer Johnson as Head, School of Cognition, Language and Special Education for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, or until such time as the Faculty implements the proposed consolidation of Education Schools, whichever is the sooner; Dr Glenn Finger as Acting Head, School of Education and Professional Studies for the period 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2006, or until such time as a new Head of School is appointed by Council, whichever is the sooner; Professor Lyn Griffiths as Head, School of Medical Science for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006; Associate Professor Denis Crane as Head, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008.

LEASING OF UNIVERSITY LAND

Council approved a proposal to lease land on the southern precinct of the Gold Coast campus for the provision of student accommodation, as set out in the paper “Proposal to Lease University Land” (2005/0030266).

ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING OF UNIVERSITY SHAREHOLDINGS

Council noted that no formal arrangements for the administration and reporting of University shareholdings had been in place previously, reflecting both the small number of shareholdings and the relatively low value associated with them. The growth in holdings means that it was now appropriate to formalise administration and reporting arrangements.

Council approved the document “Administration and Reporting of University Shareholdings” (2005/0030265). The document outlines the arrangements for the acquisition of equity holding in a company, performance monitoring and reporting, sale of shares, and annual review and reporting.

REVISED GOLD COAST STUDENT GUILD CONSTITUTION

Council approved the revised document “Griffith University Gold Coast Student Guild Constitution” (2005/0030262).
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE – PROGRESS REPORT

At the August 2005 meeting of Council, the Vice Chancellor advised that a progress report on the work of the Science and Technology Task Force would be brought forward for Council’s noting at a future meeting in 2005.

Council noted the paper “Audit of Progress in Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Science and Technology Education and the Review of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology”.

REPORT ON MT GRAVATT CAMPUS ISSUES

At its February 2005 retreat, Council requested that a short report on key campus issues be prepared for the particular campus at which the Council meeting was scheduled. Council noted a report on Mt Gravatt Campus issues which addressed the following matters: strategic vision for the Mt Gravatt campus and planning for the future; development of teaching and learning profile including proposed new programs; new research initiatives and current research performance; linkages with community, industry and government; major capital development plans; staff and student issues; and strategic challenges and key opportunities.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Council approved appointments to the following University committees: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Campus Life Board, Community Partnership Committee, Finance and Resources Committee, Honorary Degree Committee, Legislation Committee and the Tender Board.

DECEMBER 2005