

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deputy Vice Chancellor Committee

(2018/9005103)

Established by Council: 13/87 5.10.87; 1/2011 7.03.11

Constitution last amended: 05.09.2018

ESTABLISHMENT

- 1 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was originally established as a Committee of the Vice Chancellor. The 8/91 meeting of the Council re-established the Committee as a Committee of the Council, and amended its constitution to give effect to this structural change, and other changes to its membership and functions. The 3/2003 meeting of the Council re-constituted the Advisory Committee as a committee reporting directly to the Pro Vice Chancellor (Equity and Community Partnerships).

The 2/2006 meeting of the Council re-constituted the Advisory Committee as a committee reporting directly to a Deputy Vice Chancellor as nominated by the Vice Chancellor.

The 1/2011 meeting of the Council approved a significantly revised constitution, following a review of the Advisory Committee in 2010. The revised constitution acknowledges the important role of the Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council of Elders and its relationship to the Advisory committee; the role of the Griffith Indigenous Student Association and its relationship to the Advisory committee; and provided parity between Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal representation on the Advisory committee in terms of membership.

FUNCTIONS

- 2 (1) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee shall advise the relevant Deputy Vice Chancellor on -
 - (a) planning priorities and strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, research, employment, training and professional development in the University's Strategic Plan and Equity and Diversity Plan;
 - (b) establishing and maintaining effective and on-going consultative mechanisms to enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and partners to participate in institutional planning and decision-making for student recruitment, participation and support, and for community engagement strategies that recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to self-determination and cultural affirmation;
 - (c) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education priorities, opportunities, developments and achievements referred from Council, the Academic Committee and other key University committees.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Committee shall advise Council through relevant Deputy Vice Chancellor, in particular on strategic directions, appropriate policies, procedures, and cultural protocols to be followed to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives including:
 - (a) development of programs and new initiatives which provide equitable access, participation, retention and success on measurable indicators;
 - (b) participation in culturally appropriate and relevant support activities;
 - (c) involvement in the community and cultural life of the University generally;
 - (d) promotion of local, national and international relationships that enable genuine engagement focussed on educational outcomes of benefit to and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
 - (e) appropriate policies and practices to be followed in promoting the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff within the University;

- (f) annual reporting, through the Indigenous Education Statement, on progress towards improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff within the University; and
 - (g) receive reports from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff as these relate to the strategic functions of the Committee.
- (3) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee shall seek expert advice from appropriate elements of the University and from representative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as required.

SUB COMMITTEES

- 3 The Committee may establish and coordinate sub-committees, task groups and networks to assist it in the performance of its responsibilities. These are of an advisory nature, having no delegation to make any decisions that are binding on the Advisory Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

- 4 The membership of the Committee shall consist of –
- (1) Co-chairs invited by the Vice Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council of Elders, and appointed by Council, and will also be Co-Chairs of the Council of Elders;
 - (2) A Deputy Vice Chancellor nominated by the Vice Chancellor, ex officio;
 - (3) Dean (Indigenous Strategy and Education), ex officio;
 - (4) Council member appointed by Council;
 - (5) Representative or nominee, Commonwealth or State Department of Education, however named from time to time, and nominated by the Department;
 - (6) Two Aboriginal representatives (one of whom should be male and one of whom should be female), nominated by the Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council of Elders and appointed by Council;
 - (7) Two Torres Strait Islander representatives (one of whom should be male and one of whom should be female), nominated by the Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Council of Elders and appointed by Council;
 - (8) Professor of Indigenous Community, Engagement, Policy and Partnerships, ex officio;
 - (9) Professor of Indigenous Research, ex officio;
 - (10) Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit, ex officio;
 - (11) Program Director, Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art or nominee, ex officio;
 - (12) President, Griffith Indigenous Students Association (GISA) or nominee;
 - (13) Two student representatives, one from the Northern campuses (Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan and Southbank) and one from the Gold Coast, to be nominated by the Griffith Indigenous Students Association (GISA);
 - (14) Two staff representatives co-opted by the Committee on the recommendation of the relevant Deputy Vice Chancellor;
 - (15) First Peoples Staff Project Officer, ex officio;

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- (16) Two representatives of the Griffith University First Peoples' Alumni, one of whom shall be female, and one of whom shall be male to be nominated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement);
- (17) The Advisory Committee may co-opt other representatives into membership of the Committee and/or to any sub-committees or task groups convened to ensure inclusive or for expert opinion/consultancy on specific issues.

TERMS OF OFFICE

- 5 All members of the Committee other than ex officio members shall serve for a term of up to two years from their date of appointment. Members may, if eligible, be reappointed to serve an additional term or terms.

SECRETARY

- 6 The Academic Registrar shall appoint a Secretary to the Committee, who shall have rights of audience and debate.

MEETINGS

- 7 The Committee shall –
- (1) meet at least four times per year and whenever necessary, and
 - (2) pay respect to the traditional custodians of University lands through a cultural welcome at the opening of each meeting.

REVIEW

- 8 The objectives, structure and relationships of the Committee will be reviewed on a biennial basis.