

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was held at 2:00pm – 4:00pm on Thursday, 28 May 2015 in Room 2.01, N54 Bray Centre, Nathan campus.

MINUTES

| PRESENT | APOLOGIES |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Professor Martin Betts (Acting Chair) | Uncle Graham Dillon |
| Mr Harry van Issum | Uncle Bob Anderson |
| Ms Anne Leisha | Mr Martin Watego |
| Mr Thomas Sebasio | Ms McRose Elu |
| Professor Boni Robertson | Mr Byron Albury |
| Professor Adrian Miller | Ms Anita Broomhead |
| Mr Shane Barnes | Ms Bianca Beetson |
| Mr John Graham | |
| Dr Kerry Bodle | |
| Mr Brian Blow | |
| | |
| Rosemary Marson (Secretary) | |
| | |
| By invitation: | |
| Ms Gabby Ingram (for item 4.0) | |
| Mr Michael Banks (for item 4.0) | |
| | |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the absence of Uncle Graham as Chair, and on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Aunty Anne Leisha acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meets.

1.0 CHAIRPERSON

1.1 The University Committee Meeting Procedures state that

Where the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of a committee are absent from a meeting of the committee, the members present shall elect from among their number a Chairperson for that meeting.

1.2 The Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Uncle Graham, was unable to attend the meeting and advised the Secretary of this situation on Wednesday afternoon of 27 May. The Secretary consulted the University Committee Meeting Procedures and advised members of the requirement listed above at the commencement of the Advisory Committee's meeting on 28 May.

1.3 Members of the Advisory Committee agreed to elect the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement), Professor Martin Betts, as the Chair for the meeting.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2/2014 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

3.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No members identified any conflict of interest, as outlined in the University policy, *Conflict of Interest and Personal Relationships in the Workplace*, which exists in respect of any of the items on the Agenda.

SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO COUNCIL AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

NIL

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

4.0 GRIFFITH ARCHIVE - PRESENTATION

- 4.1 The Griffith Archive was established in 2013 and is responsible for the collection, preservation, and public display of the University's history. This history includes the corporate, academic, research, learning and teaching, and social history of the University: *The Griffith Story*.
- 4.2 The Manager, Corporate Information (Corporate Records and Digitisation Services) and the Curator, Griffith Archive attended the meeting to present an outline of the work of the Griffith Archive to-date and seek input from the Advisory Committee on possible ways to include First People's content in the Griffith Archive.
- 4.3 As part of their presentation, members of ATSIAC were advised that the Griffith Archive aims to:
- Identify, appraise, accession, arrange, describe, and manage a unique and wide-ranging collection of records, memorabilia, and artefacts relating to the *Griffith Story*.
 - Interpret and present the archive collection through a range of virtual and physical displays and presentations.
 - Support the business and academic activities of Griffith University by providing access to the unique material contained in the Griffith Archive collection.
- 4.4 Members noted that gathering this history has led to an archival collection that represents the unique record of the University. So far, this collection focuses predominantly on the corporate history of the University.
- 4.5 Griffith University has among its founding vision a commitment to diversity, social, justice and community engagement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The historical and contemporary work and activities of the GUMURRII Student Support Unit, the Griffith University Council of Elders, Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP), and the Indigenous Research Unit comprise a wealth of material that should be captured as part of *The Griffith Story*. Members were asked to consider and share their ideas on ways in which these areas can positively participate and contribute to the work of the Griffith Archive.
- 4.6 The Elders present at the meeting and the Professor ICEPP requested a meeting with the Griffith Archives team, so that they could commence the process of sharing their stories and artefacts to ensure that this unique history is captured as part of the *Griffith Story*.

- 4.7 The Chair thanked Ms Gabby Ingram and Mr Michael Banks for attending the meeting the providing this informative presentation on the Griffith Archives.

5.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

- 5.1 The University's *Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2012-2015* was launched in late 2012 and is a statement about Griffith's commitment to achieve goals for its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other communities to work together harmoniously and to find common ground in their teaching and research endeavours and in their community engagements.

- 5.2 Members of ATSIAC recalled that the RAP is organised around four key standard headings: Respect, Relationships, Opportunities, and Reporting. These headings are recommended by Reconciliation Australia in preparing an institutional RAP.

- 5.3 The Co-chair, Mr Shane Barnes, reported that since the launch of the RAP in late 2012, work on meeting targets and goals has been monitored and coordinated by the RAP Working Party (co-chaired by Mr Shane Barnes and Ms Joanna Peters). The following reports on progress towards the RAP were considered:

- *2014 Report Against Griffith University Reconciliation Action Plan 2012-2015;*
- *Updated Progress Against the Griffith University Reconciliation Action Plan as at July 2014.*

- 5.4 Members of ATSIAC noted that the RAP is due to expire in 2015 and a major task for the Working Party is to draft a new RAP for 2016 – 2018. To this purpose, a series of meetings have been scheduled throughout 2015 to assist in reviewing and redrafting the RAP. The following timeline/process is proposed to guide the review of the current RAP:

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|--|------------------|
| Review achievements of current Plan | March – May |
| Undertake an external scan of other universities' RAPS | March – May |
| Consult with students, staff and community | May – July |
| Draft new RAP | August – October |
| Launch new RAP 2016-2018 | December |

- 5.5 In providing feedback to the Co-Chair of the RAP Working Party, Mr Shane Barnes, members recommended that the Working Party consider the introduction of a more streamlined RAP with fewer, but more realistic and achievable goals to be included in the revised RAP.

- 5.6 The Chair thanked Mr Barnes for his report and advised the ATSIAC that this matter will be a standing item for the Advisory Committee for the remainder of 2015.

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION

6.0 BUSINESS STRATEGIES: WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE - PRESENTATION

- 6.1 At its May 2014 meeting, the Advisory Committee considered the course outline for the recently developed course, *Business Strategies: Working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People*. Dr Kerry Bodle, Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, who developed the course, presented this item and advised members that the course had been developed within the context of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Inclusive Curriculum, Development and Implementation project (2011-2013).

- 6.2 One of the outcomes of the Advisory Committee's discussions at the May 2014 meeting was the recommendation that Dr Bodle be invited to present on her reflections of the course after its first offering.

- 6.3 Dr Bodle presented an overview of her experiences in teaching *Business Strategies: Working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People*, including the impact of her collaboration with Associate Professor Karen Martin and the national project - *The role of Aboriginal Knowledges in higher education in the 21st Century* – funded by the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT). Members noted the website for this project, and the national symposium to be held at the University on Friday 19th June, is: <http://www.akinhe.edu.au>
- 6.4 Dr Bodle advised that the course explores issues of cross-cultural awareness and competency in a business context involving Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander peoples. The course is designed to assist undergraduates to understand the cultural protocols required when sharing a workplace with Australia’s first people.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked Dr Bodle for her informative and detailed presentation and wished her well for the more formal presentation on this matter on 19 June, as part of the work on the OLT project, *The role of Aboriginal knowledges in higher education in the 21st century*.
- 7.0 REPORT FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS
- 7.1 The Professor, Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP) provided a verbal report on current issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee.
- 7.2 The Chair thanked the Professor, Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP) for the Report.
- 8.0 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH UNIT (IRU)
- 8.1 The Professor, Indigenous Research Unit highlighted the major activities of the IRU for 2014 - 2015, as detailed in his report.
- 8.2 In particular Professor Miller mentioned the following key achievements:
- Indigenous Research Unit’s collaboration with the GSBRC in offering an “Indigenous Knowledges and Research Seminar Series” within the University.
 - Australian Research Council (ARC) – preparation of Discovery and Linkage Grants, and membership of 2015 College of Experts
 - Membership of the 2015 NHMRC Project Grants Grant Review Panel
 - NHMRC applications submitted
 - Facilitate a Lowitja Insitute Workshop for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce in July 2015 in Melbourne
 - Revised and updated the University’s Research Ethics Manual to include a section on Research with Australian Indigenous Peoples
- 8.3 Professor Miller also highlighted the uptake of IRU small research grant support and conference support by members increased in 2014. Applications were independently peer reviewed by a panel of senior research staff of the university. The following applications were successful in 2014:
- Small Research Grant Support
- “Model of Excellence – Indigenous Health Workforce” (Professor Roianne West);
 - Attraction and Retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR Students – Phase One (Professor Kate Hutchings with members of the “Grow our Own” group);
 - “Young Aboriginal Learners, Curriculum, Assessment and Pedagogy”. A Symposium (jointly funded by GIER, NIRAKN, and the IRU) coordinated by Associate Professor Karen Martin.

Conference Support

- Dr Kerry Bodle – “Inspiring Indigenous Accountants” project, AFAANZ Conference’s Accounting Education Special Interest Group, Auckland, July 2014;
- Ms Krystal Lockwood - “Indigenous status and sentencing in Queensland: Direct effects and contextual variability”, presentation to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) Conference, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, October 2014

8.4 The Chair thanked the Professor, Indigenous Research Unit for the Report 2014 - 2015.

9.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

9.1 The Advisory Committee noted the Report submitted by the Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit, on the current issues of relevance, as detailed in the report *GUMURRII REPORT TO ATSIAC*.

9.2 In his Report, the Director highlighted the following:

2015 commencing first year enrolments – 338; total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at Griffith is 606, including undergraduate, postgraduate, research and non-award students.

Outreach activities – in addition to the programs offered as part of Orientation Week, a range of programs are being developed in conjunction with *Titans 4 Tomorrow*, *Queensland Reds*, and *Indigenous Accountants Australia*.

Employment pathways for GUMURRII students – the University has recently partnered with AIME with a view to providing pathways for future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students looking to attend University. In 2014, AIME is connecting approximately 3,500 mentees with 1,250 mentors across 29 locations and in partnership with 16 Australian universities in all mainland states and the ACT.

Hands Up! Tertiary Preparation 2015 – 107 students attended the two week course at the Gold Coast – designed to equip them with the fundamentals of academic referencing, assignment writing.

9.3 The Chair thanked the Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit for his Report.

10.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ENGAGEMENT) REPORT

10.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor reported on the following items of interest to the Advisory Committee.

- Griffith University Engagement Plan 2015 - 2018 - *Engaging our partners to be a University of Influence*.
- Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumni Chapter
- Federal Government funding for 2014 – 2015.

11.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

11.1 Due to the absence of the Chair (Uncle Graham Dillon), who had forwarded his apologies, there was no report on the activities of the Griffith University Council of Elders.

12.0 MEMBERSHIP

12.1 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee welcomed the following members to the Advisory Committee:

- New members: Mr Martin Watego (the male Aboriginal representative); Ms Jean Pepperill (President, Griffith Indigenous Students Association) (GISA); and Mr Byron Albury ((Northern campus) student representative nominated by GISA);
- Returning member: Ms Anita Broomhead (Gold Coast campus) student representative nominated by GISA.

12.2 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee resolved to record its appreciation for the contributions of the following outgoing members throughout their terms of office during 2014:

- Warrika Watson (President, GISA);
- Daniel Backhaus (Undergraduate student representative);
- Angela Leitch (Representative Education Queensland).

13.0 CLOSING THE GAP: PRIME MINISTER'S REPORT 2015

13.1 The Federal government's *Closing the Gap: Prime Minister's Report 2015* was released in March 2015.

13.2 Members noted the Report available at:
<http://www.dpmc.gov.au/pmc-indigenous-affairs/publication/closing-gap-prime-ministers-report-2015>

14.0 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14.1 Members noted the following on-campus activities:

Walk'nTalk: Nathan 26 May; Gold Coast 27 May

Harmony Week (16 – 21 March 2015)
griffith.edu.au/harmony-week

National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June)
<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/resources/>

NAIDOC Week (5 – 12 July)
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

Cultural Diversity Week (Qld) (22-30 August)
<http://www.datsima.qld.gov.au/be-involved/queensland-cultural-diversity-week>

15.0 OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 2015 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members noted that the change in meeting time from 1pm to 2pm caused some inconvenience for members, including the Chair, Uncle Graham. It was agreed that in future meetings of the Advisory Committee will be held within the 1-3pm time slot.

Members noted that throughout 2014 and also in 2015 meetings have been scheduled for the Nathan campus. The issue of meetings at the Gold Coast was raised, including the option of video-conferencing between the Gold Coast and Nathan campuses. Subsequent to the 28 May meeting, the DVC (Engagement) has

discussed this option with the Chair, and the Chair has agreed that a room at the Gold Coast with video-conferencing facilities will be booked for the remaining two meetings.

15.2 FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

During the course of the meeting, members raised a number of issues that the Advisory Committee agreed should be considered at a future meeting of the ATSIAC. These include:

Admission to GUMURRIL – Validation Process for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin (Uncle Thomas raised this matter).

Federal government funding – particularly community-based funding schemes; Professor Miller raised the point that University's should not bid for such schemes, as they are placing themselves in direct competition with the community groups whom they are supposed to be supporting. Professor Miller was speaking from the point of the IRU and its research strategy.

First Peoples' Websites – the University now has a range of websites dealing with First People issues; some rationalisation or coordination of content may be necessary so that the achievements of the various areas are recognised and acknowledged.

First People's Alumni Community under development– Lunch with DVC (Engagement) – implications for membership of the ATSIAC.

16.0 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Members noted the 2015 schedule of meetings.

| Meeting Date 2015 | Campus | Venue Allocated | Video Conference link |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 28 May | Nathan | N54_2.01 | |
| 20 August | Nathan | N54_2.01 | G34_1.04 |
| 26 November | Nathan | N54_2.01 | G05_3.18 |

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date:
 20 August 2015