

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was held at **12:30pm – 2:30pm** on **Thursday, 24 November 2016** in **Room 2.01, N54 Bray Centre, Nathan campus.**

MINUTES

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Uncle Graham Dillon DUniv (Co-Chair)	Ms Angela Leitch
Professor Boni Robertson (Co-Chair)	Professor Adrian Miller
DVC (Engagement) Professor Martin Betts	Dr Kerry Bodle
Dr Robert (Uncle Bob) Anderson OAM	Aunty Anne Leisha
Mr Shane Barnes	ABSENT
Mr John Graham	Mr Martin Watego
Mr Harry van Issum	Mr Byron Albury
Ms Faye Crane (Secretary)	Ms Bianca Beetson
	Ms Anita Broomhead
	Aunty McRose Elu
	Uncle Thomas Sebasio

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Co-Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meets and welcomed the members.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 3/2016 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee were taken as read and confirmed.

2.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN WORKING PARTY REPORT

- 4.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) presented the 2016 Reconciliation Action Plan Working Party Report. With a change in the wording around the ISP governance, the report will also be presented to the Equity Committee.

Action – The Secretary will amend the report prior to its distribution to the Equity Committee.

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Nil.

6.0 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

- 6.1 The Co-Chair, Professor Robertson, provided the following verbal report to the meeting:

6.1.1 The Council of Elders have supported a number of Indigenous students many of whom require support for matters which extend beyond the reach of the University, such as legal matters. The members heard the Council of Elders, through its extensive networks and services in the Murray Court, are able to enhance the 'wrap-around-support' Griffith provides for students and thereby provide a means for students to continue with their studies unimpeded.

6.1.2 The Council of Elders have supported a number of international students. The Elders have received six letters for thanks from these students.

6.1.3 The Co-Chair spoke to the legislative requirements for hiring staff who have Identified as Indigenous and the process for verifying any claims of Indigenous descent. The members agreed the Co-Chair, Uncle Graham Dillon, and the Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit meet to ensure the validity of those who claim they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

- 6.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee noted the Co-Chair's Report.

7.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ENGAGEMENT) REPORT

- 7.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) provided the following verbal report to the meeting.

7.1.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) reported on the activity of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2018 Working Party.

- The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Party met during the course of 2016 and has continued to do so in 2017 to ensure the University meets its targets.

- The Working Party agreed that whilst the compliance aspect of the RAP must be met it is important to focus on the heart and intent of the Plan, and in particular to meet the target of increasing the number of Indigenous students through to the academic workforce.
- A strong social media plan is in place to encourage engagement in Reconciliation Week and the Walk and Talk.

During the discussion Professor Robertson queried the Indigenous Support Program governance matter. It was noted the ISP governance must include the senior Indigenous leaders at Griffith University and that the First Peoples staff must be aware of what the new governance model means for them.

7.1.2 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) updated members on the Commonwealth Games engagement.

- The organising committee has made a commitment to reconciliation through a large number of its activities. A range of opportunities and experiences are open for Griffith students through 250 internships. Currently no Indigenous students are registered for the internships and it was agreed to continue to encourage students to become involved. It was suggested that a hands-on, personal approach was preferred at this stage. Mr Shane Barnes and Mr John Graham will continue to encourage students to be involved.

7.1.3 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) consulted the committee members on the options available for the First Peoples Building signage. The Vice Chancellor is supportive of this initiative and will fund signage for every campus and explicitly sought consultation with the committee to secure culturally appropriate signage. The members welcomed this initiative and the discussion and outcomes included:

- Option 1 identified as the preferred option in terms of size and broad message.
- The designers would consult with the Committee to finalise the wording (Respect, Recognition – the names and languages of the local people) and art work (which may include totems).
- Possibility of including QR Codes on the signs.
- A consultation with the Council of Elders; however this be undertaken with mindfulness to an appropriate timeline for an outcome of erecting the signs this year.

7.1.4 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) informed members about a video on the Nathan campus rock engraving preservation which is loaded to the First Peoples web pages. The video was viewed during lunch.

7.1.5 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) provided information about Indigenous student enrolments as at census date 2017 and informed the committee of the record number of graduates in 2016 (118 graduates).

- 2017 Trimester 1 has 817 enrolled Indigenous students comprising 700+ undergraduate students, 70+ postgraduate students, and 33 HDR candidates.

Action – Prof Boni Robertson, Prof Adrian Miller, Mr Shane Barnes and Secretary to liaise regarding the details of the ISP governance issue to ensure compliance.

Action - Uncle Graham Dillon and Mr John Graham to speak with Mr Cameron Pegg about the groups represented in the University documentation to ensure the names are right.

Action – Secretary to liaise with Mr Pegg to set up the consultation with the appropriate people to finalise the design and wording.

8.0 MEMORIAL DESIGN

8.1 Further to the discussion at the previous meeting, Mr Harry Van Issum will meet with both Mr Sky Lavelle and Ms Jessie Williams to determine if there is room in Mr Lavelle's workload to assist with the maintenance of the website or an opportunity for Jessie to be employed.

9.0 MEMBERSHIP

9.1 The issue of student membership was rolled over in the absence of the student representatives.

9.2 It was reported that Mr Brian Blow is no longer employed at Griffith University. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) will reach out to the HR Manager for a nomination of an appropriate staff member to report on First People's Employment to the Committee. An invitation will be extended to attend the next meeting.

The Constitution will require an amendment to reflect the new title.

The Committee extended a vote of thanks to Mr Blow for his work on the committee and his contribution to the First Peoples' work at Griffith.

Action – Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) to contact the HR Manager for a new member to report to the Committee on First Peoples' Employment matters.

Action – Secretary to send a letter of thanks to Mr Brian Blow on behalf of the Committee.

10.0 REVIEW OF ATSIAC

10.1 Self-Review
This item was rolled over to the next meeting.

10.2 Draft Constitution
This item is rolled over to the next meeting. By way of comment, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) echoed Professor Robertson's sentiments regarding the calibre of the great warriors engaging with Griffith University. He also noted that with a mature GUMURRII unit, Research unit and Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships Office the work of the Committee can centre around engagement with the community.

Action – Secretary to re-circulate the self-review document.

Action – Members to consider the draft constitution for approval at the next meeting.

11.0 REPORT FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS (ICEPP)

11.1 The Professor, Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP) spoke on recent activities and accomplishments including:

- Ongoing work with the United Nations including the establishment of the Pacific Caucus
- Activities in the Queensland State Government arena
- Cooee pathways partnership program has come to the attention of the government and how this might be used as an exemplar is being explored
- 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the last Referendum and the 10th anniversary of the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People.
- Mr Cameron Sumers-Borchand was selected to participate in the Youth Leadership program which is coordinated by the Department of Communities in partnership with Glencore. The Committee agreed to send a congratulatory letter to Mr Cameron Sumers-Borchand.

Action – Secretary to send a letter of congratulations to Cameron Sumers-Borchand.

12.0 REPORT FROM THE INDIGENOUS RESEARCH UNIT (IRU)

12.1 The Academic Director of Indigenous Education and Research sent his apologies to the meeting.

13.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

13.1 The Director spoke on recent activities.

- 2017 student enrolment numbers reveal the largest commencing Indigenous student cohort to date of 431 students with 346 continuing students and a spike of Indigenous students studying online.
- 65 commencing students attended Hands Up! In 2017 this was presented as an intensive week and was delivered by GUMURRII staff with a strong presence of student mentors who then supported the students in O Week.
- The preparations for the Walk and Talk in Reconciliation Week are in the final stages. The website has been updated and there will also be traditional cultural cuisine for morning tea after the Walk and Talk. Students from Mt Gravatt and the Murray School are attending.
- Dates – Nathan: Tuesday 30 May, Gold Coast: Thursday 1 June.
- Student Yarning Circles have commenced and Alkira Compass have been engaged to provide food at the event explaining the food and providing students with tastings. The first student yarning circle on the Mt Gravatt campus attracted 30 students. The next one is planned for the Nathan campus with more planned on other campuses. Invitations will be sent to the Elders and ICEPP.

It was suggested that the Indigenous staff and elders be invited to Hands Up! events so students can identify the staff across the campuses.

14.0 FIRST PEOPLE'S EMPLOYMENT

No report was provided.

15.0 2017 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Members noted the 2017 schedule of meetings. Meetings are held on **Thursdays from 12.30pm – 2.30pm** or as otherwise listed below.

16.0 OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Uncle Bob raised a staffing matter. Uncle Bob to encourage the staff member to take the matter to their supervisor, or if relevant, to escalate it to Human Resources.

16.2 Mr Harry Van Issum raised a matter of process and it was agreed that reports be submitted to the Secretary for circulation to members prior to the meeting so discussion could be as informed and relevant as possible.

Action – Secretary to encourage members to send reports for circulation with the agenda.

17.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Meeting will be on 24th August 2017.

Meeting Date 2017	Campus	Venue Allocated
31 August 12:30pm – 3:30pm	Nathan	N54 2.02
23 November 12:30pm – 3:30pm	Nathan	N54 2.01