

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was held at 1:00pm – 3:00pm on Thursday, 20 August 2015 in G34_1.04, Gold Coast campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Professor Martin Betts (Acting Chair)	Uncle Graham Dillon
Uncle Bob Anderson	Uncle Martin Watego
Aunty Anne Leisha	Aunty McRose Elu
Uncle Thomas Sebasio	Professor Adrian Miller
Professor Boni Robertson	Mr Byron Albury
Mr Harry van Issum	Ms Anita Broomhead
Mr Shane Barnes	Ms Bianca Beetson
Mr John Graham	Mr Brian Blow
Dr Kerry Bodle	
Rosemary Marson (Secretary)	
By invitation:	
Mr Dale Kerwin (for item 6.0)	
Ms Debbie Woodbridge (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, Mr John Graham 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 Thursday morning of 20 August. 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 20 August.

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 1/2015 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 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT - ADMISSION - PRESENTATION

- 4.1 At the May 2015 meeting, the Advisory Committee requested that the Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit prepare a presentation on the admission processes utilised in considering and admitting applicants of First Peoples' background to the University.
- 4.2 Mr Shane Barnes, Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit presented this item, which was also attended by Ms Debbie Woodbridge, Learning Assistance Officer, GUMURRII Student Support Unit.
- 4.3 The Advisory Committee was presented with the revised version of the GUMURRII Student Support Unit Direct Entry application form, which will be available online for the Semester 1, 2016 admission round. Members were advised that the draft form has been reviewed by the Academic Registrar and complies with the privacy requirements specified in the University's *Undergraduate Admissions Policy*.
- 4.4 The issue of determining Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage as part of the admission process, which is undertaken by the GUMURRII Student Support Unit on behalf of the University was discussed. The Advisory Committee was advised that the Unit's Learning Assistance Officers are trained in how to conduct interviews on this matter. The Elders present at the meeting recommended that, where possible, members of the Griffith University Council of Elders be included in these discussions/interviews so that they can draw on their extensive community connections to assist in determining an applicant's First People's background.
- 4.5 The Chair thanked Mr Barnes and Ms Woodbridge for the informative presentation.

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 Australians to work together harmoniously and to find common ground in their teaching and research endeavours and in their community engagements.
- 5.2 Members 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 RAP is due to expire in 2015 and a major task for the Working Party is to engage with the University community to gain feedback on the current RAP and input into the next version of the RAP. To this purpose, a series of meetings have been scheduled throughout 2015 to assist in reviewing the RAP. The following timeline/process is proposed to guide the review of the current RAP:

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

- 5.4 Co-Chair of the RAP Working Party, Mr Shane Barnes, reported on the progress of the Reconciliation Action Working Party. The Advisory Committee noted that the focus of the past three months has been on engaging with the Griffith community and soliciting feedback on the current RAP and seeking input for the RAP 2016-2018. To this end, in early May 2015 a survey was distributed to current students of the University seeking comments on the RAP. The survey closed on Friday 14 August and the Working Party has received 130 online and 108 hard copy responses.
- 5.5 The Chair called for comments and members agreed that the new RAP should be aligned with the University's Strategic Plan 2013-2017 and reflect its key priority areas. Members also agreed that the revised Plan should be more streamlined with fewer goals which would be aligned with the key areas of the University's Mission – research, learning and teaching, and engagement.
- 5.6 The Chair commended the Co-Chairs of the RAP Working Party for their ongoing commitment to implementing the current RAP and initiating the work on the University's new RAP. Members of the Advisory Committee agreed that, to be fully effective, the RAP is the responsibility of the University community.
- 5.7 The Chair thanked Mr Barnes for his presentation and noted that the final version of the RAP 2016-2018 will come to the 26 November meeting of the ATSIAC.

6.0 ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEDICATED MEMORIAL COMMITTEE QLD (ATSIDMCQ)

- 6.1 Over the past two years, the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Committee Qld has made progress in implementing its objective of completing a memorial for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander service men and women to be placed in ANZAC Square, Brisbane city. Advances have been made to identify artists and present possibilities for the memorial to the Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) (PVC (AEL)).
- 6.2 Members noted that prior to a concerted fundraising effort by the ATSIDMCQ, advice from the PVC (AEL) Professor Paul Mazerolle indicated that the ATSIDMCQ needs a clearer understanding of the relationship between the roles of the University and the ATSIDMCQ. To this end, an MOU has been discussed and drafted which aims to address this issue.
- 6.3 Mr Harry van Issum introduced this item, which was also attended by Adjunct Lecturer Mr Dale Kerwin, who is a member of ATSIDMCQ.
- 6.4 The Advisory Committee noted the concerns raised by the speakers relating to the ongoing funding of the proposed memorial and the need to secure a senior university officer as a member of the ATSIDMCQ.
- 6.5 The Advisory Committee was advised that the University is supportive of this project, as evidenced by the involvement of the Vice President (Corporate Services) and his

support for an MOU between the University and the ATSIDMCQ; the ongoing involvement of the Director, Development and Alumni Office; and the support of the PVC (AEL).

- 6.6 In relation to the need for additional and substantial funding to complete the project – members noted advice from the speakers that the ATSIDMCQ has \$8000 at the time of the meeting – the Advisory Committee agreed that these additional funds need to be raised from within the community or relevant agencies and that the University would not be providing additional funds.
- 6.7 As a means of progressing this matter, the Chair recommended that the MOU be drafted and signed as soon as practicable; the Director, Development and Alumni Office continues to be involved in the ATSIDMCQ; and that the speakers consider the appointment of a suitably qualified Chair for the ATSIDMCQ.
- 6.8 The Chair thanked the two speakers, Mr Harry van Issum and Mr Dale Kerwin, for their presentation.

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

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, including Professor Robertson's re-election to NATSIAC and WINHEC.
- 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 As the Professor, Indigenous Research Unit was not able to attend the meeting, the Advisory Committee noted the IRU Report.

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 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 Council has approved the appointment of Professor Lesley Chenoweth AO to a new senior leadership position - Pro Vice Chancellor and Head, Logan Campus
 - Recent lunch hosted by the DVC (Engagement) to launch the Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumni Chapter
 - Recent communications from the Queensland Museum concerning the donation made in the 1970s of a piece of traditional Aboriginal Rock art to the University. The DVE (E) advised that the Rock Art is currently located on the Nathan campus

and the University is exploring ways of highlighting this unique piece of Aboriginal heritage in a manner that is not only culturally appropriate, but also guarantees the ongoing preservation of the piece.

11.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- 11.1 Due to the absence of the Chair (Uncle Graham Dillon), 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 Aaron Hoffman, Principal Policy Officer, Indigenous Policy and Strategic Innovation, Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Education & Training, Queensland.
- Returning member: Mr John Graham.

13.0 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 13.1 Members noted the following on-campus activities:

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>

14.0 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:
26 November 2015