

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, 25 August 2016 in Room 2.01, N54 Bray Centre, Nathan campus.**

MINUTES

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Uncle Graham Dillon (Chair)	Dr Robert Anderson OAM
Mr Shane Barnes	Aunty Anne Leisha
Professor Martin Betts	Professor Adrian Miller
Mr Brian Blow	Professor Boni Robertson
Mr Aaron Hoffman (on behalf of Ms Angela Leitch)	Aunty McRose Elu
Uncle Thomas Sebasio	Mr Martin Watego
Mr Cameron Summers-Borchard	Ms Anita Broomhead
Mr Byron Albury	Mr John Graham
	Dr Kerry Bodle
Mrs Carly Barlow (Secretary)	Mr Harry Van Issum

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

1.0 AIME REPORT

- 1.1 Tom Wensley and Carly Wallace from AIME spoke on the Griffith Outcomes Report, summarising AIME programs including a new program offered to primary school students from years 5 and 6. Tom Wensley spoke on the 2015 results – 21 of 55 mentees transitioned to University (the second highest transition rate in Australia). There are currently 88 Year 12 students in the 2016 program. Two GUMURRII graduates are now working at AIME as staff, there is no cost to the students who participate in the program and AIME work with schools to ensure accessibility for students with disabilities.
- 1.2 The Chair asked whether accommodation was addressed for remote students intending to study at University (homestay). AIME staff will continue to work closely with GUMURRII to assist students intending to study at Griffith and to raise the retention rate. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) advised he is pleased to see AIME's engagement with the University and the community and hopes that students will be encouraged to move on to higher study and to become part of the academic workforce in the future.

Action – It is recommended that Professor Robertson and Aunty Anne Leisha meet with AIME to show them the outcomes of the AIME program

Action – Secretary to contact AIME to obtain details of the programs that the current students are enrolled in at Griffith University

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 1/2016 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

3.0 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

Nil

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 The Chair asked for comments on the previous minutes.

4.2 Accessing accommodation and experiencing homesickness has been identified by the Griffith Indigenous Students Association (GISA) as a problem for new students. GUMURRII staff are working with students to address these issues and to provide short term assistance. Uncle Thomas Sebasio suggested GUMURRII staff visit the Torres Strait to meet with community leaders. It was advised that 2 Griffith staff have been to the Torres Strait recently.

Action – Mr Cameron Summers-Borchard to get information from his connections on how students are affected by accommodation opportunities at Southport campus.

5.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ENGAGEMENT) REPORT

5.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) advised that plaques are now in place at the Nathan campus rock engravings. Professor Paul Tacon, Chair in Rock Art Research, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science is working on capturing the story about the rock art. An iPhone application is being developed where codes can be scanned by phone to provide information about the

engravings. It was suggested that a launch be held to showcase the rock engravings which will be investigated once the above are finalised.

- 5.2 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) advised there is a final memorial design for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have served our country in military service.
- 5.3 A successful 'walk and talk' event was held to launch the Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2018 during NAIDOC week.
- 5.4 The CareerTrackers partnership (internship program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students) was launched which will facilitate 55 student internships over 100 companies.
- 5.5 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) has met with EPIC who assist people with disabilities to find employment which may be helpful for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- 5.6 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) reported on the growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR students. There are 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engineering students of which 17 of the 25 students are female.

Action – Secretary to invite Mr Harry van Issum to present an item on the finalised memorial design at the next meeting

6.0 FIRST PEOPLES WEBSITE

- 6.1 Mr Sky Lavelle, Senior Project Manager, Griffith University attended the meeting to conduct a presentation on the revised First Peoples website. The new website is featured prominently on the 'About Griffith' web page, has a new look and feel with links to the Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2018 showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks and images. Sky explained the importance of keeping the website up to date.
- 6.2 The maps on the website were presented with links to further content. The Chair suggested that 'family groups' be used as well as 'clans'. Uncle Thomas Sebasio suggested 'tribal groups'. The Chair commented that the site is helpful for attracting future students and staff to the University and provides holistic coverage. It was suggested that successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff be showcased on the First Peoples site through digital video links. Mr Brian Blow advised he will take expressions of interest from students who can share their story via email.

Action – The Secretary to obtain copies of the revised Site Map and site plans (A3) for the First Peoples site to distribute to Committee members

Action – Uncle Graham (Chair) to obtain feedback from the Elders regarding the First Peoples site and to report this information to Sky Lavelle

Action – The Secretary to organise more recent photographs from 2016 to be sent to Sky Lavelle to be placed on the First Peoples site

Action – The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) and the Secretary to get a new statement for the First Peoples site from the Chancellor

Action – Mr Cameron Summers-Borchard to send GISA information to Sky Lavelle to be included on the First Peoples site

7.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

7.1 The Director spoke to his written report on recent activities. These include Outreach activities including the Open Nights held in July; the student exchange program including reports from two Griffith exchange students; congratulations to staff member Mr Edward Synot on confirmation to commence his PhD in law; preparation for the Hands Up! Tertiary Preparation program; and the launch of direct online applications for GUMURRII students for 2017 (taking applications from October 2016).

8.0 GUIDELINES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POLICY

8.1 The Advisory Committee noted Griffith University's new Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy had been approved and has been uploaded on the Policy Library website.

9.0 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Members noted the remaining 2016 schedule of meetings. Meetings are held on **Thursdays from 12.30pm – 2.30pm** or as otherwise listed below.

Meeting Date 2016	Campus	Venue Allocated
24 November	Nathan	N54_2.01

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 The Griffith Indigenous Students Association (GISA) representative advised that students have concerns about the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) and budgetary constraints at GUMURRII. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) advised funding has been made available for next Semester to relieve concerns. GUMURRII will continue to work with students at risk and in the first year as a priority and students will receive 1 hour per subject per student as well as 5 hours of exam preparation.

Action – Uncle Graham (Chair) to extend invitation to Elders to visit the accommodation units and/or make contact with GISA to connect with students for morning tea or lunch