

MEETING MINUTES 1/2009

Committee Title: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee		Meeting Date: Thursday 12 March, 2009	
Chairperson: Ms Chrissie Andrews		Venue: Room 2.01 Bray Centre (N54) Nathan Campus	
Attendees:	Ms Chrissy Andrews Mr Graham Dillon Ms Maureen Ah Sam Ms Leneen Forde Professor Boni Robertson Mr Thomas Sebasio Professor Sue Spence Ms Karyn Weigel (for Mr Shane Williams) Ms Rosemary Marson	<i>By Invitation:</i> Ms Liz Bond (for Item 12.0) Prof Keithia Wilson (for Item 10.0) Dr Chris Matthews (for Items 10.0 and 11.0)	Apologies: Ms Kaye Dillon Ms Jennifer Herd Ms Tamara Whyte Ms Delmae Barton Ms Jianna Richardson

Item	Topic	Discussion/Comments	Action/Outcome	Action Officer (if applicable)
1.0	Members welcomed the incoming Chair, Ms Chrissie Andrews.			
2.0	Confirmation of Minutes	The Minutes of the 3/2008 meeting were taken as read, and confirmed.	Minutes confirmed	n/a
3.0	Report Chair	As the incoming Chair, Ms Andrews expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Advisory Committee and looks forward to contributing to Griffith's aims of supporting the development of Indigenous students through its higher education programs.	NIL	n/a
4.0	Report PVC (Q&SO)	<p>Professor Spence reported on the successful implementation of stage 1 of Griffith's Indigenous Website (http://www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-first-peoples) and advised that work had commenced on stage 2 of the website, which is planned for release in the second half of 2009.</p> <p>Professor Spence also reported on the implementation of the Deed of Agreement with the Kombumerri people relating to the Gold Coast campus southern precinct, advising that arrangements between the University (Professor Max Standage, PVC and Provost Gold Coast campus) and the Kombumerri people were well-advanced regarding the following: the naming of particular sites on the Gold Coast</p>	NIL	n/a

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		campus; a frog reserve; plaque markers on the bridge; a cultural heritage display in the Student Centre; and investigation of a pathways program for Indigenous students into Health involving the (on-site) Queensland Academy for Health Science.		
5.0	Indigenous Protocols	Professor Boni Robertson presented a series of PowerPoint slides that summarised her work to-date on a set of Indigenous Protocols for Griffith. Professor Robertson reminded members that the protocols had been developed after a series of workshops with relevant Elders and that they are designed to assist all staff at Griffith to engage in an appropriate and sensitive manner with Indigenous matters. The slides presented included some definitions of cultural protocols (eg Smoking Ceremony, Welcome Ceremony), as well as guidelines on how, and when, these protocols should be observed.	Members conveyed overall satisfaction with the material shown and requested that Professor Robertson finalise the document, which Advisory Committee will review at its June meeting.	Secretary to follow up with Professor Robertson on finalising Indigenous Protocols document.

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6.0	Indigenous Affirmation Statement	<p>Members recalled that Professor Boni Robertson had drafted the <i>Indigenous Affirmation Statement</i> as an affirmative action to Griffith's Statement on Reconciliation and specifically in response to the National Apology (13 February 2008).</p> <p>Members were asked to consider the revised statement, as described in doc 01/2009, to endorse it, and recommend it to Executive Group for approval to publish.</p>	<p>Members endorsed the <i>Indigenous Affirmation Statement</i> (doc 01.2009) and agreed to forward it to Executive Group for approval to publish.</p>	<p>Secretary to forward Affirmation Statement to Executive Group for approval to publish.</p>
7.0	'Acknowledgement of Country' Palm Cards	<p>Members considered two documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Acknowledgment of Country' Palm Card text (doc 02/2009); and • The policy for University-wide use of the Acknowledgment of Country (doc 03/2009). <p>After detailed discussion, members agreed that the Palm Card should include one paragraph, the text of which will include a general acknowledgement of country, with the option of including the specific language group, if it is known.</p> <p>Members were advised by Suzanne Wilkinson that the palm card design using the Reconciliation Artwork would</p>	<p>In relation to the 'Acknowledgment of Country' Palm card text (doc02/2009), members agreed to recommend to Executive Group that the following paragraph be included on one side of the card:</p> <p><i>I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting, <Optional name of Language Group, if known>. I would also like to pay my respect to the Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are here today.</i></p> <p>In relation to the policy guiding the use of the Palm Cards, members agreed to endorse the policy, as outlined in doc</p>	<p>Secretary to forward revised palm card text and policy to Executive Group for approval.</p>

		<p>be finalised on completion of an artist's agreement for use of the artwork. Once this agreement has been signed, the production of the Palm Cards will commence.</p> <p>Members considered the proposed 'Acknowledgement of Country' policy, noting that it has been designed for use in situations where Griffith staff are giving public speeches or presentations and wish to <i>acknowledge</i> the traditional owners of the lands on which they speak. It is not designed to cover instances when people are <i>welcomed</i> to traditional lands.</p>	03/2009 and forward this to Executive Group for approval.	
8.0	GUMURRII Student Support Unit (SSU) Report	<p>Ms Maureen Ah Sam reported on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A marked increase in Indigenous students at Griffith (based on interim data), which stands at 485 students at 12 March 2009. • The graduations in December 2008, which included 38 Indigenous graduates from 24 disciplines, all wearing the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stoles. This cohort included the first medical graduate and the first two social work graduates. • A healthy application rate for a range of university scholarships, including the Indigenous Access Scholarships, the Commonwealth 	Noted, with the exception of the point on scholarships. The Chair requested that consideration be given to the establishment of a scholarship specifically for the Jagera people. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Student Outcomes (Q&SO)) agreed to look into the implications of this suggestion.	PVC (Q&SO) to explore options for developing scholarships for Yuggera people.

		<p>Education Scholarships, the Patience Thoms Postgraduate Scholarships, and the Neville Bonner scholarship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steady and significant increase in pass rates of Indigenous students, as a result of the revamped Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS): 2006 – 58%; 2007 – 71%; 2008 – 81%. • A general increase in the number of community requests from across Queensland and Northern NSW received by Gumurrii to create additional pathways for Indigenous students into higher education. 		
9.0	Indigenous Policy and Community Engagement	Professor Boni Robertson reported on an extensive array of engagements and commitments with key organisations operating at the state, national, and international levels that are involved with strategic planning and reforms for improving the well-being of Indigenous communities.	Noted	n/a
10.0	Indigenous Inclusive Curriculum Initiative	Professor Keithia Wilson, Chair Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Inclusive Curriculum Working Party and Dr Christopher Matthews, Chair Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Inclusive Curriculum Reference Group attended the meeting for this item. Both Professor Wilson and Dr Matthews outlined the challenges of developing an appropriate framework to ensure that the inclusive curriculum development is developed within the spirit of	Noted	n/a

		<p>reconciliation. Professor Wilson and Dr Matthews commented that the membership of the working party brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of staff and community.</p> <p>Professor Wilson advised that, as the first meeting of the Working Party for 2009 will take place on Friday, 13 March, a fuller and more detailed report from the Working Party will be submitted to the Advisory Committee for its June 2009 meeting.</p>		
11.0	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Network	<p>Dr Chris Matthews reported that the Research Network had started in 2009 and had developed from the desire of Indigenous academic staff at Griffith to provide a forum for discussion of relevant issues. Dr Matthews advised that the Network is keen to facilitate the development of clear pathways for Indigenous research and postgraduate students to progress from honours, postgraduate study, fellowships, to junior academic positions.</p>	Noted	n/a
12.0	Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ)	<p>At the invitation of the Chair, Ms Liz Bond, Manager, Indigenous Unit (ADCQ) attended the meeting for this item. Ms Bond provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Anti-Discrimination Commission, which include managing complaints of alleged discrimination received by the Commission and educating the public on their rights and responsibilities under the</p>	Noted	n/a

		act, which covers 16 grounds for discrimination. Ms Bond commended Griffith on its Equity policies.		
Next Meeting	Date: 4 June 2009	Time: 2.00 – 4.00 pm	Venue: Rooms 1.05/1.06 The Chancellery_ (G34) Gold Coast Campus	