

**1/2010 Minutes (March)**

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was held at 1.00pm on Thursday 11 March 2010 in Room 2.01 Bray Centre (N54), Nathan campus.

**Present:**

Ms Chrissie Andrews (Chairperson)  
Ms Delmae Barton  
Dr Graham Dillon  
Mr John Graham for Ms Maureen Ah Sam  
Ms Jennifer Herd  
Professor Marilyn McMeniman  
Dr Chris Matthews  
Prof Boni Robertson

Secretary: Ms Karen van Haeringen

Observers:

Ms Anne Chapman  
Ms Roz Graham

**Apologies:**

Ms Maureen Ah Sam  
Ms Kaye Dillon  
Mr Thomas Sabastio  
Ms Gail Stephenson  
Ms Suzanne Wilkinson

**Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Aunty Anne Chapman and Aunty Roz Graham, members of the Aboriginal Elder Network at Griffith as observers for the tabling of Professor Robertson's Report on the Elders Program. The Chair extended to Aunty Anne and Aunty Roz the rights of audience and debate for the duration of the meeting. The Chair requested that each member introduce themselves, stating the duration of their membership on ATSIAC. All those present introduced themselves, paid their respects to the Elders and the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held. The Committee observed a minutes silence to reflect on the importance of social inclusion in education and those who had passed away since the last meeting of ATSIAC.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 3/2009 (Adjourned) meeting were taken as read, and confirmed.

**SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
<p>Committee Membership (Agenda Item 5)</p>	<p>A number of vacancies currently exist on the Committee. The Chair reminded the Committee at its 3/2009 adjourned meeting a list of nominations had been discussed. At that meeting the Chair had also reported on the consultation process with Uncle Graham and Uncle Thomas on the Traditional Owner and the female Torres Strait Islander nominees respectively. Following discussion the Committee agreed that <i>“Professor Boni Robertson organise a meeting between the Committee and Community Elders prior to finalising the nominations”</i>.</p> <p>As that meeting could not be convened the Committee now had before it a number of nominations it wished to finalise for the following vacant positions:</p> <p><i>An Aboriginal Elder/Respected member of each of the remaining Traditional Custodian Groups of the Griffith University Lands</i></p> <p>Two letters of nomination had been received from Yuggera Elders. The Chair stated one nomination was from the same Traditional Owner Group as herself and so would be a duplication not available under the constitution and that under Aboriginal protocol that non-traditional owners would normally follow the lead of Traditional Owner members in relation to this class of membership.</p> <p>A vote of the Committee members resulted in a tied vote with the Chair casting a second and deciding vote in favour of the nomination of Mr Shane Coghill. The rules of the University were checked and the appropriateness of this vote confirmed.</p> <p>A member of the Committee expressed the view that the second nomination for that vacancy had been in error. The nominee was contacted, and he confirmed his nomination for the Traditional Owner vacancy was in error and in formally withdrawing that nomination requested he be considered for the male Aboriginal Elder/Representative from other Indigenous Communities vacancy.</p> <p>The Committee was now asked to consider three nominations for the vacant position of <i>one male Aboriginal Elder/Representative from other Indigenous Communities</i>:</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to recommend to the University Council nomination of:</p> <p><b>Mr Shane Coghill</b> to the vacant position of an Aboriginal Elder/Respected member of each of the remaining Traditional Custodian Groups of the Griffith University Lands for two years, up to 31 December 2011.</p> <p><b>Mr Eddie Ruska</b> to the vacant position of one male Aboriginal Elder/Representative from other Indigenous Communities for two years, up to 31 December 2011.</p> <p><b>Mr Thomas Sabastio</b> to the vacant position of one male Torres Strait Islander Representative for two years, up to 31 December 2011.</p> <p><b>Ms McRose Elu</b> to the vacant position of one female Torres Strait Islander Representative for one year, up to 31 December 2010.</p>	<p>Secretary, University Council to be advised of nominations for 4 May Council meeting.</p> <p>Chair, ATSIAC to advise Mr Phillip Falk of his unsuccessful nomination to the Committee.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p>

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<p>Committee Member-ship (Agenda Item 5) <i>Cont'd</i></p>	<p>Letters of nomination for all three were tabled and read. The Chair indicated that the female's nomination could not stand as at this point in time a vacancy exists only for a male Aboriginal Elder/representative, as Ms Delmae Barton is the current female Aboriginal Elder/representative from other indigenous communities.</p> <p>A vote of the Committee members resulted in two abstentions and a majority vote in favour of the nomination of Mr Eddie Ruska.</p> <p>The Committee had before it two nominations for the vacancy of <i>Two Torres Strait Islander representatives (one of whom should be male and one of whom should be female)</i>. The Committee had before it a letter from the male nominee consenting to his nomination to the Committee. The Committee unanimously supported the nominations of Mr Thomas Sabastio and Ms McRose Elu.</p> <p>To ensure that in the future there is always Torres Strait Islander representation, the Committee proposed that Ms McRose Elu be given a one year term with the possibility of extension to 2012 and Mr Thomas Sabastio be given a standard two year term.</p> <p>The Committee was also asked to consider nominations recommended by the Chair for the co-option of <i>five staff/student representatives, one from each campus</i>.</p> <p>Two nominations from the <i>Nathan campus</i> were considered. The Committee voted unanimously to co-opt Mr John Graham.</p> <p>Two nominations from the <i>Southbank campus</i> were considered. The Committee voted unanimously to co-opt Ms Bianca Beetson. The Committee also resolved to co-opt the following students:</p> <p><i>Mt Gravatt campus</i> - Ms Kylie Heron 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. Bachelor of Education Primary  <i>Logan campus</i>- Ms Melissa Hartwell 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. Bachelor of Human Services/Bachelor of Criminology - GISA member  <i>Gold Coast campus</i> - Ms Emily Slattery 3<sup>rd</sup> yr. Bachelor of Nursing</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to co-opt the following staff/students to the Committee:</p> <p><i>Nathan campus</i>  <b>Mr John Graham</b>, for a standard two year term concluding on 31 December 2011.</p> <p><i>Mt Gravatt campus</i>  <b>Ms Kylie Heron</b> for a standard two year term concluding on 31 December 2011.</p> <p><i>Southbank campus</i>  <b>Ms Bianca Beetson</b>, for a standard two year term concluding on 31 December 2011.</p> <p><i>Logan campus</i>  <b>Ms Melissa Hartwell</b> for a one year term until 31 December 2010 with an extension of the term until 31 December 2012.</p> <p><i>Gold Coast campus</i>  <b>Ms Emily Slattery</b> for a one year term until 31 December 2010.</p>	<p>Chair, ATSIAC to advise nominees of their appointment to the Committee.</p> <p>Chair, ATSIAC to advise unsuccessful nominees.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p>

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
Committee Member-ship (Agenda Item 5) <i>Cont'd</i>	<p>ATSIAC was advised it may co-opt other representatives into membership of the Committee and/or to any sub-committees or task groups convened to ensure inclusivity or for expert opinion/consultancy on specific issues. The Chair recommended the Committee consider co-opting the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Rickey Lingwoodock – an advocate for Aboriginals with disabilities</li> <li>• Ms Alea Williams – RHD student representation</li> </ul> <p>The Committee endorsed the Chair’s recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that an induction program for new committee members is being scheduled for 1 p.m. on 6 May. The Chair proposed that Dr Robert Anderson (Uncle Bob), a member of the University Council be invited to share his University committee experience with the members at the ATSIAC Induction program.</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to co-opt the following to the Committee for inclusivity and expert opinion:</p> <p>Mr Rickey Lingwoodock Ms Alea Williams</p>	<p>Chair, ATSIAC to advise nominees of their appointment to the committee.</p> <p>Chair, ATSIAC to issue an invitation to Dr Robert Anderson (Uncle Bob) to attend ATSIAC Induction program.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p>

**SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

NIL

**SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**

NIL

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

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
<p>Chairperson's Report (Agenda Item 3)</p>	<p>The Chair advised that she had shared the Welcome to Country with Shane Coghill during Orientation week this year and had enjoyed the opportunity to meet the families of Griffith's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.</p> <p>The Chair drew to members' attention a letter from the Chancellor dated 19 January 2010 advising of her resignation from ATSIAC. The Chair has formally sent a letter on behalf of the Committee to the Chancellor thanking her for her contributions to ATSIAC. The Chair has also requested that an afternoon tea function be scheduled for ATSIAC with the Chancellor so it can present her with a gift as a token of its appreciation for the role she has played in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education at Griffith.</p> <p>The Chair noted that recently Ms Suzanne Wilkinson had tendered her resignation from the Committee. The Chair requested that a letter be sent to Suzanne thanking her for her contributions to the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair proposed to the Committee that ATSIAC host a lecture series to be named the Griffith University Aunty Celia Smith Lecture. The Committee expressed support for ATSIAC hosting a lecture series, acknowledging that consideration will need to be given to where it fits within the University's other lecture series e.g. Griffith's Nobel Lecture Series, The Griffith Lecture, and Tony Fitzgerald Lecture Series. The Committee expressed the view that a more attractive proposal might be a lecture series and a scholarship fund. Some members indicated that work had previously be undertaken on the development of a scholarship fund, which they thought had been named after Aunty Gloria Beckett and agreed to share it with the membership. There was discussion about naming the first lecture and first scholarship in honour of Aunty Celia Smith, then after other great Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women such as Aunty Monica O'Callaghan. Some members felt the lecture series and scholarship fund should also be inclusive of males, suggesting that the lecture series be presented by community elders.</p>	<p>ATSIAC resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite the Chancellor to an afternoon tea to thank her for her support of ATSIAC</li> <li>• Formally acknowledge Suzanne Wilkinson's resignation and contributions to ATSIAC.</li> <li>• Circulate previous work relating to a scholarship fund for the information of the Committee.</li> <li>• Seek advice from Maureen Ah Sam about how to operationalise the lecture series and scholarship fund as discussed.</li> </ul>	<p>Chair ATSIAC to issue invitation to the Chancellor.</p> <p>Chair, ATSIAC to write to Suzanne Wilkinson.</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC to follow up with Jennifer Herd.</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC to follow up with Maureen Ah Sam.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p>

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Reports from Members (Agenda Item 7)	A written report from Uncle Graham Dillon and Aunty Delmae was tabled and read to the meeting advising that the existing loose arrangement of Elders in Residence and Community Elders is being formalised with the establishment of the Griffith University Elder Network. It was agreed to adjourn discussion of this item to the next meeting.	ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to circulate the tabled report at its next meeting.	Secretary, ATSIAC to circulate report	Secretary, ATSIAC to circulate report
Resignation of Indigenous Employment Coordinator (Agenda Item 12)	The Committee was asked to note the Chairperson's letter to the University in relation to the resignation of Mr Mark Moore and the attached response of the University. Dr Chris Matthews advised that arrangements are underway to recruit a new Indigenous Employment Co-ordinator.	ATSIAC <u>noted</u> the Chairperson's letter to the University in relation to the resignation of Mr Mark Moore and the response of the University.		
Triennial Review of the Committee (Agenda Item 6)  Indigenous Policy and Community Engagement (Agenda Item 8)  GUMURRII Student Support Unit Report (Agenda Item 9)  Indigenous Research Network Report (Agenda Item 10)  ALTC Grant – Getting the Structure Right (Agenda Item 11)	Discussion of these items was adjourned to the next meeting of ATSIAC.	For consideration at the next ATSIAC meeting.	Secretary, ATSIAC to include on the agenda	Secretary, ATSIAC

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
Other Business (Agenda Item 13)	NIL			
Next Meeting (Agenda Item 14)	Thursday 6 May at 2.00pm in Room 2.01 Bray Centre (N54), Nathan campus.  An induction for new Committee members will be held prior to the commencement of the May meeting between 1.00pm and 2.00pm in Room 2.01 N54, with lunch provided.			

Confirmation of minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_