

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee of the Griffith University Council was held at 3:00pm on Thursday, 2 June, 2011 in Room 4.08 (Boardroom), Hub Link (L07), Logan campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mr Graham Dillon (Chair)
Professor Marilyn McMeniman
Mr Cori Duff
Ms McRose Elu
Professor Boni Robertson
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Mr Shane Barnes
Mr Phil Mairu

APOLOGIES:

Dr Robert Anderson
Mr Thomas Sebasio
Ms Gail Stephenson
Ms Jennifer Herd
Mr Harry van Issum

Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 1/2010 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (ATSIAC), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO ACADEMIC COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

NIL

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

**SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS
(TO PERSONS/COMMITTEES OTHER THAN THE PARENT COMMITTEE(S))**

NIL

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION**2.0 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

- 2.1 The Chair advised members of the ATSIAC that Griffith is currently engaged with key stakeholders in developing a university-wide Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP is to be a statement about Griffith's commitment to achieve goals for its Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The Chair reminded members that, as part of the process, students and staff can send comments either directly to the Griffith Indigenous Students Association (GISA), or to the co-chairs of the working party Joanna Peters or Shane Barnes. Alternatively, staff and students can send comments through the Learning Assistance Officers at GUMURRII on each of Griffith's campuses.
- 2.2 The Chair invited Mr Shane Barnes to speak to this item. Mr Barnes advised members that todate preparations for the RAP have included campus consultations with Indigenous staff and students, and invitations to the wider campus community to complete a feedback survey in hard copy or on-line. The survey (a copy was attached with the Agenda papers) asks people for their views about:
- their vision for reconciliation and how it relates to them;
 - why respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are important to them;
 - why respect for Indigenous people, culture, land, history etc is important to them;
 - why opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities are important to them and to other students /staff (Indigenous and non-Indigenous); and
 - other ideas or comments about a RAP for Griffith.
- 2.3 Mr Barnes further advised that these initial consultations have been well received by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the Griffith community, with 70/130 of the responses received todate coming from non-Indigenous members. The Advisory Committee heard Mr Barnes report that, among the many suggestions put forward through the survey, the following are of special interest:
- the inclusion of visible symbols of the traditional owners of the lands upon which Griffith is built on each campus;
 - students from international and non-Indigenous backgrounds in particular have expressed an interest in learning more about Indigenous culture and customs.
- 2.4 Mr Barnes advised the Advisory Committee that the consultation process for the RAP is about to move into its second phase, which involves meeting with the Griffith University Council of Elders to report on progress so far. The third stage will involve the establishment of a working group that will be responsible for drafting the RAP.
- 2.5 The Chair commended Mr Barnes and Ms Peters on their support and work on the RAP so far. The Chair suggested that, given the significance of the RAP for Griffith, special celebrations should be held to mark the launch of the RAP, possibly to coincide with the 25 years of GUMURRII and 40 years of Griffith. Members of the Advisory Committee also congratulated GUMURRII and GISA for the support that these organisations have given to Indigenous students and more recently to the involvement with the RAP.
- 2.6 Members agreed that this item should be brought forward to the August meeting and invited Mr Barnes to provide a further report at this time.

3.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

3.1 The Acting Head, GUMURRII Student Support Unit reported on current issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee, including:

3.1.1 Widening Participation Program – Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP)

Two additional employees have been appointed through the HEPPP funding. This has enabled GUMURRII SSU to increase existing recruitment activities to improve participation of under-represented groups in tertiary education. Both appointments are fixed-term for twelve months with specific outcomes involving improving access, participation, recruitment and retention for Indigenous students at Griffith.

3.1.2 Midwifery Program

GUMURRII staff have worked in partnership with Queensland Health and recruited 19 students into the Midwifery program at Logan Campus for Semester One, 2011. Staff travelled to Townsville to conduct interviews on several occasions and recruited 10 students from Townsville Hospital and nine from other remote areas. A further four students have also commenced as second year students.

GUMURRII SSU will open a support unit based at Townsville Hospital in July 2011. A Learning Assistance Officer has been appointed (0.5) and has commenced duties to assist students with their ITAS and exam preparation.

The Unit plans to expand the outreach activities in the future (Cairns) and continue the collaboration with Townsville Hospital to increase participation in the Midwifery program.

3.1.3 Live the Dream

GUMURRII has participated in *Live the Dream* since its inception in 2010. This program is a DET initiative and GUMURRII's role involved presenting to participants at the Leadership summits conducted for participants. The program has been successful in increasing access and participation for Indigenous students considering enrolling at Griffith. GUMURRII remains committed to participating in the program, which involves significant outreach activities that have the potential to enhance Indigenous student achievement.

In Phase one (2010) of the program, GUMURRII staff conducted a workshop with 25 participants and subsequently recruited five students from the cohort, who are now enrolled at Griffith University. In 2011, the Unit has identified and addressed 28 eligible applicants and has commenced a tracking and monitoring program to inform and educate participants on possible career paths.

3.1.4 Recruitment Programs

The GUMURRII has been engaged in a range of recruitment programs, including: the Gold Coast Showcase, largely focusing on 40 year 11 and 12 Indigenous students from Kingscliffe High and promoting the Health programs available at the Gold Coast campus.

Thursday Island Recruitment Program, an initiative involving Uncle Thomas in September who will visit the secondary colleges for the purpose of encouraging recruitment into a range of outreach activities at the Tagai College and TAFE College – both on Thursday Island.

Career markets aimed at the Indigenous youth market will be conducted in Cairns, Townsville, Mt Isa, Mackay, and Rockhampton. The first workshop was held in Cairns and staff are currently tracking 30 potential applications.

The Bumehla Festival - this coincided with the All Stars Football Game on the Gold Coast in February 2011 and GUMURRII conducted an information session and held a stall to field questions and expressions of interest from over 100 festival attendees.

School-based Outreach Activities were conducted at the following schools: Balmoral State High School, Cavendish Road State High, St Laurence's College, St Peter Claver College, 101FM Live and Local Employment and Career Expo (Logan), and Styling Up (Inala).

- 3.2 The Chair thanked Ms Dillon for her comprehensive Report and congratulated the GUMURRII SSU for its ongoing work in supporting Indigenous students at Griffith.

4.0 INDIGENOUS GRADUATE SUCCESS STORIES - ASPIRE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE!

- 4.1 The ATSIAC noted that the Indigenous Employment Team is producing a booklet of stories describing successful education and employment outcomes of Indigenous Griffith graduates. The publication, which is due to go to print in September 2011, will be a vehicle designed to inspire other Indigenous Australians to gain tertiary qualifications, improve their employment outcomes, and establish a satisfying career.
- 4.2 Mr Phil Mairu spoke to this item and advised that the stories of ATSI graduates will be as close as possible to their own accounts, with minimal editing. They will be accompanied by photographs and artworks created by QCA's Indigenous students. These stories will showcase ATSI graduates and describe their experiences, challenges, and achievements on their pathways through education and employment.
- 4.3 Mr Mairu reminded members of the Advisory Committee that the Indigenous Employment Team would like to include a brief statement of support from the Griffith University Council of Elders in the booklet. The Advisory Committee unanimously supported this initiative and agreed to the inclusion of the following endorsement:

This celebration of the success of Indigenous Griffith graduates is endorsed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Griffith University.

- 4.4 Professor Boni Robertson commended the project and publication and suggested that Mr Mairu contact Ms Dillon to access the names of past students from the 25 years of GUMURRII, many of whom have achieved significantly in their chosen fields and their inclusion in this project will enhance the publication.

5.0 CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

- 5.1 In 2011 GUMURRII SSU will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The Chair reminded members of the ATSIAC that they were asked to consider suitable ideas for celebrating this milestone. Before calling for suggestions from members, the Chair invited Ms Bronwyn Dillon, Acting Head of the Unit, to speak to this item.

- 5.2 Ms Dillon advised the Advisory Committee that the GUMURRII had decided to hold a formal, black tie event in November 2011 at the Chifley-on-Lennons (Brisbane CBD) as the main celebration for 25 years of GUMURRII. Ms Dillon further advised that the Unit is particularly keen to renew contact with its earliest members; including staff and students, and that preparations and planning have already begun for the event. The Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost asked members to note that 2011 is also the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Act of Parliament (30 September), which established Griffith University and that the month of September has been selected for the main events to mark this milestone for Griffith. Professor McMeniman suggested that GUMURRII give some thought to being part of this celebration and to contact her office for further details.
- 5.3 The Chair thanked members for their contributions and recommended that any further suggestions for ways to celebrate 25 years of GUMURRII be forwarded directly to Ms Bronwyn Dillon.

6.0 GRIFFITH INDIGENOUS EDUCATION STATEMENT

- 6.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost was asked to introduce and speak to this item. Professor McMeniman advised members that, working closely with Ms Dillon, Dr Chris Matthews, Professor Boni Robertson, and Mr Shane Barnes, she had prepared Griffith's Indigenous Education Statement. The Indigenous Education Statement is a document that Griffith is required to submit annually to DEEWR, reporting on the acquittal of the University's Indigenous Support Program funds and the activities undertaken by the University in the expenditure of those funds. The document will be uploaded to the web site once approved by DEEWR.

Professor McMeniman advised that the story of support for Indigenous education at Griffith is significant and one that all members should be proud of.

7.0 GRIFFITH MULTI-FAITH CENTRE

- 7.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost reminded members that the Multi-Faith Centre will shortly welcome its new Director. Professor McMeniman also advised that across the University interest has been expressed in exploring ways in which traditional Indigenous beliefs and values can be incorporated into the operations of the Centre. Professor McMeniman asked members to consider ways in which such cross-faith initiatives can be developed, including a suitable event to form part of the 25 years of GUMURRII SSU celebrations.

8.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES - STUDENT FORUM – STANDING ITEM

- 8.1 The Chair reminded members that ATSIAC's constitution states the Committee shall 'receive reports from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as these relate to the strategic functions of the Committee'. Accordingly, the Chair invited the student representative, Mr Corie Duff (representing the northern campuses) to present his verbal report on strategic issues concerning ATSI students at Griffith.
- 8.2 Mr Corie thanked the Chair and advised that, as this was his first meeting and being in the middle of assessment pre-examination preparation, he would submit a full report at the August meeting. Mr Phil Mairu, Griffith Indigenous Student Association (GISA), requested permission to report on two items. Mr Mairu advised that the membership of the GISA has increased steadily over the past two years and that university-wide cross-cultural event, such as the *Walk 'N Talk* and the Sorry Day, have greatly increased the

participation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the Griffith community in such commemorative events.

9.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair noted that, although he had held the position of Chair some years ago, this is a new situation with a new Constitution and he looks forward to an ongoing and fruitful partnership with Griffith University and those representatives drawn from the community and now representing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at Griffith. The Chair further advised that he will present a full report to the Advisory Committee at its August meeting.

10.0 MEMBERSHIP

10.1 Under the provisions of the new Constitution, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee members welcomed the following new Committee members:

Mr Graham Dillon
Professor Marilyn McMeniman
Dr Robert Anderson
Ms Gail Stephenson
Mr Harry van Issum
Mr Thomas Sebasio
Ms McRose Elu
Professor Boni Robertson
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Ms Jennifer Herd
Mr Phil Mairu
Mr Corie Duff
Mr Shane Barnes

11.0 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE ATSIAC

11.1 The ATSIAC noted that its Constitution states that 'the objectives, structure, and relationships of the Committee will be reviewed on a triennial basis'. Members further noted that, along with other University committees and sub-committees, a major review of the ATSIAC was completed in 2010. As a result, a revised constitution (doc no. 2010/0003827) and membership were prepared in 2010 and approved by Council at its March 2011 meeting. A copy of the revised ATSIAC Constitution was attached for members' information.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, 11th August at 3pm in room 2.02, the Chancellery (G34).

2011 Meetings:

2 June	Logan	L07_4.08
11 August	Gold Coast	G34_2.02
27 October	Nathan	Multi Faith Centre N53

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date: