

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (ATSIAC) of the Griffith University Council was held at 1:30pm – 3.30pm on Thursday, 21 March, 2013 in Room 2.01, N54 (Bray Centre), Nathan campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Uncle Graham Dillon (Chair)
Professor Marilyn McMeniman
Uncle Robert Anderson
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Mr Phil Mairu

Mr Harry van Issum
Mr John Graham
Professor Adrian Miller
Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Uncle Thomas Sebasio
Aunty Anne Leisha
Ms Jennifer Herd
Uncle Bill Chapman
Ms Kerry Bodle
Aunty McRose Elu
Professor Boni Robertson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, the Chair invited Uncle Bob Anderson to acknowledge 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 4/2012 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 COUNCIL AND ITS
SUB-COMMITTEES**

2.0 2012 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.1 In 2011 the University introduced the requirement that university-level committees complete annual reports and work plans. The Advisory Committee considered and approved the 2012 Annual Report for transmission to University Council.

Resolution

2.2 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee resolved to recommend that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee's 2012 Annual Report, as described in 2012/0012276, to University Council.

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

3.0 ATSIAC WORK PLAN FOR 2013

3.1 Members considered and endorsed the draft 2013 ATSIAC Work Plan, which includes the following items:

2013 Work Plan	
Activity/Project Name	Sorry Business and the provision of bereavement leave in the University Assessment Policy
	Ongoing oversight and input into the implementation of the Griffith Reconciliation Action Plan
	Input into the development of Indigenous Cultural Protocols for Griffith
	Continued input into the reports of the Gumurrii Student Support Unit
	Continued input into, and monitoring of, the ATSI pages and articles within the Griffith website
Budget requests	Continued catering costs to be covered by DVC & Provost

4.0 APPROPRIATE TERMINOLOGY TO USE IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

4.1 The Advisory Committee noted that the University has recently received advice about appropriate terminology to use in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

4.2 The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples has developed a style guide to assist organisations in the use of appropriate terminology. The University has been advised that the following terminology is acceptable:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- First Nations
- First Nations of Australia
- First Peoples
- First Peoples of Australia
- Australia's First Peoples

The Advisory Committee noted advice from the National Congress that the term 'Indigenous' should not be used except when referencing the formal title of an office, document, organisation, program or Indigenous peoples world-wide. The acronyms 'ATSI', 'CALD', and 'NCAFP' are not appropriate for use.

4.3 The Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost conveyed this advice to the University community (university-wide email of 19 February 2013) and asked members of the university community to review and amend the policies, guidelines, notices, applications, forms etc that are the responsibility of their element, and ensure that future documentation is consistent with the advice from the National Congress.

- 4.4 In terms of the Advisory Committee's communications, members agreed that the preferred term is *First Peoples*, which is consistent with the terminology used on the University's website in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students.

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

5.0 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH NETWORK (IRN)

- 5.1 The Professor, Indigenous Research Network, introduced the Indigenous Research Network's 2012 Annual Report. Professor Miller advised the Advisory Committee that the membership of the IRN has been reviewed and now includes three categories: full members, associate members, and external members. Professor Miller also advised that a business model is currently under development to facilitate the development of the IRN into a fully-fledged university research centre.
- 5.2 The Advisory Committee was advised that the IRN's goals for 2103 are to:
- Submit a proposal to progress the IRN to Research Centre status;
 - Expand membership and collaborations;
 - Identify and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR students;
 - Undertake research capacity building activities;
 - Pursue grants and funding opportunities; and
 - Administer small research grants and conference support to members.
- 5.2 The Advisory Committee noted the following research highlights of the IRN in 2012:
- NHMRC Research Translation Faculty Symposium (24 October 2012), Melbourne;
 - CRC Remote Economic participation (Chair – Interplay Advisory Board) (20 November 2012) Darwin;
 - Expression of Interest – ACER's Indigenous Education Research Database; and
 - Partners in two NHMRC grants and one ARC grant.
- 5.3 The Advisory Committee further noted that the IRN enjoys a range of collaborations with universities and agencies across Australia including the University of Melbourne, James Cook University, University of Newcastle, Southern Cross University, Macquarie University, Deakin University, Charles Darwin University, and the Queensland University of Technology. In addition, the IRN collaborates with the Centre for Rural Health and the University of Sydney and the NSW Ministry of Health.
- 5.4 The Chair thanked Professor Miller for his detailed report.

6.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

- 6.1 The Advisory Committee considered the Report submitted by the Head, GUMURRII Student Support Unit, on current issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee. The Head, GUMURRII SSU, highlighted the following points:

6.1.1 'Hands Up' Tertiary Preparation Program, January 23 - 3 February, 2013

The Head, GUMURRII SSU reminded the Advisory Committee that the 'Hands Up' Tertiary Preparation Program (the Program) assists commencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at Griffith University from Semester 1, 2013. The Advisory Committee noted that the program enables students to adapt to university life and improve their academic skills in a relaxed, supportive, and culturally appropriate environment. The program includes a series of cultural, academic, and administrative activities including lectures and workshops (e.g. men's/women's business, structuring

and writing assignments, oral presentations, navigating Griffith's online environment, scholarships etc). Students were also required to complete an 800 word assignment and a group oral presentation within their chosen area of study.

6.1.2 HEPPP2 – The Family Project

The Advisory Committee noted that Griffith has been successful in securing a three year contract to deliver targeted activities to mature-aged learners. Six three-hour workshops were conducted on the Logan campus, for the first intake of participants from the Kombumerri Ngarang-Wal group. The modules delivered included Basic Computing, navigating the online environment, Word for Basics, and Basic Research. The participants completed a project which involved researching and documenting their family histories. This involved using the internet to access and search public databases and compiling data and images to complete the project. The project is now in its second phase with workshops being conducted in May at the Dunwich Learning Centre, with thirty mature-aged applicants participating.

6.1.3 Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

The ATSIAC noted that Mr William Lindsay, Director, Office for Aboriginal Peoples at Simon Fraser University, visited Griffith (January 21-25) with a delegation of four students and First Nations' Elder, Grandma Marg. The purpose of the visit was to give potential applicants a 'taste of life at Griffith', with the intention that these students will return for an international exchange for the full semester in 2014. Griffith is organising a reciprocal visit in October 2013.

6.2 The Chair thanked the Head, GUMURRII Student Support Unit for her detailed report.

7.0 REPORT FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS

7.1 The report from the Professor Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP) was deferred to the May meeting.

8.0 MEMBERSHIP

8.1 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee welcomed the following members returning to the Advisory Committee:

Uncle Graham Dillon
Uncle Bob Anderson
Aunty Anne Leisha
Uncle Bill Chapman
Uncle Thomas Sebasio
Aunty McRose Elu

8.2 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee thanked the outgoing members for their contributions to the work of the Advisory Committee during 2012:

Mr Shane Barnes (Equity and Diversity Project Officer)
Mr Corie Duff (student representative - northern campuses)
Ms Tish King (student representative - Gold Coast campus)

9.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR and PROVOST'S REPORT

9.1 27 May Proposed as Australia's Day of Celebration

The Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost advised the Advisory Committee that Professor Michael Good, Principal Research Leader and NHRMC Australia Fellow at the Institute for Glycomics, has suggested to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor that the 27 May be promoted as Australia's day of celebration.

Members of the Advisory Committee agreed that the suggestion is worthy of support and further agreed that a strategy should be developed to promote this idea. Members agreed that the concept of 27 May as Australia's day of celebration be taken to the Griffith Council of Elders.

9.2 Understanding Indigenous Culture in Health

The Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost tabled the paper *Understanding Culture in Health – Cultural Considerations in Health Care*, which outlines a range of protocols and advice for health care workers working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Advisory Committee agreed that the University community, particularly those teaching into and studying in the health area, needs a clear set of protocols to guide them when dealing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.

Members of the Advisory Committee agreed that the tabled protocols represent a significant starting point for the University in its development of broader, university-wide protocols. The exception to this endorsement is the section *Words you must never use* (page 3/5), which members agreed should not be included in any documentation prepared by the University; rather the use of preferred terms should be included.

The Chair requested that the Secretary forward the document, *Understanding Culture in Health – Cultural Considerations in Health Care*, to the Griffith Council of Elders for their consideration and comment.

10.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair reported on his involvement in orientation activities at the Gold Coast campus undertaken in January and February with Griffith's international students at the Gold Coast campus.

11.0 NATIONAL SORRY DAY : MONDAY, 27 MAY

Members noted that the 2012 *WALK 'N TALK* in commemoration of National Sorry Day will be held on **Monday, 27th May from 10.00am – 12.00pm**. A sausage sizzle will be served at the conclusion of the walk.

12.0 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

Members noted the 2013 schedule of meetings. Meetings are held on **Thursdays from 1.30pm – 3.30pm**.

Meeting Date 2013	Campus	Venue Allocated
21 March	Nathan	N54_2.01
30 May	Nathan	N54_2.01

22 August	Nathan	N54_2.02
7 November	Nathan	N54_2.01

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date: