

**2/2010 Minutes (June)**

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was held at 3.00pm on Thursday 10 June 2010 at the Multi Faith Centre (N35), Nathan campus

<p><b>Present:</b> Ms Chrissie Andrews (Chairperson) Ms Maureen Ah Sam Mr Shane Coghill Dr Graham Dillon Ms Kaye Dillon Mr John Graham Ms Kylie Heron Professor Marilyn McMeniman Dr Chris Matthews Prof Boni Robertson Mr Thomas Sebasio Ms Emily Slattery Ms Gail Stephenson Ms Alea Williams</p> <p>Secretary: Ms Karen van Haeringen</p>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Ms Delmae Barton Ms Bianca Beetson Ms McRose Elu Ms Melissa Hartwell Ms Jennifer Herd Mr Rickey Lingwoodock Mr Eddie Ruska Ms Suzanne Wilkinson</p>
<p><b>Welcome to Country</b> (Agenda Item 1) Mr Shane Coghill, as a Yuggera Elder, the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held, welcomed members to Country. At the request of Mr Coghill, the Committee observed one minute of silence to reflect on the importance of social inclusion in education and the work of those who had fought for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access, participate and achieve success through higher education.</p> <p><b>Welcome to New Members</b> (Agenda Item 3) The Chair welcomed the following new members who were present at the meeting, Shane Coghill, John Graham, Ms Kylie Heron, Ms Emily Slattery and Ms Alea Williams, requesting that each member introduce themselves, which they did.</p> <p><b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> (Agenda Item 4) The Chair verbally proposed a number of amendments to the 1/2010 Minutes, including an amendment to the 3/2009 (Adjourned) Minutes. These amendments were not accepted by the Committee's members. As agreement could not be reached between the Chair and the rest of the committee on the minutes, confirmation of the minutes was deferred to a future meeting.</p> <p>One of the amendments related to the appointment of Mr Eddie Ruska to the vacant position of one male Aboriginal Elder/Representative from other Indigenous Communities. On this point the Chair stated that the minutes were restricted to the decisions made and did not fully reflect the discussion or the processes in relation to</p>	

the election of this member. The Chair continued to express her concern that Mr Eddie Ruska was in the same Traditional Owner Group as herself and therefore could not be appointed under the category of *other Indigenous Communities*. Dr Graham Dillon advised the meeting of the communities to which Mr Eddie Ruska belongs, advising that this information had been provided by Dr Bob Anderson. In response the Chair read to the Committee a letter dated 29 April 2010 from the Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) about a breach of confidentiality at the 1/2010 meeting and reminded members of their responsibility to maintain confidentiality about matters relating to individuals. This letter also outlined to the Chair, the inappropriateness of one of her proposed amendments to the minutes. The Chair indicated that Committee protocols had been breached by community members invited for the item on the Griffith University Council of Elders being present for the entire meeting.

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

NIL

**SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
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<p>Student Forum (Agenda Item 6)</p>	<p>ATSIAC's constitution provides a provision to 'receive reports from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as these relate to the strategic functions of the Committee'.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that she has asked for a Student Forum to be the first item of business on all ATSIAC agendas in the future. As this was the first Student Forum, she would ask all of the students present to identify an area of strength and an area of weakness of the University in delivering educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>The undergraduate students described GUMURRII as a real strength of the University, in terms of its sense of community and its support for students' studies. The ITAS tutors were particularly commended for their support in identifying opportunities. One student cited the support she had received from her ITAS tutor and GUMURRII in applying for a Governor General's Indigenous Teaching Scholarship. The undergraduate students also commented on GUMURRII's new computers, the availability of printers and the use of swipe cards to access resources out of hours.</p> <p>The postgraduate students indicated that they had not tapped into GUMURRII's resources and as such did not connect with the Indigenous community at Griffith. This lack of community had left them at times feeling isolated and they found it really hard to continue with their studies. However the University had been accommodating, in some cases extending their period of confirmation. Concern was expressed at the lack of a male aboriginal trained counsellor available through GUMURRII and that mainstream counselling services had to be accessed resulting in placement on waiting lists. This service was deemed to be inadequate given the issues confronting Aboriginal males in terms of study and meeting cultural and family obligations. It was recommended that the issue of providing Indigenous counsellors be raised with the Director, Student Services. It was also acknowledged that there are some fantastic things going on at Griffith, in particular the work of the Indigenous Research Centre Network.</p>	<p>ATSIAC resolved that the student members identify and advise the Secretary, ATSIAC of the issue to be addressed under the Student Forum item for each meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC to create Student Forum room on the Committee's Team Place site and to provide access to all committee members elected to the Committee as student representatives for the purpose of consulting about the Student Forum issue.</p> <p>Student members to advise Secretary, ATSIAC of the issue for the next agenda.</p> <p>Head of GUMURRII SSU to raise the issue of providing Indigenous Counsellors with Director, Student Services.</p> <p>Debbie Woodbridge to make a presentation at the next meeting about the Healing Centre.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p> <p>ATSIAC elected student members</p> <p>Head of GUMURRII SSU</p> <p>Secretary, ATSIAC</p>
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**SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
ALTC Grant – Getting the Structure Right (Agenda Item 7)	The Committee was advised that Dr Chris Matthews is leading an ALTC grant entitled 'Facilitating a Whole-of-University Approach to Indigenous Curriculum Development: Leadership Frameworks for Cultural Partnership.' Advice from ATSIAC about the approach being taken on this grant was sought and a report on Phase 1 Progress delivered. Advice was given that the first year of the grant has focused on developing working relationships with the Elders and their communities, as well as establishing protocols for working together. As a group consideration is being given to the question of what constitutes the Indigenous curriculum and a variety of views are being collected. The Committee endorsed the partnership approach that the grant is pursuing and congratulated Dr Chris Matthews for being awarded this ALTC grant.	ATSIAC resolved to endorse the process outlined in the grant application for developing partnerships to facilitate a whole-of-university approach to Indigenous curriculum.	Dr Chris Matthews to report back to the Griffith Institutional Leadership Team for the ALTC grant 'Facilitating a Whole-of-University Approach to Indigenous Curriculum Development: Leadership Frameworks for Cultural Partnership.'	Dr Chris Matthews

<p>Indigenous Australian Undergraduate &amp; Postgraduate Scholarships (Agenda Item 9)</p>	<p>At the 1/2010 meeting the Chair proposed that ATSIAC host a lecture series to be named the Griffith University Aunty Celia Smith Lecture. The Committee expressed the view that a more attractive proposal might be a lecture series and a scholarship fund. The Committee was advised that a proposal for a program of Indigenous Australian undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships had been prepared previously in the context of the Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art. A copy of that proposal was before the Committee for discussion. Unfortunately Jennifer Herd was not present at the meeting and unavailable to speak to the proposal. As a result, the Chair proposed that ATSIAC reconsider her proposal from the 1/2010 meeting and initiate arrangements for a Celia Smith lecture to occur twice each year within the University's existing lecture series. The Chair also proposed that the Committee provide advice to the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost about the development of Indigenous Australian undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships within the context of this annual lecture.</p> <p>The Director, GUMURRIL SSU advised ATSIAC that 2011 will mark the silver anniversary (25 years) of the work of the Unit, and as part of those celebrations the inaugural Aunty Celia Smith Scholarship could be launched. The Committee supported this idea and recommended that a small working party comprising, Ms Maureen Ah Sam, Professor Boni Robertson, Dr Chris Matthews and Ms Chrissie Andrews be convened to plan the event and the establishment of the scholarship.</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to establish a small working party to prepare a proposal for the inaugural Aunty Celia Smith Scholarship.</p>	<p>Director GUMURRIL SSU to convene working party</p>	<p>Director, GUMURRIL SSU</p>
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**SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION**

Name of item	Brief Description	Resolution	Action to be Taken	Responsible Officer
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<p>Chairperson's Report (Agenda Item 5)</p>	<p>The Chair thanked the Secretary for conducting an induction program to the Committee for new members prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Chair encouraged members who were unable to attend the Induction to contact the Secretary.</p> <p>The Chair reported that she had conducted a Welcome to Country at the GISA Softball Competition.</p> <p>The Chair reported that she has worked hard to ensure that all ATSIAC's membership categories were full and welcomed all new members. The Chair reminded members that ATSIAC is an essential part of the governance model required by the Australian Government and its role is to remove the social exclusion of Indigenous people and to improve their educational outcomes. The Chair hoped the educational outcomes of the Committee's student members would be enhanced by the experience.</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>noted</u> the Chair's Report.</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>NIL</p>
<p>Triennial Review of the Committee (Agenda Item 8)</p>	<p>The ATSIAC Constitution states that 'the objectives, structure, and relationships of the Committee will be reviewed on a triennial basis'. The last major review of the Committee was completed in March 2007. The Committee was invited to provide advice to the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost about initiating a review. The Chair requested that written submissions from ATSIAC members about the current constitution be provided to her by 10 July 2010 for the purpose of collation and for her to present to the next ATSIAC meeting for endorsement as the Committee's proposals. Members of the Committee commented that the recommendation for this item contained within the agenda proposes advice be given to the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost and not the Chair, ATSIAC. Given differences of opinion about to whom the Committee was to communicate its views about the Triennial review the Committee agreed to defer this matter for discussion at a future meeting.</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>resolved</u> to defer discussion of the Triennial Review of the Committee to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC to place on a future agenda.</p>	<p>Secretary, ATSIAC.</p>
<p>Indigenous Policy and Community Engagement (Agenda Item 10)</p>	<p>The Professor of Indigenous Policy and Community Engagement provided a verbal report on the Griffith University Elders in Residence and the proposal to establish the Griffith University Council of Elders.</p>	<p>ATSIAC <u>noted</u> the Professor of Indigenous Policy and Community Engagement's Report</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>NIL</p>

GUMURRII SSU Report (Agenda Item 11)	The Head, GUMURRII SSU verbally reported on a recent invitation from the Department of Education and Training, Gold Coast Region for GUMURRII to participate in a 4 day Indigenous camp for Year 12 students at Runaway Bay providing access to 145 students for the purpose of university recruitment. Another invitation from the Department of Education and Training provides access to 459 Indigenous students and from Catholic Education provides access to 209 Indigenous students for GUMURRII's recruitment activities. The issue was raised by one member as to whether GUMURRII should be recruiting students from across the state or should its focus be on recruiting students from the traditional ownership groups of the land on which the University's campuses are located. Opinions on this issue were divided.	ATSIAC noted the Head GUMURRII SSU's Report	NIL	NIL
Other Business (Agenda Item 12)	While at this point in the agenda the Committee was no longer quorate, the Chair did not close the meeting; as a result, discussions that have not been recorded continued after the Secretary left the meeting.			
Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)	Thursday 12 August at 1.00pm in Room 2.01 Bray Centre (N54), Nathan campus.			

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