

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, 11 August, 2011 in Room 1.07 (L08), Logan campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Mr Graham Dillon (Chair)
Mr Harry van Issum
Ms McRose Elu
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Mr Shane Barnes
Dr Robert Anderson
Ms Gail Stephenson
Mr Thomas Sebasio
Mr John Graham
Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Prof Marilyn McMeniman
Prof Boni Robertson
Ms Anne Chapman
Ms Jennifer Herd
Mr Bill Chapman
Mr Corie Duff

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 2/2010 meeting and the 1/2011 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 reminded members of the ATSIAC that Griffith is currently engaged with key stakeholders in developing a university-wide Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which is to be a statement about Griffith's commitment to achieve goals for its Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Members recalled 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 consultations with the Griffith Council of Elders have taken place and the RAP Working Party has held its first meeting (Tuesday, 9th August). Smaller reference groups will be established to deal with specific issues as they arise. Ms Joanna Peters is compiling the notes, which will be distributed to the Advisory Committee when they are approved.
- 2.3 Mr Barnes asked members to note that 200 surveys have been completed, and that the Head, GUMURRII SSU has asked that another email be sent, with the relevant link included in the email, to students, as she feels we need a stronger response rate from our students. Mr Barnes advised that an overwhelming response has been received from International students and current Griffith staff in support of the implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- 2.4 Members agreed that this item should be brought forward to the October meeting and invited Mr Barnes to provide a further report at this time.

3.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

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

3.1.1 GUMURRII 25th Anniversary

On the 30th September, at the Chifley, Lennons Plaza we are holding a prestige event to celebrate the 25th Anniversary. A committee has been formed to oversee the management for this event. The function will honour both current and past graduating students and staff of GUMURRII SSU. Invitations are now being designed and will be distributed within the next month. Tickets will be \$30 each with limited seating available. The 40th Anniversary of Griffith will also be acknowledged.

3.1.2 Griffith 40th Anniversary

Members of the Advisory Council, Indigenous Research Network, GUMURRII SSU, Community Partnerships and other elements will be invited to nominate to participate in a lecture series. The topics have not yet been finalised and input from the Advisory Committee will be sought in finalising the topics. Suggestions have included 'Spirituality and Religion'. The venue under consideration is the Multi-Faith Centre at Nathan.

GUMURRII SSU will also host a series of social events (morning tea or lunches) on each campus to enable student and wider staff participation in the Griffith 40th anniversary celebrations.

3.1.3 Construction of GUMURRII SSU Building - Gold Coast campus

Construction of the new GUMURRII Student Support Unit building at the Gold Coast Campus will commence shortly. The new building is due for completion in December 2012 and will accommodate expected growth in student enrolments, particularly from the Northern New South Wales sector.

Consultation with Elders-in-Residence will commence on incorporating appropriate cultural aspects to the building design. Kevin O'Brien is the Head Architect and has been instrumental in ensuring that the needs of the Student Support Unit have been accommodated. Copies of the design were tabled at the meeting.

3.1.4 NAIDOC Activities

GUMURRII SSU participated in activities across the Brisbane and Gold Coast area during NAIDOC. Activities included information stalls at the following celebrations: Logan NAIDOC; Gold Coast NAIDOC; Musgrave Park Celebration; Burrigilly NAIDOC; and Dunwich State High School (North Stradbroke Island).

3.1.5 The QLD Murri Carnival

The QLD Murri Carnival will be held at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba (Gold Coast) on September 22 – 25th. The football carnival is the first state-wide Indigenous Rugby League Carnival. The carnival will also host a Careers Expo, which is expected to attract approximately 20,000 people over four days. Griffith University is one of the sponsors for the program.

GUMURRII SSU will work in partnership with Griffith Health to provide essential health services for players and participants. This event will give students from GUMURRII SSU an opportunity to gain experience and practical skills in delivering health care to participants, including injury checks, strapping and massaging.

The event will also provide opportunity for GUMURRII SSU to raise awareness of the programs and support available for Indigenous students at Griffith University.

The event will be coordinated by Maxlea Productions Pty Ltd, which includes Tony Currie and Paula Maling. The Event Ambassador is Arthur Beetson.

3.1.6 Improvements to ITAS processes

GUMURRII SSU facilitates the delivery of tutorial services through the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS). Each student is eligible to apply for two hours per subject, per week during the semester. The current system is paper-based and requires a large amount of administrative support. A new computerised system is being developed which is designed to streamline the process for students, staff and tutors while reducing the paper output through an electronic lodgement system. The program will have the following features:

- Students will be able to apply through an online facility;
- Tutors will be able to register online;
- Staff will be notified electronically that an application is pending; and
- Forms will be auto-filled and stored electronically.

The system will be launched in time for the 2012 student intake. Testing of the system will be undertaken during the semester break to ensure effectiveness and efficiency is achieved.

3.1.7 Townsville Unit

There have been delays in opening the new unit in Townsville due to the need to remove Asbestos from the site and update electrical wiring. Queensland Health will meet the costs of these necessary delays. At this stage, it is anticipated that the Unit will open in late August 2011. The new Learning Assistance Officer (Kirsty Leo) has commenced and is currently utilising the office of the Nursing Director (Roianne West), who has been most supportive and pivotal in making this project successful. Cheryl Cannon has been instrumental in supporting the students, staff and external stakeholders involved.

3.1.8 Student exchange

Two students have been selected to participate in the Vancouver Cultural Exchange in September 2011. All eligible students were invited to apply through an expression of interest and application form. Applicants were required to have a cumulative Grade Point Average above Five, and have accumulated at least 80 credit points. The two successful applicants are Edward Synot and Lance Solomon. Edward is a graduate law student who has had a long association with GUMURRII SSU and Lance is undertaking his second year of Information Technology, specialising in Computing and Intelligent Systems (Artificial Intelligence). This opportunity has arisen firstly through the visit of the delegates from Simon Fraser with ongoing support and assistance from Ms Heidi Piper (Manager, Griffith International).

- 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 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION WORKFORCE STRATEGY

- 4.1 The representative from the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) tabled a copy of the National Indigenous Higher Education Workforce Strategy (May 2011) and drew ATSIAC's attention to the recommendation that every higher education institution should have a dedicated Indigenous Employment Officer. The Advisory Committee was advised that Griffith's previous HR Indigenous Employment Officer position is now titled Equity and Diversity Project Officer. The ATSIAC noted that the HR Indigenous Employment Officer position was the outcome of negotiations between the University and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU). Regarding their concern about this shift of title, the ATSIAC noted that, as far as members could recall, the Advisory Committee had not been consulted over this change of title. The ATSIAC sought assurance from the University that the current Equity and Diversity Project Officer position continues to be responsible for a range of functions relevant to Indigenous employment, including increasing and supporting internal and external Indigenous employment and development at Griffith as well as other Australian universities. The ATSIAC also agreed that a letter will be written to the University outlining these concerns. The ATSIAC noted that this matter will also be referred to a meeting of the Griffith Council of Elders for their consideration and advice.

5.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES - STUDENT FORUM – STANDING ITEM

- 5.1 As the student representative had forwarded his apologies for this meeting, he was unable to present his verbal report on strategic issues concerning ATSI students at Griffith.

6.0 UPDATE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORK RELATIONS (DEEWR)

- 6.1 Ms Gail Stephenson, representative from DEEWR, advised members of the ATSIAC that Ms Fiona Tinning, Acting Assistance Director, Indigenous Higher Education is currently working in Brisbane and would like to visit the Elders-in-Residence and the ATSIAC. The ATSIAC endorsed this suggestion and asked the Secretary to liaise with Ms Stephenson regarding a suitable time and date.

7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Due to circumstances beyond his control, the Chair arrived at the meeting at 3.30pm and suggested that the meeting proceed without his Report. The Chair further advised that he will present a full report to the Advisory Committee at its October meeting.

8.0 MEMBERSHIP

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

Mr John Graham has been appointed under the current ATSIAC Constitution as one of the Coopted Staff Representatives to the ATSIAC. Mr Graham was appointed via Flying Minute (distributed on 20 June) to members, who fully endorsed Mr Graham's term for two years until 11 July 2013.

Ms Anne Chapman and Mr Bill Chapman have been appointed by the University Council (August meeting), as the two Aboriginal representatives to the ATSIAC; their term concludes on 3 May 2013.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, 27th October at 3pm in Multi Faith Centre, Nathan campus.

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date: