

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 1.30pm – 3.30pm on Thursday, 31 May 2012 in Council Chambers, Room 2.02, The Chancellery (G34), Gold Coast campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Uncle Graham Dillon (Chair)
Professor Marilyn McMeniman
Ms Kerry Bodle
Mr Harry van Issum
Professor Boni Robertson
Aunty Anne Chapman
Mr John Graham
Mr Corie Duff
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Ms Tish King

Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Uncle Thomas Sebasio
Ms Gail Stephenson
Ms Jennifer Herd
Uncle Bill Chapman
Uncle Bob Anderson
Mr Shane Barnes
Aunty McRose Elu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, the Chair invited Mr John Graham 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 1/2012 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (ATSIAC), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

The ATSIAC welcomed the following new members:

Ms Kerry Bodle (staff representative – Dept. of Accounting, Finance, and Economics)
Ms Tish King (undergraduate student representative – Gold Coast (Bachelor of Marine Science))

**SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO COUNCIL AND ITS
SUB-COMMITTEES****3.0 BIENNIAL REVIEW OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (ATSIAC)**

- 3.1 The ATSIAC recalled that the University's Council (December 2011 meeting) endorsed the requirement for the Biennial Review of university-level committees. As the ATSIAC is a sub-committee of Council and was reviewed in 2010, Council has advised that the ATSIAC is to conduct an internal review in 2012. The final Review Report is to be submitted to Council by its October 2012 meeting at the latest.
- 3.2 The ATSIAC further recalled that it considered the terms and scope of the review at its March meeting and addressed in detail each of the following questions, which had been supplied by Council to assist university committees in their review:
1. Are meetings well organised and make effective use of time?
 2. Does the committee operate effectively as a team?
 3. Are relationships between the committee and management, external stakeholders, and internal stakeholders productive and constructive?
 4. Are papers for committee meetings comprehensive and received in adequate time?
 5. Does the committee have the right mix of skills?
 6. Is enough time allocated for the important issues?
 7. Is the committee constitution clear and are we fulfilling it?
 8. Do we receive enough information about the University's activities and initiatives to inform our decision making?
- 3.3 On the basis of the discussions held at the March 2012 meeting, a draft Review Report (2012/00012255) was prepared and considered by the ATSIAC at the May meeting. A copy of the ATSIAC Constitution (doc 2012/00012254), which includes the minor revisions raised in the internal review, was also attached and considered by members.
- 3.4 The ATSIAC agreed that the Biennial Review Report captures the detailed discussion of the questions listed in 3.2 above and also conveys the key achievements of the ATSIAC since the committee has been operating under its revised constitution in early 2011. The Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost requested that the wording of the following sentence in paragraph 2.3 be changed as follows:

From:

In the Committee's opinion, this position was inappropriately called the *Equity and Diversity Project Officer*

To:

In the opinion of some members, this position was inappropriately called the *Equity and Diversity Project Officer*.

- 3.5 Members noted the following recommendations for minor revisions to the ATSIAC's membership, particularly the introduction of the nominee category for the representatives from the QIECC and DIISTRE.
- (4) Representative or nominee, Commonwealth Department of [Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education](#), ~~Education, Employment and Workplace Relations~~ (DIISTRE ~~EDEEWR~~) nominated by the Department and appointed by [the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Council](#).
 - (5) Representative or nominee, Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) nominated by QIECC and appointed by [the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Council](#).

The ATSIAC agreed that the inclusion of a nominee option for the Convenor, Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art should also be introduced and agreed that the following additional change to the membership provisions of the ATSIAC should be included in the recommendations of the Biennial Review and in the revised Constitution:

- (11) Convenor, Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art, or nominee (ex officio).
- 3.6 The representative from the QIECC raised the point that the meetings of the QIECC clash with many of the scheduled meetings of the ATSIAC, impacting on his ability to attend all four of the ATSIAC's meetings. The Secretary agreed to monitor this situation.
- 3.7 The members noted that the representative from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Ms Gail Stephenson), who was unable to attend the meeting, has advised the Secretary, Chair, and DVC & Provost that the responsibility for matters concerning indigenous higher education has been transferred to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISTRE). Members were further advised that the Secretary has written to the relevant person within DIISTRE requesting the name of a suitable replacement for Ms Stephenson. The ATSIAC noted that the Secretary hopes that the new person will be in place for the August meeting of the ATSIAC.
- 3.8 The ATSIAC resolved to recommend the Biennial Review Report, as described in doc 2012/0012260 and the revised ATSIAC Constitution, as described in doc 2012/0012254, to Council for consideration.

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

NIL

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

4.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

4.1 The ATSIAC considered the Report submitted by the Head, Gumurrii Student Support Unit, on current issues of relevance to the ATSIAC. The Head, GUMURRII SSU, highlighted the following points for the ATSIAC:

4.1.1 Foundation Year

The Gumurrii's plans for the introduction of a Foundation Year are progressing well with the following milestones achieved:

- Recruitment of Educational Designer (HEW8, Fixed Term 12 months). The applications for the position have been advertised through Griffith Website, Seek, and the Koorie Mail. The closing date for application is 25th May. It is anticipated that an appointment will commence mid-June, once the Recruitment and Selection process has been completed.
- Recruitment of Business Support Officer (HEW8, Fixed Term 12 months) will be advertised in June with appointment to commence in late June.
- An initial scoping exercise has been implemented to assess what other Universities offer for foundation year programs.
- A steering committee will be formulated once the appointment (Educational Designer) has been executed. The steering committee will have representatives from each Academic Group, University Administration, GUMURRII Student Support Unit, Indigenous Research Network and Elders-In-Residence.
- Negotiations continue in regard to product and service delivery, which will be further developed once the incumbent commences in June.

The ATISAC commended the Gumurrii SSU on this initiative and supported the introduction of a broadly-based steering committee to oversee the planning and implementation of the Foundation Year. The Chair and the DVC & Provost suggested that the Secretary, who has had extensive experience in academic planning matters, be included as a member of the proposed steering committee.

4.1.2 Refurbishment of Patience Thoms (N06)

The refurbishment of Patience Thoms, which is designed to accommodate the relocation of the Gumurrii Administrative Unit from the Gumurrii Centre (N03) to Patience Thoms building (N06), is progressing well with regular meetings conducted between the relevant stakeholders. Mr Kevin O'Brien, contracted architect for the Gold Coast construction and Nathan refurbishments, has ensured that the refurbishment and interior design of the new unit is culturally appropriate.

Members noted that, at this stage, the relocation is scheduled for late August, 2012.

Members considered the blueprint plans for the refurbishments and noted that the new space includes an outdoor, recreational area. Members agreed that this space should be covered, to accommodate the Queensland climate, particularly the summer, and requested that the plans

be modified to include appropriate, permanent awnings for the outdoor area.

5.0 GRIFFITH INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (GISA)

- 5.1 The President of GISA reported on a number of the Association's recent initiatives, including:
- A group of 16 postgraduate students will be participating in the indigenous games at Cairns later in the year.
 - A movie night will be hosted by GISA at the Nathan campus.
 - Support for the National Sorry Day's Walk'nTalk celebrations by providing the bar-b-que after the walk.
 - Student Survey completed that captured concerns of indigenous students about the current academic leave provisions, which do not accommodate the indigenous concept of and family needs for *sorry business*. The ATSIAC agreed that the University needs to embrace this concept as it relates to indigenous students and their family needs. Accordingly, the President of GISA was advised to compile some examples of instances where indigenous students who were required to attend to sorry business and who were disadvantaged by the current academic leave provisions. The President was further advised to forward these concerns, as well as suggested amendments to the *Assessment Submission and Return Procedures* policy, to the Academic Registrar, Ms Kathy Grgic.

6.0 WORLD INDIGENOUS NATIONS HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (WINHEC)

- 6.1 The Professor, Indigenous Policy, Engagement and Partnerships (ICEPP) presented a pictorial power point illustrating representatives from the contingent of Indigenous Elders who spoke at the 2011 meeting of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Council in Peru and Norway in support of the proposal submitted by the Griffith University Council of Elders and ICEPP to establish a Global Indigenous Elders Alliance. Members noted that the proposal was submitted to coincide with WINHEC's presentation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples about Indigenous knowledge, the protection and preservation of Indigenous intellectual and cultural property rights, and the role of Elders in the transition of knowledge to young generations and within systems such as higher education.
- 6.2 The Professor (ICEPP) advised that the proposal was supported unanimously by NGOs at the Permanent Forum and by Elders who represented Indigenous nations from across the world, including four nations from Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan, five Nations from America including Hawaii and Alaska, Norway, Peru and Australia. The power point showed one of the Co-Chairs of WINHEC signing the document endorsing the proposal of the Griffith University Council of Elders and ICEPP.
- 6.3 In subsequent discussions regarding the proposal, members of the ATSIAC were advised of the support provided by the Griffith University Executive to establish a Council of Elders and by the PVC (International), who provided financial support for the Griffith Council of Elders to attend the meeting. The establishment of the Griffith Council of Elders was viewed as a ground-breaking initiative. WINHEC members acknowledged that the initiative reinforced by the establishment of a Global Indigenous Elders Alliance set a global precedence to the way in which Indigenous Elders would be included in higher education and was viewed

as another example of the contributions made by Griffith to WINHEC and international Indigenous higher education.

- 6.4 Members of the ATSIAC thanked the Professor, Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Partnerships for the detailed and illustrated presentation.

7.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- 7.1 The Chair reported on a range of outreach activities that he has been involved in at the Gold Coast campus and in this region more generally. Uncle Graham reported on an invitation from Dr Irene Austwick (Client Admin, Griffith English Language Institute (GELI)) to conduct a tour of the Gold Coast for 23 Russian teachers. The scheduled date for the tour is Thursday, 23rd August 2012.

8.0 DRAFT STRUCTURE FOR PROTOCOLS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

- 8.1 Members noted the tabled document, *Draft Structure for Protocols of Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* (PowerPoint slides and notes), which will be distributed with the Agenda for the August 2012 meeting and considered in detail then.

9.0 ATSIAC WORK PLAN FOR 2012

- 9.1 Members recalled that they had considered and endorsed the 2012 ATSIAC Work Plan at the March 2012 meeting, as detailed below in the following table. Members suggested that regular updates on the national learning and teaching project, *Facilitating a Whole-of-University Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Development: Leadership Frameworks for Cultural Partnership* be included in the ATSIAC Work Plan (incorporated below).

| 2012 ATSIAC Work Plan | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Activity/ Project Name | Continued input into the Federal Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for ATSI People |
| | Ongoing oversight and input into the implementation of the Griffith Reconciliation Action Plan |
| | Successful completion of Self Review of ATSIAC and submit Final Report to Council by 31 October 2012 |
| | 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 |
| | Ongoing monitoring of the Facilitating a Whole-of-University Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Development: Leadership Frameworks for Cultural Partnership project |
| Budget requests | Continued catering costs to be covered by DVC & Provost |

10.0 ORIENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

- 10.1 The Chair advised that it is customary to outline the functions of the Committee at the first meeting for incoming members. The Chair advised that the ATSIAC is primarily an advisory committee that works closely with the University's Council to monitor the University's performance in the areas of support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at Griffith, including:
 - o Planning priorities and strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, research, employment, training and professional development in the University's Strategic Plan, and the Equity and Diversity Plan;

- Establishing and maintaining effective and on-going consultative mechanisms to enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and partners to participate in institutional planning and decision-making for student recruitment, participation and support, and for community engagement strategies that recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to self-determination and cultural affirmation; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education priorities, opportunities, developments, and achievements referred from Council, the Academic Committee and other key University committees.

10.2 The Chair also drew members' attention to the structure of the Agenda, which includes standing items that reflect the core business of the ATSIAC and allow the Committee to check the progress of items concerning the ongoing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at Griffith in terms of postgraduate and undergraduate student support, Community Partnerships, Research and postgraduate activities.

10.3 Incoming members noted these points and agreed to contact either the Chair or the Secretary, if they had any questions.

11.0 2012 NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Members noted that the 2012 *WALK 'N TALK* commemorating National Sorry Day was successfully held on Monday, 28th (Mt Gravatt to Nathan) and Thursday 31st May (Gold Coast) between 10.00am – 12.00pm. A sausage sizzle was served at the conclusion of the walk.

12.0 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Members noted the 2012 schedule of meetings. Meetings are held on **Thursdays from 1.30pm – 3.30pm**.

| Meeting Date | Campus | Venue Allocated |
|--------------|--------|-----------------|
| 22 March | Nathan | N54_2.01 |
| 31 May | Logan | L07_4.08 |
| 9 August | Nathan | N54_2.01 |
| 25 October | Logan | L07_4.08 |

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date: