

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meeting No. 1, 2009**

Meeting No. 1, 2009 of the University Education Committee was held on Friday 27 February 2009 at 9.30 am in the Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry.

Present: Professor Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor, in the Chair; Professor Stanton, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Professor Anderson; Mr Auckett; Ms Bartlett; Professor Beaumont; Mr Beckett; Professor Byrne; Professor Coper; Professor Houghton; Professor Johnson; Professor Oakes; Professor Provis; and Mr Sara.

By invitation: Dr Akerlind; Dr Buchhorn (Item 11.); Professor Carroll; Professor Dodson (Item 8.); Dr Hort; and Dr Shortland.

In attendance: Ms Bruce

Disclosure of Pecuniary or Material Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or material person interest in matters listed in the agenda.

Use of Inside Information or Position

Under sections 24 and 25 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, a member of the University Education Committee must not make improper use of his or her position or of inside information to gain an advantage for himself or herself or to cause detriment to the University or to another person.

MINUTES

PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

ITEM 1. MINUTES

The minutes of Meeting No. 6, 2008 of the University Education Committee (1396/2008) held on 28 November 2008 were confirmed with the following addition to the list of those attending: Professor Oakes (published at http://info.anu.edu.au/ovc/Committees/040PP_Education/meetings).

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

Item 8. ANUSA Undergraduate Review of Teaching and Learning 2008: Response from the UEC (1397/2008)

- 4. Digital Lecture Delivery. The Committee noted that recording of lectures was a very live issue with students. The working party to develop a University policy in the terms of (iv) of the Response would be addressing the issues raised.
- It was agreed to request a progress report on actions arising from the Review for the next Committee meeting.

ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies were received from Professor Deane, Professor Cram, Professor Makkai, Professor Glasgow and Mr Brown.

3.2 Announcements

ITEM 4. MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Committee noted the following:

4.1 Membership Changes from 2009

- General Staff representative: Ms Annie Bartlett, ASLC
- President, ANUSA, or nominee: Mr Sham Sara
- President, PARSA, or nominee: Mr Matthew Auckett
- Standing invitation to attend:
 - Dr Gerlese Akerlind, Head, CEDAM
 - Dr Michael Shortland, Director, Student Services

4.2 ANU College Dean Alternates: Appointments and Arrangements Notified by ANU College Deans

- CAP: Professor Kent Anderson – Dean’s alternate for all meetings
- CASS: Professor Joan Beaumont– Dean’s alternate in the Dean’s absence; will attend meetings with the Dean where feasible
- CBE: A/Professor Alex Clarke – Dean’s alternate in the Dean’s absence; will attend meetings with the Dean where feasible
- CECS: A/Professor Chris Johnson – Dean’s alternate for all meetings
- CoL: Dr Jonathan Powles – Dean’s alternate in the Dean’s absence; will attend meetings with the Dean where feasible
- CMBE: Professor Jan Provis – Dean’s alternate in the Dean’s absence
- CPS: Dr Richard Baker – Dean’s alternate in the Dean’s absence; may attend meetings with the Dean where feasible

4.2 Membership and Operating Procedures for the Committee (132a/2009).**ITEM 5. STARRED ITEMS**

The starred items were: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 16. The unstarred items were approved without debate as set out in the agenda.

ITEM 6. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

No items of other business were foreshadowed.

ITEM 7. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were no confidential matters. Dr Baker, Dr Buchhorn, Professor Clarke, Ms Gouldthorp, Dr Powles, Dr Smith and Ms Yu attended as observers.

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS**ITEM 8. RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

The Chair welcomed Professor Dodson, Director, ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies, to the meeting and congratulated him on being chosen as Australian of the Year. Members noted the draft *ANU Reconciliation Action Plan* (1389/2008) and the *Audit Report* (1402/2008). The response from the University Community Equity Committee had also been available to members. The revised *Plan* would be presented to the March Council meeting and launched in June with a commencement from 2011 to allow about 18 months lead-time for areas to prepare and develop local plans.

Professor Dodson commented on a decline in the number of completions in learning professions including by Indigenous Australians, possible ways to increase the number of Indigenous staff

members, such as exploring whether suitable candidates are available when a vacancy arises, that ANU has the highest cohort of Indigenous HDR students and the lowest Indigenous undergraduate cohort of the Go8 universities, and further enhancement of graduate studies. He reported on a two-day workshop at Bateman's Bay organised by the Centre which had been very successful in opening up further opportunities for engagement and networking in higher degree research.

Principal issues discussed by the Committee were:

- . Strategies to achieve the proposed targets. It was noted that the timeframe of five years was likely to prove optimistic for some actions but achievable for others. The targets should not divert the University from taking actions.
- . Focus 3. "Ensuring all ANU students have a thorough understanding of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives". Members recommended that this part of the *Plan* should be strengthened to foster development of a curriculum at ANU that is inclusive of Indigenous culture, history and perspectives. Funds have been set aside to assist with content but have been accessed by two areas only in four years. An integral aspect of Focus 3. is provision of appropriate training and cultural competency for professionals working and engaging with Indigenous people in different forums. This requirement or expectation has been in place for many years in other sectors.
- . Creating pathways for Indigenous staff and students. Members supported suggestions for assisting the development of pathways:
 - . Indigenous educational issues should be taken up in current discussions between ANU and the University of Canberra. For instance, opportunities that could be explored were the recruitment of Indigenous staff and students to the ACT, the proposed combined Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education, and a joint PhD program that may be accessed by Indigenous staff;
 - . ANU should consider a cadet training scheme. The scheme supports Indigenous students during their studies, involves holiday employment in the College or Division, and opens up opportunities for employment on completion.

The Committee:

- (i) Supported the directions of the draft *ANU Reconciliation Action Plan*;
- (ii) Agreed that the comments recorded from the discussion should form the Committee's response to the *Plan* for submission to the Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM 9. REPORTS

The Committee noted the following reports:

9.1 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) Notebook (133/2009)

9.2 Report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

- University Leadership Retreat 4-6 February 2009. See overheads at http://info.anu.edu.au/ovc/Executive/070PP_Reports_and_Papers
The quality and standards theme adopted for 2009 had been explored at the Retreat especially in the context of the recent Government reviews of Australian Higher Education and the National Innovation System. The teaching and learning agenda would be taken forward through the Evaluation and Validation of Student Standards Working Party chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education). A major focus in relation to ANU's research agenda would be the reconceptualising of the Institute of Advanced Studies to support excellent researchers. The development of a new model would be undertaken by a working party and overseen by Professor Thomas. The development of the relationship between education and research

presents a challenge in the current discussions about a “College IAS” comprising ANU researchers in each College who meet and continually meet performance-based criteria, and is being addressed. The Working Party’s discussion paper about the “New IAS” was expected by the end of March and a final document by the end of June.

Discussion focussed on several issues:

- . Recommending co-ordination of the agendas of the Evaluation and Validation of Student Standards and the regular reviews of award programs.
- . Members noted there have been some concerns in the “New IAS” discussion between controls on teaching and learning and aspirations for world excellence in research. Educational standards and aspirations should be brought together.
- . Whether constraints on the movement of block funding were an impediment for achieving the aspirations.
- . Expanding the work on the evaluation and validation of student standards to include measuring the quality of teaching, and consideration of professional development for teachers.

Issues relating to the Evaluation and Validation of Student Standards Working Party were referred to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education).

- **University of Canberra Alliance**
Discussions following the recent announcement of an alliance with the University of Canberra were focussed on:
 - . Domestic student pathways to bachelor degree programs, including joint equity endeavours.
 - . International student opportunities, including discussion of the ANU foundation program and UC diploma.
 - . VET and continuing education, to build more pathways.
 - . Joint PhD degree programs and fulfilling ANU’s mission in training.
- **Collaboration**
Joint arrangements for the supervision of PhD students between ANU and the London School of Economics and CSIRO are being explored to enable an expanded pool of potential supervisors to be available and publicised.
- **Response to Victorian Bush Fires**
Professor Thomas acknowledged the staff of the Registrar’s Division for their sensitive and rapid response to the needs of Victorian students affected by the fires.

Registrar

- **Enrolments**
 - . Predictions were that undergraduate enrolments for 2009 would be slightly less than the load targets discussed in planning, with acceptance and retention rates stronger than the model.
 - . Graduate coursework enrolments were marginally above target. Overall, the CGS load was likely to be achieved.
 - . HDR enrolments would continue to adjust upwards before the census date.
 - . International student enrolments have increased significantly in all categories compared to 2008, ie. by 7% in graduate and 18%+ in undergraduate coursework, and 12% in HDR programs.

Based on the information currently available, the Registrar proposed that a mid-year round should not be publicised in the UAC Guide for Semester II. The options to make direct offers and backfill through UniTest would be available.

- **Centrally-funded Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme**

The revised scheme has been very successful attracting 82 new scholars (23 NUS; 59 National Merit) with UAI scores of 99.5 or above.

An audit conducted during the admissions round has found no instances of identity fraud. The Registrar thanked Mr Elliott and staff of the Chifley Library for their assistance.

- English Language Requirements for Admission
As requested by the Committee at the last meeting, work has commenced leading to consultation with the ACT Department of Education about English language requirements.
- 2010 Tuition Fees
Responses were requested from ANU College Deans to the proposed fee increase to be determined at the 25 March meeting.
- Graduation Statement
The process for the production of Graduation Statements would commence from 5 March 2009. Only information that is attestable (e.g. accreditation, memberships) may be included in the Statements which are program specific.

9.4 Teaching and Learning Program

Dr Akerlind spoke briefly about the CEDAM course *Foundations of University Teaching & Learning* (see details at <http://cedam.anu.edu.au/foundations>). The course offering was consistent with trends overseas, such as in the UK, and was aimed primarily at teaching academics new to the ANU and/or to university teaching. It would also be available to continuing academic staff. The model was a variation on an earlier course combining professional development and credit, on completion of additional seminars, towards an award program (i.e. Graduate Studies Program, or Graduate Certificate in Higher Education).

It was noted the award course would be fee-paying for the GSP and Commonwealth Supported for the GCHE. Sponsorship of course fees for academic staff was a matter for individual Colleges. There was also a no-load, no-fee option for professional development.

ITEM 10. REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Committee noted that the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, had released the final report (at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Review/Pages/ReviewofAustralianHigherEducationReport.aspx>) of the Expert Panel chaired by Emeritus Professor Denis Bradley AC, on 17 December 2008. The report proposed a comprehensive package of reforms to Australia's tertiary education sector.

Professor Thomas commented that the recommendations of the Review could be seen as falling into two broad groupings: increasing the percentage of students undertaking tertiary studies, and standards and quality. How the envisaged increase in numbers could be achieved in terms of the availability of resources was challenging. The report, *Venturous Australia – building strength in innovation*, from the Government commissioned review of the National Innovation System chaired by Dr Terry Cutler had also become available late in 2008. This Report recommended full funding of the costs of research in Australian institutions. The Government's response to the Review of Australian Higher Education was expected soon, however, budgetary support could be expected to take some additional time.

ITEM 11. LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEPLOYMENT

11.1 WebCT replacement: Wattle

The Committee noted the background paper *Supporting the Migration to the New Learning Management Service: Wattle* - "Web Access to Teaching and Learning Environments" and University Education Committee - Minutes

the overview from Dr Buchhorn on the new service and the support framework for the migration progressively from WebCT4.1 during 2009 and 2010. It was noted that:

- . Wattle was a single point of entry for a range of educational applications including Moodle, the underpinning learning management platform.
- . A finite number of courses had been migrated to the new platform in Semester I with appropriate support for lecturers. The process would become automated for Semester II and staff encouraged to use the environment.
- . A hub and spoke arrangement was in place with the Information Literacy Program/Ask ANU.
- . All courses have a presence in WebCT already, based on information from Student 21, and this approach will be followed in the new service. Wattle will also eventually accommodate access to more extensive course related information such as that proposed in the current course outlines discussions and already supports access to digital lecture delivery recordings.
- . The timeframe of two semesters of parallel running of Moodle and WebCT with completion targeted for mid-2010 has been reaffirmed by the Reference Group. This Group comprises representatives from the academic and general staff from across the University community.

Members observed that more attention needs to be given generally to motivating and enabling individual staff to negotiate new technologies and address teaching management in this environment.

The Committee acknowledged the excellent work of the team and requested that cultural shift issues be taken forward by the Reference Group.

11.2 Plagiarism Detection Software

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stanton, drew attention to the University's regulations and guidelines on plagiarism set out in legislation and the *Code of Practice for Student Academic Honesty*, courses run by the Information Literacy Program and other techniques and services available to assist staff detect plagiarism. The external service previously integrated with the Learning Management System through MyDropBox had been discontinued without notice and no equivalent substitute had been immediately available. A University-level replacement service would be reinstated in Semester II, 2009. Local areas using services from the marketplace have been alerted to possible implications relating to use of student intellectual property and copyright.

ITEM 12. EDUCATION ISSUES

It was noted, that at its meeting of 12 September 2008, the Committee had supported in principle the broad directions of the paper *Program Advisory Boards (799/2008)* noting that their composition and operation would reflect different ANU College characteristics, and referred the paper to Colleges with the request that they provide a short summary about how a new or existing Advisory Board would operate to the benefit of the College."

Responses received from ANU Colleges (134/2009) were generally supportive of the initiative with some qualification that the approach may not be relevant for all programs. Advisory boards were already in place in some Colleges, were being introduced in others, or would remain an option for some areas to determine when and where they would be implemented.

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the summaries (134/2009) received from ANU Colleges;
- (ii) Commended to ANU College Deans the adoption of systematic stakeholder consultation on academic programs and of processes appropriate to the area, noting the model proposed by the Program Advisory Boards paper (799/2008).

ITEM 13. EDUCATION RELATED POLICIES

Reviews of Academic Award Programs

The Committee noted draft policy and procedures for the *Review of Academic Award Programs* and guidelines, *Writing the Review of Academic Award Program Report* detailed in paper 135/2009. At its meeting of 15 August 2008, the Committee had considered the paper *Academic Reviews of Award Programs* (861/2008) and supported the recommendation that a policy and schedule of program reviews be established with indicative terms of reference.

Refinements to the procedures proposed at the meeting were:

- . to provide for progress implementation reports at intervals of 6 months and 12 months to the College Dean (paragraph 5.1)
- . to clarify processes relating to feedback and the role of the College Education Committee to oversee the implementation (part 5.)
- . to add reference to the strategic alignment of the reviews with College educational goals and plans to the terms of reference (part 4.)

The broader issue of accommodating educational standards and co-ordinating the agendas for the regular review of programs and the evaluation and validation of student standards was raised.

The Committee:

- (i) Endorsed the policy and procedures for the *Review of Academic Award Programs* and the guidelines, *Writing the Review of Academic Award Program Report* (135/2009), subject to amendments as proposed at the meeting;
- (ii) Requested, in accordance with the procedures, that ANU College Deans prepare a schedule of reviews for the period 2009 – 2013 for submission to the University Education Committee. A review grid and table of award programs currently on offer would be provided to assist the process.

ITEM 14. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

14.1 ANU College Education Committees

The Committee noted reports on matters discussed by College Education Committees and on course changes approved by College Deans since the last meeting of the Committee from:

- ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (211/2009)
- ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (421/2009)
- ANU Colleges of Medicine, Biology and Environment and Physical Sciences (129/2009)
- ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science (149/2009)

14.2 Higher Degree Research Subcommittee

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the report from Meeting 1, 2009, of the Higher Degree Research Subcommittee (141/2009);
- (ii) Noted an update on implementation of the Report of the 2007 Review of Higher Degree Research (142/2009).

PART 3. PROGRAMS AND COURSEWORK

ITEM 15. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

15.1 Graduate Programs

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

- Master of Public Administration (422/2009)

The Committee endorsed the proposal to reduce the compulsory courses from five to four and increase the elective choice, noting that POGO8032 Comparative Public Sector Management was no longer a compulsory course for this degree and would not be offered in 2009.

15.2 Undergraduate Programs

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

The Committee endorsed changes to the following:

- Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies (423/2009)
- Combined degrees with the Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies:
 - Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies (424/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Commerce (425/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Economics (426/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Engineering (427/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Laws (428/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Science (429/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Science (Forestry) (430/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Visual Arts (431/2009)
 - Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Music (432/2009)

The changes gave the Director the discretion to waive the requirement that currently excludes native speakers from doing a major in their native language where sufficient advanced level courses were available in a language or a native or background speaker does not have native verbal or written fluency. The proposal reflects a shift in student demographics, recent national secondary language policy changes, and recent research on second language acquisition.

15.3 ANU College: *Preparation for Access* Course

The Committee:

- (i) Noted background to the development by ANU College of a *Preparation for Access* course of ten weeks, that sequences with the University 'Access' course, for students to be admitted with an IELTS of 5.5 and a score of 5.0 on all scale scores;
- (ii) Supported the introduction of the course *Preparation for Access* for delivery in Semester II, 2009 as detailed in paper 146/2009.

PART 4. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 16. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME

jab/10 March 2009