

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

COUNCIL

REPORT – 26 July 2006

Council met on 26 July 2006, and noted or considered the following items.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Council considered the Vice-Chancellor's Report which is available at the following address.
<http://www.chancellery.qut.edu.au/vc/papers.jsp>

SUBMISSIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Revised Blueprint and Top-Level Plans

Council discussed the draft revised Blueprint, Top-Level and Strategic Plans and noted comments made by the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee and Planning and Resources Committee. Council agreed to refer its comments to the Vice-Chancellor and plan sponsors and noted that the finalised versions would be forwarded to Council at its 29 September 2006 meeting.

2005 Research ethics reports

Council noted the 2005 Research ethics reports as forwarded by University Academic Board.

Intellectual Property report

Council noted the 2005 Intellectual Property Policy Committee Report as forwarded by University Academic Board.

Report from QUT Enterprise Holdings

Council noted the report from QUT Enterprise Holdings, including the minutes of the QEH Board meeting on 21 June 2006. Council discussed and approved a recommendation to increase the maximum remuneration for non-executive directors of QUT controlled entities and QEH controlled entities, noting that the expectation was that the increased remuneration would only be applied to directors of QUT Innovations Pty Ltd.

QUT Student Guild Constitutional Change and Guild membership fees

Council noted its approval by flying minute of 30 June 2006 of a recommendation from the Student Guild that the Guild membership fee would be nil from 1 July 2006 and that QUT would not issue invoices for Guild membership fees from that date.

Council also agreed to approve changes to the QUT Student Guild Constitution subject to some minor changes. The main changes relate to revised membership provisions and the governance restructure that the Guild has put in place in response to the legislation on voluntary student unionism.

Termination of MOU – Community Facilities Fund

Council approved the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding between QUT and the QUT Student Guild which had set out the management arrangements for the Community Facilities Fund. The Guild had requested that the MOU be terminated based on its inability to contribute to the Fund following the setting of the Guild membership fee at nil.

Workforce Planning Policy

Council approved a revised Workplace Planning Policy (MOPP B/3.1) and noted proposed changes to the Vice-Chancellor's delegations of authority for approval of new ongoing positions.

Items for information

- Post-meeting action sheet for Council 14 June 2006 meeting

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The Council committees that had met since the last meeting of Council are listed below, and reports from those meetings (including reports from sub-committees) are attached.

Alumni Board – 22 June 2006

Planning and Resources Committee – 12 July 2006

University Academic Board – 30 June 2006

- Teaching and Learning Committee – 6 and 13 June 2006
- University Research and Innovation Committee – 14 June 2006

Further information regarding any of the items can be obtained from the Secretary to the committee.

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

ALUMNI BOARD

REPORT TO COUNCIL – 26 July 2006

Alumni Board met on 22 June 2006. The following items are reported for information.

Alumni President's Report

Alumni Board was briefed by the President, Mr Hooker who tabled a written report on his attendance at Alumni events since the last meeting. He reported that the International Students Farewell was a very successful event and particularly thanked the Alumni Relations office for their assistance. A draft proposal on Global Communications and Alumni Networking, prepared by Michael Ryan and Mervyn Ng, would be circulated to members in the coming week, for further consideration at the 3 August 2006 meeting.

The Chair tabled a discussion paper which proposed a number of topics relating to the business of Alumni for further discussion and consideration at future meetings.

Topics included:

- How Alumni supported the three key strategies (Regenerate, Engage, Experiment) of the University.
- Ways in which faculties could engage industry through Alumni.
- Taking advantage of Alumni referral activity.
- Ways to actively grow Alumni each year.
- How Alumni could assist with the rounding of students.

Mr Hooker requested further feedback from members regarding these topics and their suggestions for prioritising them on future meeting agendas.

Alumni Relations Manager's Report

Alumni Board considered a written report from the Alumni Relations Manager, Ms Watkin who provided the following additional comments.

- Members were encouraged to recommend potential nominees for Alumni Services Awards to the Alumni Office.
- The recent Link survey had produced some very positive results. Information was presented to the Board showing reader response to survey questions
- The Outstanding Alumni Awards Ceremony would be held on 10 August 2006.
- Ms Watkin thanked Board members for their contributions to the latest Appeal for the Learning Potential Fund.

Alumni Report to Council

Mr Drummond advised that at its last meeting Council's attention had been drawn to results from the first Semester Appeal for the Learning Potential Fund and members were thanked for their contributions. It was intended to present a report to each meeting of Council which promoted the positive role Alumni played as ambassadors of the University.

Nomination of Deputy Chair to Alumni Board

The Chair nominated Mr Michael Ryan to the position of Deputy Chair. This was seconded by Mr Ng and endorsed by the Alumni Board. Mr Ryan accepted the nomination to the position which would terminate at the end of 2006.

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UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC BOARD

REPORT TO COUNCIL – 26 July 2006

University Academic Board met on Friday 30 June 2006. The following items are reported to Council for information.

University Medals Policy

The Board approved a revised policy on University medals. The policy now specifies that a minimum grade point average of 6.5 across all units and any thesis component must be achieved.

Future curriculum offerings – Health Workforce Working Party

The Board noted the establishment and terms of reference of the Health Workforce Working Party.

Examination Timetabling

The Board discussed four recommendations in a submission on Examination Timetabling from Teaching and Learning Committee and agreed to refer the following comments back to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

- There was general agreement that the discussion of this item should focus on the pedagogical soundness of using examinations for assessing learning objectives and graduate capabilities.
- A number of Executive Deans commented that they would be using the opportunity that the recommendations presented to review the balance of assessment items in all units across their faculties.
- A number of members commented that discussion of the two recommendations relating to the duration of, and timetabling of end of semester examinations would be assisted by some external benchmarking data.
- The Board agreed that the issue of the academic calendar and in particular the length of the Summer Semester should be progressed independently through a working party chaired by the Registrar. It was added that as one of the prime drivers for the introduction of the Summer Semester was the recruitment of international students, the working party should access data relating to the enrolment of international students in Summer Semester.

Revision to MOPP F/1.6 Electronic portfolio

The Board approved a revised policy on Electronic portfolio. The change related to the period which the portfolio would be accessible after graduation.

Disestablishment of the Centre for Built Environment and Engineering Research (C-BEER)

The Board resolved to close the University Tier 3 research centre, the Centre for Built Environment and Engineering Research.

Intellectual Property Policy Committee – 2005 Report to University Academic Board

This item is the subject of a separate item to Council.

2005 Research Ethics Reports

This item is the subject of a separate item to Council.

Faculty Academic Program Reports

This item was held over for consideration at the Board's August meeting due to the large number of absent Board members.

Student demand

The Board discussed a report on Semester 1 admissions within the context of the *AVCC Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses*. Some of the points discussed included: the significant softening of the year 12 market; the decline in the acceptance rate nationally; specific areas of low demand in QUT; and the increased demand from international students for research degrees.

Reports from subcommittees

The following subcommittee reports are attached for the information of Council.

- Report from the 6 and 13 June meetings of Teaching and Learning Committee (**Attachment 1**)
- Report from the 14 June meeting of University Research and Innovation Committee (**Attachment 2**)

ATTACHMENT 1**TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Teaching and Learning Committee met on 6 and 13 June 2006. This report is provided for the information of the Board.

Draft Learning and Teaching Plan 2006-2010

The Committee endorsed, in principle, the draft Learning and Teaching Plan 2006-2010, subject to refinement. Members noted that further consultation (with e.g. the Vice-Chancellor, sponsors of other plans and FRP representatives) in relation to KPIs, may result in further amendments to the Plan.

Future Teaching and Learning Grants

The Committee endorsed, in principle, that all funds available for Teaching and Learning Development Large Grants from 2007, be utilised for specially commissioned or targeted purposes/projects. Members also endorsed, in principle, priority purposes and projects. The Committee endorsed the establishment of a working party to develop policy and procedures for implementing the new scheme and agreed to seek the Vice-Chancellor's approval.

OLT System Review Recommendation

Teaching and Learning Committee agreed that a recommendation for the University to replace the OLT system with the Blackboard application and develop a project proposal for implementation of the application, should proceed to the Vice-Chancellor. The proposal was a result of the OLT System review which was undertaken to determine whether there was a viable alternative in the open source or commercial Learning Management System arena that could be considered as a replacement for OLT.

Physical Learning Environments Advisory Group

The Committee endorsed the establishment of a Physical Learning Environments Advisory Group reporting to the Learning Environments Working Party of Teaching and Learning Committee. The Group will address issues in relation to priorities for upgrades to central physical learning and teaching environments and provide a focus for University input in terms of setting future directions for physical learning and teaching environments design and development.

Teaching and Learning Grants awarded since 2000

The Committee noted and provided comment on the status of Small and Large Teaching and Learning Development Grants, awarded since 2000.

Work-integrated learning

Teaching and Learning Committee discussed a proposed policy on work-integrated learning. The Committee agreed that the policy required amendment and requested that the Learning Experiences and Curriculum Working Party revise the policy taking account of the Committee's comments and the review of the QUT Blueprint, and resubmit the policy to the Committee.

Items for Information

Teaching and Learning Committee noted the following items:

- Post-meeting action sheet from Teaching and Learning Committee 2 May 2006.
- Items pending sheet for Teaching and Learning Committee June 2006.
- Outcomes of University Academic Board's 19 May 2006 meeting.
- Register of disclosed interests

ATTACHMENT 2**RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**

University Research and Innovation Committee met on 14 June 2006. The following items are reported for information.

Development of International Research Strategy

The Committee noted that the Division of Research and Commercialisation would develop an International Research Strategy, in consultation with the Division of International and Development. Key elements of the strategy would include enhancements to the quantification of international research income, mechanisms to enhance international engagement and partnerships, and international higher degree research cohort development. The Committee agreed it was important to have productive international partnerships at the individual researcher and team level, and noted that domestic funding was available for international linkage projects. The draft Strategy would be forwarded to the Committee for consideration later in 2006.

Disestablishment of the Centre for Built Environment and Engineering Research (C-BEER)

The Committee resolved to recommend University Academic Board close the Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering's Centre for Built Environment and Engineering Research (C-BEER). This is the subject of a separate item on the Board agenda.

Intellectual Property Policy Committee – 2005 Report to University Academic Board

The Committee resolved to recommend to University Academic Board the Intellectual Property Policy Committee 2005 Report to University Academic Board. This is the subject of a separate item on the Board agenda.

Intellectual Property Policy Review Project Plan

The Committee endorsed a Project Plan for Review of the Intellectual Property Policy, noting that the scope of the Project would take specific account of:

- the need for the Policy to place greater emphasis on pathways to public benefit;
- the adequacy of staff incentives;
- the management of research output involving intellectual property in the creative industries disciplines;
- the assignment of student, staff and team-based intellectual property;
- the impact of QUT's intellectual policy on external stakeholders and external benchmarking;
- the establishment of QUT Innovation Pty Ltd and its intersection with the revised policy; and
- the adequacy of training in commercialisation processes.

The Review would consult with three groups of stakeholders as follows, and be managed by the Intellectual Property Policy Committee.

- A group involving those involved in intellectual property disclosures over the past twelve months, including students, who would primarily be from the engineering and science disciplines.
- A group involving stakeholders in the creative industries and humanities disciplines, to examine related issues of copyright, Creative Commons and open source material.
- A group involving external stakeholders.

It was anticipated the Review would be finalised by the end of 2006, with date of effect for the new policy January 2007.

Research Quality Framework Update

The Committee was briefed on developments with the Federal Government's Research Quality Framework (RQF). The Minister's new advisory group, chaired by a new Chief Scientist, had met once to consider issues relating to the Framework and would meet again at the end of July 2006. Working parties had been established to consider particular issues of metrics and impact. The University's internal preparations for introduction of the RQF were progressing well.

Review of Top-level Research and Innovation Plan 2005 - 2009

The Committee discussed a forthcoming review of the top-level Research and Innovation Plan 2005 – 2009 and noted the following priorities to be included in the review:

- Further enhancing QUT's research capacity through promotion of research career development for *existing* junior and middle level academics;
- In addition to the current research capacity building scheme, attracting new talent at an early career stage;
- Establishment of KPIs for University research institutes which promote collaboration both internal and

external to the University, including inter-disciplinary teaching;

- Employ strategies to attract high quality HDR students;
- Development of an international research strategy; and
- Additional emphasis on developing a commercialisation culture taking account of the establishment of QUT Innovation Pty Ltd.

In particular the Committee discussed the current target for research income, intersection of the Plan with the Teaching and Learning Plan, and strengthening of statements around collaborative research endeavours. The Committee noted review of the Plan would be progressed alongside review of the University's Blueprint and other top-level plans.

Update on development of QUT Charter of Social Responsibility

The Committee was briefed on developments with the QUT Charter of Social Responsibility, discussed at the 27 April 2006 meeting. Members were advised that subsequent to the Committee's request that the draft Charter be revised, the document was returned to Audit and Risk Management Committee for further advice on progressing the matter. Audit and Risk Management Committee had agreed that instead of a single Charter, an overarching statement should be drafted for inclusion in the University's policy framework where its legal and ethical responsibilities were referred to. The issue of commercial partnerships would also need to be considered in this policy development activity.

Report from the e-Research Working Party

The Committee noted a report from the e-Research Working Party, that included report on the Working Party's discussion of recent e-Research activity in the University and moving e-Research forward at QUT. In particular the Committee noted there was a good opportunity to collaborate with Monash University on e-Research matters. Issues around the definition and scope of e-Research were discussed and it was noted the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Technology, Information and Learning Support) had undertaken to provide a formal definition of the term and Strategy to a future meeting.

Presentation on Institute Research Portfolio – Information Security Institute

The Committee was briefed by the Director, Information Security Institute (ISI), Prof Dawson, on the research profile of that institute. Four faculties were involved in the work of ISI, the Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, the Faculty of Business, the Faculty of Information Technology and the Faculty of Law. The aim of ISI was to address information security, protection and technology policy issues currently confronting business, government and the community. ISI was a leader in Australia in this area, and was on track to reach its research income target for 2006. In discussion of the presentation the Committee noted there was further potential for ICI to increase its commercialisation returns through consultancies, and issues around the development of early career researchers and attracting senior research staff were noted.

The Committee discussed the content of the regular institute reports and agreed that future reports should contain information on the value-add of cross-disciplinary research, practical examples of such cross-disciplinary collaboration and international benchmarking.

Report on recent commercialisation and development activities

The Committee noted a report on recent commercialisation and development activities and requested that the Office of Commercial Services provide more detail on issues relating to the CRC for Diagnostics and the Sugar Research Institute, and correction of some editorial errors.

University Research and Innovation Committee noted the following items for information:

- Outcomes report from University Academic Board's 19 May 2006 meeting
- Report from the Assistant Deans (Research)/Institute Directors Working Party
- Reports from Research Committees
 - Report from 30 May 2006 meeting of University Human Research Ethics Committee
 - Report from Research Degrees Committee – May and June 2006 (including Research Students Centre report)
- Research report

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****REPORT TO COUNCIL – 26 July 2006**

Planning and Resources Committee met on 12 July 2006. The following items are reported for information.

Revised Blueprint and Top-Level Plans

This is the subject of a separate item on the Council agenda.

Progress report on implementation – Review of Teaching Quality and Support

The Committee noted the Semester 1, 2006 progress report on implementation of the Review of Teaching Quality and Support. Since February significant progress had been made in implementing the Review's recommendations. Policy changes had been approved, the project scoped and aspects of the Implementation Plan rolled out to faculties and operational areas.

Reporting of income from international partnerships or commercial cohorts

The Committee received advice in response to comments at item 5.2.2 at its 31 May 2006 meeting during discussion on the *2006 March Budget Report*. The Committee had noted that data for international student fee revenue did not reflect other types of non-award teaching activity, such as international partnerships and commercial cohorts. The Executive Director, Finance and Resource Planning, Mr Sullivan advised that of the total \$71.5 million international fee income \$63.6 million was award and \$8 million was non-award. Mr Sullivan also advised that the total figure of \$71.5 million was included in the 2006 budget.

Establishment of a Scholarship Endowment Fund

The Committee approved the establishment of a Scholarship Endowment Fund with an initial corpus of \$10M sourced from 2004/5 investment earnings from QIC; approved the Fund's balances being invested in a suitable investment vehicle; and approved interest earnings of the Fund being made available as a source of funds towards the University's existing commitments under the Student Assistance Scholarships Program (Equity).

The Committee was advised that following the introduction of 25% HECS top-up fees in 2004 the University had decided that 15% of the 25% student top up fees would be directed each year to equity based Student Scholarships. This amount currently represented \$1.9 million and would rise to \$4 million by 2009. It was proposed that the cost of funding this contribution be partially offset by potential earnings available from a proposed Scholarship Endowment Fund. The fund would be established with a \$10 million contribution from the University's uncommitted QIC Investment Distributions. It was noted that the proposal made no change to the level of commitment given to equity scholarships but concerned transitioning the method of funding from the University's budgeted accounts to endowment funding. Furthermore an upfront contribution of \$10 million would represent a public commitment by the University and would help to attract private donations.

QUT self-insurance model for worker's compensation insurance

The Committee endorsed the implementation of a self-insurance model for workers compensation insurance for QUT and corresponding changes to the Schedule of Authorities and Delegations.

Self-insurance for workers' compensation was first available to QUT in 1996: at that time the University decided against the option as the service level and expertise in WorkCover was deemed adequate. In recent years WorkCover service levels had not been maintained, with a consequent lower quality of decision-making and extended timeframes for case resolution. This has had a negative impact on the University. The net effect has been to stall progress in injury management performance producing a rise in the cost of claims, with an increase in the annual premium payable to WorkCover. Changing to a self-insurance model, as endorsed by a recently commissioned independent KPMG business case, will facilitate a better outcome for injured staff and deliver modest savings to QUT with a manageable increased risk.

Proposed Further Investment by QUT in Farmacule BioIndustries Pty Ltd

The Committee noted and provided comment a proposal for QUT to increase its shareholding in Farmacule BioIndustries Pty Ltd by making an investment of up to \$500,000 in the company. The Committee advised that while it was not within its competence to pass judgment on the proposal as an investment proposition it was satisfied that management had conducted the appropriate due diligence to assure themselves that the proposal represented a good investment for the University.