

AGENDA ITEM 7

Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

7.1 Report on Senate Matters

7.1.1 Report on the Senate meeting held on 15 September 2008

Senate, at its meeting held on 15 September 2008:

- (1) appointed the following selection committee for the Deanship in Veterinary Science:

Ex-officio

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Michael Spence

Chair of the Academic Board (or nominee), Professor Bruce Sutton

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don Nutbeam

Members appointed by Senate:

Three members (plus reserve) nominated by the Faculty:

- Professor Paul Canfield
- Professor Rosanne Taylor
- Professor Christopher Moran

Reserve members:

- Professor Michael Ward (Reserve)
- Associate Professor Julia Beatty (Reserve)

External member:

- Professor John Edwards, Dean and Head of School, Faculty of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch University

- (2) referred to the Vice-Chancellor the need to raise with the Chairs of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Finance and Infrastructure Committee his proposal that the Audit and Risk Management Committee be refocussed as the OH&S and Risk Management Committee, with a view to a recommendation coming to the next meeting of Senate.

- (3) noted the Vice-Chancellor's report on the following:

- (a) Professor Ben Eggleton's success in the Physics and Astronomy Category of the inaugural NSW Scientist of the Year Awards.
- (b) the 2 week Christmas closure of the University.
- (c) the release of the Report of the Review of the National Innovation System, which included the recommendation that research in universities be fully funded, with a briefing note to come to the November Senate.
- (d) the allocation of the \$35M from the Federal Government's Building Better Universities Renewal Fund to pre-existing University priorities, with the tabling of a Schedule of Works and advice that an additional \$17M would be contributed by the University to ensure the best outcome.
- (e) meetings of the Senior Executive Group (SEG), Vice-Chancellor's Office meeting (VCOM) and Vice-Chancellor and Senior Officers Group (VSOG).
- (f) discussions concerning the Vice-Chancellor's proposed Work Slate, with a recommended Work Slate to be brought to Senate for comment at its November meeting.

- (g) the Brand project, with a final report including formal recommendations to be brought to Senate's December meeting.
 - (h) the report on Naming of Internal Assets in the Faculty of Law Building, with advice that the policy document "Naming of Buildings and Other Significant Physical Assets" was under review and that a paper on the naming of chairs and posts was being developed, for inclusion in the gifts policy.
 - (i) the international report.
 - (j) the community report.
- (3) noted the following:
- (k) the Chief Operating Officer's advice that the Triple Bottom Line report, which described the extent of the University's Greenhouse Gas emissions and strategies proposed for their reduction, would come to the November Senate meeting.
 - (l) advice from the Deputy Chancellor that Mr Patrick Dodson was the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize recipient. Mr Dodson would give the City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture on 5 November in the Sydney Opera House, and on 6 November would receive the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney.
 - (m) advice from Mr A Spencer that University of Sydney Pharmacy student Zhao Zong Yuan, who had been named chess Grandmaster at the Gibraltar Tournament, had now won his first three tournaments as Grandmaster, the first person in history to do so.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 15 September 2008.

7.2 General report

7.2.1 Work Slate

C3-C6

At the Academic Board's last meeting, the Vice-Chancellor advised members that he was developing a Work Slate of major projects across the University. He advised that this document was being developed in consultation with the members of the Senior Executive Group, including the Chair of the Academic Board, and that further advice on this matter would be referred to the Board.

The draft Work Slate is attached for the information of members.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Vice-Chancellor's report on the development of the Work Slate, as set out in the report presented.

Project	Scope	Leadership
EDUCATION		
Review of PhD	A review of existing PhD programmes and the development of a core concept of a PhD	Academic Board
Working Party on PhD Strategy	To consider the feasibility of, and, if feasible, develop a strategy for achieving the University's stated goal of increasing the number of PhD students	Provost
Review of Research Masters	A review and of existing research Masters provision with recommendations for reform to Academic Board	Academic Board
Review of Coursework Masters	A review of existing coursework Masters provision with recommendations for reform to Academic Board	Academic Board
Working Party on Undergraduate Liberal Arts and Sciences Programmes	To develop a new programme in the liberal arts and sciences	Provost
Task Force on Second Language Acquisition	To propose a strategy for the teaching of second languages in both contexts in which instruction in the language is required as part of an existing student's course of study and those in which it is not.	Provost
Task Force on Overseas Student Programmes	To review take-up of our existing overseas programmes and to consider a strategy for increasing participation	DVC (I)
Working Party on Assessment	To develop a new University-wide policy on assessment methods and processes, probably taking the form of guidelines to be adopted in each faculty according to local needs.	Academic Board
Review of Indigenous Student Support Services	A review of existing provision	Provost
Review of Provision for International Students	To review the provision that the University makes for the support of overseas students, to benchmark it against other institutions both here and overseas and to propose a strategy for future provision.	VC
Survey of Scholarship Provision	An update on the existing survey of University, Faculty and College scholarships and the development of a scholarship strategy	Provost
Review of the Sydney Student Experience	A three part survey of: (i) Existing levels of co-curricula activity, (ii) Student demand for co-curricula activity, (iii) Provision at other commuter universities	VC
Task Force on the Record of Student Experience	To determine whether, and if so how, the University might respond to employer requests for verified statements of a student's extra-curricular participation	Provost

Project	Scope	Leadership
RESEARCH		
Development and Implementation of RIM System	Development of appropriate knowledge management systems for understanding and facilitating access to the research of the University	ADVC (R)
Task Force on a University Electronic Repository and Open Access	To consider the development of the University Electronic Repository and an Open Access policy	ADVC (R)
Review of Thematic Research Strengths	To identify areas of research strength for communication and to encourage cross-disciplinary links	ADVC (R)
Review of Area Studies	To identify a University model for taking forward area studies in the University	VC
Development of a VC's Showcase Programme	To develop a showcase in one or more areas of thematic research with the purpose of (i) bringing together researchers in the University around a particular theme, and (ii) drawing the attention of the international academic community of the strength of the University in a particular thematic area	VC
Review of Research in the Performing and Creative Arts	Identify modes of recognition within and outside the University of research in the performing and Creative Arts	ADVC (R)

Project	Scope	Leadership
ADMINISTRATION		
Development and Implementation of a New Student Administration System	To streamline student administration processes, developing new ICT support	ADVC (E)
Development and Implementation of the Economic Model	Development of the Economic Model by (i) developing a governance model for its ongoing maintenance and development, (ii) conducting a process of University-wide staff education about the model, (iii) developing an understanding of how resources are distributed within faculties once the model has delivered an allocation to a faculty as a whole.	COO
Development and Implementation of a Capital Projects Prioritisation Process	To develop a process for aligning the current capital projects prioritisation process with the academic strategy of the University	COO
Campus 2020 Consultation	Scoping and consultation	COO
Working Party on Campus Facilities for Staff and Students	To review existing common room/dining facilities for staff and students and to propose a strategy for ameliorating them with the USU	COO (+VC)
Project on Student Housing	To increase available affordable student housing by an agreed target	COO
Review of Policies Management	To audit existing policies and to develop a process for their presentation, communication to staff and students and ongoing maintenance	OGC
Review of Complaint, Grievance and Misconduct Proceedings	To develop a scoping paper for issues around the reform of these process and to begin a programme of work around those regarded as priority	CEO UC
Review of OH&S Management	A review of oversight for OH&S	OGC
Review of Delegations	To develop a scoping paper for issues around the revision of delegations and to begin a programme of work around those regarded as priority	CEO UC
Review of Legal Risk Compliance	A review of legal risk	OGC
Review of Controlled Entities	A survey of existing controlled entities and the development of principles to guide the abolition of some and the establishing of any new ones	OGC

Project	Scope	Leadership
HUMAN RESOURCES		
Task Force on Academic Staff Development and Career Progression	To develop a process for academic staff performance review and development and to consider the existing career structure for academic staff	Provost
Review of General Staff Remuneration Strategy	Project conducted with a grant from the Commonwealth originally focused upon AWA's	Director (Sydney People)
Completion of HRIS and further automation of recruitment processes		Director (Sydney People)
Project to Improve Support for Deans and Heads of School	To review and develop both training and documentation support for Deans and Heads of School	Director (Sydney People) + Provost
Project on Seasonal Appointments for Overseas Academics	To produce a guide for faculties wishing to appoint an academic to serve part of the year in Sydney and part of the year at an overseas institution.	Provost

Project	Scope	Leadership
INTERNATIONAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS		
Brand Project	Completion and implementation of the brand project.	DVC (ER)
Task Force on Reciprocation and Donor Recognition	A review of existing reciprocation and recognition strategies to build upon new gift policy.	DVC (ER)
Feasibility Study for a Major Campaign	Review of development capacity across the University for understanding the feasibility/desirability of a major University campaign	DVC (ER)
Review of Foundations	Review of existing Foundations and compliance with the Foundations policies and guidelines.	DVC (ER)
Development of a Strategy for Overseas Offices	Review of current arrangements for overseas representation and proposal of a strategy to support alumni, development and outreach activities overseas	DVC (ER) + DVC (I)
Expansion of the Sydney Ideas Programme	Development of the Sydney Ideas programme through (i) more extensive marketing, (ii) the development of a leading alumni engagement event, (iii) the development of an accompanying journal	DVC (ER)