

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PHASE TWO

<p>Recommendation 1</p>	<p>The Review Team recommends that the Faculty ensures that Academic Staff focus on faculty strategic directions and the delivery of teaching and learning and research and that strategic project teams include relevant General Staff to ensure underlying enabling support is available to assist implementation of project outcomes. (Section 3.6.6)</p>
<p>Action taken by the Faculty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal reviews held of faculty strategic plans, with the Learning and Teaching Strategic Plan as an example. • These showed that the aims were difficult to achieve, and reviews were necessary, especially in line with the new University Strategic plan. • Academic staff in leadership positions took part in a College retreat where University, College and faculty strategic plans addressed, and a further workshop for all academic staff followed. • Faculty reviewed strategies for involving Academic and General staff in developing strategic directions for the faculty, and focusing on these, and proposed revised approaches for 2006 (see below). • Faculty appointed a full time general staff member as Teaching and Learning Support Officer, to implement projects in Teaching and Learning. This staff member resigned in early 2005, and following a review of the duties involved, a part-time position was created fulfilling the similar duties. • Research Support duties were allocated to a member of the General Staff in 2005. These duties are currently being reviewed with the appointment of a part-time position being considered for 2006. • General staff have been included in project teams e.g. the Development manager is included in a proposed talented Student Program • General staff in the Academic Support Centre have been freed to provide support to projects through the transference of part-time budget duties to faculty staff.
<p>Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty has a new Dean, Professor Tom Kvan, taking up the position in January 2005, with a faculty retreat planned for late February 2006 when strategic directions for the faculty will be addressed. • All academic and general staff will participate in this retreat, when the strategic directions for the faculty will be developed. • Development of strategic plans with fewer and more tactically aligned and achievable strategic goals. • General staff support positions in Teaching and learning, and in Research to continue.
<p>Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken</p>	<p>Faculty evaluation following future planned action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of strategic plans at the end of each 12 month period (beginning of year) to check goals achieved and progress of remainder. • Review staff to check understanding of strategic directions. PM&Ds help align personal performance with strategic directions. • Monitor outcomes of projects with general staff involvement against any without.

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Recommendation 2	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty liaise with the Sydney College of the Arts and the Universities of Melbourne and Hong Kong to learn how those institutions evaluate their studio units. (Section 3.9.3)
Action taken by the Faculty	This has not yet been done (see below). Faculty has used a qualitative review format for studio units and studio teaching (The ITL publication, Synergy, has invited comments on this for 2006), and will review its success in 2006. See below for faculty plan.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contacting the recommended institutions will be undertaken in 2006. New Dean is from University of Hong Kong and will be commenting on studio evaluation there when he takes up the position in 2006.• Faculty plans to take new strategic directions in 2006 under the new Deanship, and studio units will be responding to this, including more research-based teaching in its studio units in 2006
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Faculty evaluation following future planned action: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review qualitative evaluations and decide on future use in studio units and degrees.• Review evaluation questions from suggested institutions and decide on action: to revise evaluations, use similar, or not to add.

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Recommendation 3	The Review Team recommends that in addition to inclusion of Generic Attributes in the Faculty Handbook and on the template for Unit of Study description, that academic staff make explicit to students in the first lecture of the semester the Graduate Attributes developed by successful completion of the Unit of Study. (Section 4.2.4)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate (Generic) Attributes have been included on template for Unit of Study descriptions. • Academic staff are required to acquaint students with unit objectives and explicitly graduate attributes. See below for further actions.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty plans to review its current policies, and update these in line with Academic Board policies, which may change information in faculty handbook. • Update faculty handbook. • Faculty is aiming to develop more explicit policies on ensuring Graduate Attributes are embodied in a unit and explicitly discussed with students, through its Learning and Teaching Committee • Develop a staged Unit Evaluation program as part of a program for improving teaching, including peer review process
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Faculty evaluation following future planned action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Graduate Attribute section of units for clarity and compliance, in sequence over the next three years, or as they come up for revision. • Check through students responses in USEs.

Recommendation 4	The Review Team recommends that the Assoc Dean (Graduate Studies) use the move to 6 Credit Points to review the Faculty's Postgraduate Coursework offerings. (Section 4.3.8)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Graduate Studies has reviewed units currently on offer and revised offerings. • This Board will examine if further rationalisation of units or programs is needed. The budget constraints have resulted in actions to cycle some units over two years.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	See above
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student feedback on course content • Review of student numbers in units on offer in any one year

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Recommendation 5	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty collect broader research performance data, beyond the DEST figures, to more accurately identify and reward staff research performance, by measures such as providing relief from teaching. (Section 6.1.3)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader research and creative works output will be collected after consultation with new Dean. • Individual Discipline Groups already collect additional material (of the kind that may be required by the RQF).
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with new Dean.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual academics will produce a 'research portfolio' which will be centrally monitored.

Recommendation 6	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty work to ensure that all 5 research groups offer active research seminar series and have regular social activities available to both research students and staff. (Section 6.2.6)
Action taken by the Faculty	Each Discipline Group asked to arrange regular research seminars.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	–Further publicise these seminars.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Each Group now has weekly or fortnightly research seminars.

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Recommendation 7	The Review Team recommend that the Faculty clarify its relationship with the Research Centres and the Faculty and ensure that there are appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms in place. (Section 6.4.2)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review criteria have been established. Reviews of each centre being arranged.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviews to be carried out.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review reports followed by responses from Centre directors.

Recommendation 8	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty investigate means of providing opportunities for BDesComp students to develop specialisations. (Section 8.1.4)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Faculty has advertised and filled two additional academic positions in digital architecture within the BDesComp. These additional positions will provide the resources needed to introduce specialisations.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal review of course to determine specialisations in 2006 - 2007.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student USEs responses.• Professional advisory group advice and responses to any proposed changes

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Recommendation 9	The Review Team recommends that a means of building a scholarly and learning community be included in the structural review mooted by the Dean. It is also recommended that Senior Faculty Staff as well as Disciplinary Leaders be involved in this discussion. (Section 9.1.3)
Action taken by the Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action taken. Awaiting new Deanship from January 2006.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Dean, Professor Tom Kvan, will be taking up his position at the beginning of January 2006, and will be reviewing the structure and strategic directions of the faculty for the next five years. • There is a Faculty retreat planned for February 2006.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate strategies for developing research and leaning community in faculty structure and strategic plan.

Recommendation 10	The Review Team recommends that the Faculty Strategic Plan be widely consulted across the Faculty and its stakeholder groups. (Section 9.3.2)
Action taken by the Faculty	See above. No action taken in 2005 awaiting new Deanship.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Faculty retreat for Academic and general staff planned for 21 and 22 February 2006 to start this process collaboratively.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	See above, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate strategies for developing research and leaning community in faculty structure and strategic plan.