



Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group

9.30a.m. – 10.30a.m.

Tuesday 31st May 2005

Western Tower Room

Membership:

Professor Judyth Sachs (Chair), Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning)
Professor Bruce Armstrong, for Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Health Sciences
Associate Professor Peter McCallum, for Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Associate Professor Diana G Day, Koori Centre
Professor Barbara Fawcett, Head of School Social Work and Policy Studies
Mr Colin L. James, I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre
Ms Shona Kennedy, Indigenous Employment Policy Officer
Dr Freidoon Khavarpour, Yooroang Garang School of Indigenous Health Studies
Ms Janet Mooney, Director Koori Centre
Dr Michael Paton, Faculty of Economics and Business

Corresponding Members:

Ms Ros Field, Director Indigenous Education NSW DEST, or Ms Sharon Lyons-Sequeira
Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Manager, Aboriginal Programs Unit, NSW DET

Apologies:

Professor John Carter, Chair Academic Board
Professor Michael Fry, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Employee Relations)
Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Ms Sarah Heesom, Senior Solicitor, Director, Staff and Student Equal Opportunity
Professor Beryl Hesketh, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Sciences and Technology
Mr Kevin Lowe, Inspector, Aboriginal Education, Office of Board of Studies
Professor Don Nutbeam, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Health Sciences
Ms Sue Page, Yooroang Garang School of Indigenous Health Studies

Minutes

The Chair welcomed Professors Armstrong and Fawcett to their first meeting of the Working Group. The Chair also congratulated Associate Professor Day on her re-appointment to the position of Principal Research Fellow in the Koori Centre.

1. **Minutes of 28th February 2005 & Business Arising:** **Adopted**
 - **Visit to Aboriginal Housing Company, 17th December 2004**
Mr James drew the attention of the Working Group to the proposed Charles Perkins Centre and the fact that the concept for the Centre included student housing. It was recommended that the University maintain a watching brief on this development.

2. University of Sydney Reconciliation Statement

It was agreed:

- To follow government and other University usage and adopt the term “Indigenous” rather than use the phrase “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander”
- To remove “achieved” from the second sentence (how can you achieve a cultural background?)
- Add the people groups for Moree (University farm) and Lismore (Department of Rural Health)
- Remove the brackets around “(the first people of this land)” and re-order the sentence
- Attribute the destruction of Indigenous social systems to colonisation
- Replace “influence of this unique heritage” with “importance of this unique heritage”
- Replace “core activities” with “activities”
- Replace “traditional Indigenous lands” with “traditional ownership of Indigenous lands”
- Remove “appropriate” from “incorporation of relevant Indigenous perspectives into appropriate University materials and academic programs”
- Replace “enhance the mutual” with “advance the goals of the University and Indigenous peoples”
- Add “Promoting education for Indigenous Australian peoples at all levels in society”
- Incorporate “Research to promote the welfare and health of Indigenous Australians” into research statement

Once the above amendments are made the Statement is to be circulated for further comment and then taken to SEG by Prof Hearn and to Senate via the Academic Board.

Adopted

3. Indigenous Project Priorities for 2005

Prof Sachs informed the Working Group that applications for the position of Professor of Indigenous Studies close on 2nd June, and that there was significant interest in the position.

Discussion took place on the role of the re-established Board of Indigenous Studies. It was agreed that the Board of Studies should be focussed on governance and that there was a need for a sub-committee of the Learning and Teaching Committee of the Academic Board to focus on the broader strategic issues such as quality assurance and accreditation.

It was agreed that Prof Sachs, Assoc Prof McCallum and Ms Mooney should develop Terms of Reference for the two groups and bring them back to the next meeting.

Adopted

Modifications to the “Indigenous Project Priorities for 2005” included:

- Add College PVCs to the list of people responsible for research
- Replace “quota” with “target of 5% of local student intake, backed by suitable strategies” and add the College PVCs to the list of people responsible
- Track and monitor all Indigenous students, not just Cadigal students. Add PVC (Learning & Teaching) to the list of people responsible
- Add an additional Indigenous academic cadet (to make a total of two)

Adopted

4. Any other business

- Ms Mooney informed the Working Group on University activities surrounding National Reconciliation Week. The week of celebrations commenced on the evening of Thurs 26th May with over 300 students attending the inaugural University Carnivale, organised by Jack Manning-Bancroft, an ANZ Scholarship holder. Sorry Day, now called the National Day of Healing, was marked by a flag raising ceremony and the installation of the Sea of Hands; and on Fri 3rd June Jimmy Little will receive an honorary doctorate and give the Occasional Address at the Faculty of Arts graduation ceremony, and attend an afternoon tea in the Koori Centre (with his guitar).
- Mr James informed the Working Group about a vigil to be held at Redfern on Thurs 2nd June at 6.00p.m. and indicated that a University presence would show support for the Aboriginal people of Redfern. The Vigil is organised by Redwatch and the Aboriginal Housing Co.
- Mr James also provided information on the work of Architecture students on the College of the Spirit for the Tharawal Aboriginal Land Council (adjacent to Dharawal State Conservation Area). It was recommended that this information be provided to the University's Media Office.

5. Next meeting:

Thurs 29th September at 9.30-10.30a.m. in the Western Tower Room