



Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group

9.30a.m. – 10.30a.m.
Thursday 3rd November 2005
Western Tower Room

Membership:

Professor Judyth Sachs (Chair), Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning)
Professor John Carter, Chair Academic Board
Ms Sally Farrington, for Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Health Sciences
Mr Colin L. James, I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre
Associate Professor Peter McCallum, for Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Ms Janet Mooney, Director Koori Centre
Ms Sue Page, Yooroang Garang School of Indigenous Health Studies
Dr Michael Paton, Faculty of Economics and Business

Corresponding Members:

Ms Ros Field, Director Indigenous Education NSW DEST, or Ms Sharon Lyons-Sequeira
Mr Kevin Lowe, Inspector, Aboriginal Education, Office of Board of Studies
Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Manager, Aboriginal Programs Unit, NSW DET

Apologies:

Professor Bruce Armstrong, for Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Health Sciences
Ms Lucille Coward, HR Director
Associate Professor Diana G Day, Koori Centre
Professor Barbara Fawcett, Head of School Social Work and Policy Studies
Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Mr Shane Hearn, Lecturer, Grad Dip Indigenous Health Promotion
Ms Shona Kennedy, Indigenous Employment Policy Officer
Dr Freidoon Khavarpour, Yooroang Garang School of Indigenous Health Studies
Ms Jeni Lee, SUPRA
Ms Anne Scahill, Director, Staff and Student Equal Opportunity

In Attendance:

Ms Bronwen Morrison, Staff and Student Equal Opportunity, representing Ms Scahill and Ms Kennedy
Prof Tony Vinson, Honorary Professor, School of Social Work and Policy Studies, for Item 3

Minutes

The Chair expressed concern about Ms Kennedy's health and wished her a speedy recovery.

- 1. Minutes of 29th September 2005 & Business Arising:** **Adopted**
 - The Chair informed the Working Group that Prof Aileen Moreton-Robinson will commence with the University on Monday 6th February 2006, as Professor of Indigenous Studies. Prof Moreton-Robinson is a sociologist with a well-published and academic background (University of Queensland, Griffith University and Flinders University of

South Australia) and senior management experience in ATSIC. She also has an international profile.

- Now that the Charles Perkins Oration has occurred Ms Mooney & Mr James will focus on the Launch of the University's Reconciliation Statement.

2. Koori Centre Marketing Plan and marketing materials

- Ms Mooney informed the Working Group that Dr Jim Sait has completed a Report based on consultation undertaken at the Koori Centre Planning Retreat. The Koori Centre has received the Report and will use it to develop a Marketing Plan focussed on the recruitment of Indigenous students.
- Ms Mooney tabled Koori Centre merchandise and pamphlets/flyers for primary school students (pencil case, ruler etc.), for high school students (cap, mouse pad etc.), Koori Centre Graduates (badges), for gift exchange with representatives from other institutions (cap) and guest lecturers (pen set, portfolio briefcase).
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the Koori Club mentoring scheme will be provided with tee shirts
- Koori Centre will market through the Croc Fest, Koori radio across Australia, school counsellors and local feeder schools. They have previously used rural television
- As part of the planned Marketing Plan, the Koori Centre will monitor people contacting them to see what marketing approach/es were successful
- The Chair requested that the Working Group be kept informed of the value of the various marketing approaches

Adopted

3. Collaboration between the University and the Settlement

- Prof Tony Vinson reported that the University had both formal and informal links with the Settlement over its 80 year history. After a recent hiatus, the Management Committee has been re-established with University representation – through the School of Social Work and Policy Studies.
- The Federal Government, with little local consultation, announced a grant to the Exodus Foundation to extend their Exodus Tutorial School to Redfern (in the old Redfern School), in addition to Ashfield (which currently has links to Macquarie University). The Exodus program addresses literacy and behavioural issues amongst primary school children. Prof Vinson has spoken to Rev. Bill Crews, suggesting that the Foundation link with the University of Sydney in this project. This suggestion was favourably received.
- Prof Vinson would like to stimulate an interest in tertiary education amongst Indigenous school children – the range of activities and specialisations available in the University of Sydney – by bringing students into the University.
- The Working Group felt that this suggestion provided great opportunities for the University, not only in providing potential Indigenous student recruitment but also in providing opportunities for practicum, longitudinal research and community engagement. The Working Group endorsed the in-principle proposal to work with the Settlement and the Exodus Foundation and requested that Prof Vinson return to the Working Group with a fully developed proposal. **Adopted**
- Mr James reported that both the Redfern-Waterloo Authority and the Metropolitan Land Council are developing projects that include education and training. It was recommended that Mr James write to the Vice-Chancellor alerting him to what individuals and groups within the University are currently involved in and asking him to formalise a role with these two groups. **Adopted**

4. Progress Report on Indigenous Priorities 2005

- It was recommended that the action item “Integrate Indigenous issues into University curricula” be linked into Internationalisation/Diversity in the University Plan. Ms Mooney will follow-up why “indiginising” of the Education and Social Work curricula has stalled. Ms Farrington reported that the College of Health Sciences had sponsored a report on indigenous curriculum. She will address this report at the next meeting of the Working Group. **Adopted**
- The installation of flagpoles to increase the visual profile of an Indigenous presence on campus was suggested by Ms Mooney, following a recommendation of the Academic Board Review of the Koori Centre. It was recommended that Ms Mooney and Ms Farrington write to the DVC (Infrastructure) to pursue this issue for both the Camperdown/Darlington Campus and the Lidcombe Campus. **Adopted**
- It was noted that research into Indigenous issues will increase with the arrival of a Professor of Indigenous Studies.
- Ms Farrington informed the Working Group that Dr Kathleen Clapham has just won an NHMRC Grant. It was recommended that the Chair write to Dr Clapham congratulating her on the success of her grant application. **Adopted**
- Ms Mooney informed the Working Group that the Koori Centre was focussing on teaching the process of revitalising Indigenous languages and participating in curriculum development with other bodies delivering courses in revitalising Indigenous languages, rather than actually teaching a revived “Sydney Indigenous language”.
- The Koori Centre provides literacy tutoring and personal case management under the CHASS/Arts (Indigenous Support Allocation Funds). It was recommended that Ms Mooney talk to the PVC (College of Humanities and Social Sciences) regarding extending this program to all CHASS faculties. **Adopted**
- The Koori Centre has almost completed a program with an Indigenous staff cadet. It was recommended that Ms Mooney liaise with Staff and Student EEO regarding finding an appropriate continuing position for this member of staff. **Adopted**

5. Draft Meeting Dates for 2006

It was agreed that the Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group would meet from 10.00a.m. – 11.00a.m. in the Western Tower Room on:

- Thursday 9th February 2006
- Thursday 6th April 2006
- Thursday 8th June 2006
- Thursday 7th September 2006
- Thursday 9th November 2006

6. Other Business

• Circle Sentencing

In his Charles Perkins Oration, the NSW Chief Justice Jim Spigelman reported on a successful trial in Nowra of the Canadian concept of Circle Sentencing. The Working Group discussed the potential of this method for use in the Redfern Court House. Assoc Prof Peter McCallum will assess the College interest in extending the pilot case study locally with input from the University’s Faculty of Law. **Adopted**

• Students at Risk Policy

Prof John Carter alerted the Working Group to a new University policy on Students at Risk which will be discussed by the Academic Board at its next meeting.

- **Indigenous liaison/employment officers of the Sydney basin universities**
Ms Morrison reported that Chris Mumbulla, Aboriginal Liaison Officer (Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit), was meeting on 18th November with other Indigenous liaison/employment officers of the Sydney basin universities (UNSW, UTS, USyd, UWS and ACU). The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways the group can work together in attracting and supporting Indigenous students and other community members into higher education and/or employment at the universities in the Sydney region. Ms Scahill will report on the outcome of this meeting at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Adopted

- **Last meeting of Prof John Carter**
The Chair thanked Prof Carter for his contribution to the working Group during his period as Chair of the Academic Board.

7. Next Meeting

- Thurs 9th February 2006 at 10.00-11.00a.m. in the Western Tower Room