

**SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY MEETING**

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting held at 11.00am on Tuesday 18 October 2005 by video link from Room B102 at Hobart, Room L172 at Launceston and Room B119 at Burnie.

PRESENT:

Professor J. Reid (Dean and Chair), Dr J. Alexander, Mr R. Anders, Dr C. Burke, Dr C. Bolch, Professor A. Canty, Dr J. Dermoudy, Professor J. Dickey, Mr R. Doyle, Dr S. Ellingsen, Dr J. Ellison, Dr M. Gardiner, Professor G. Hallagraeff, Ms M. Hazelwood, Dr J. Jabour, Dr A. Kelarev, Ms J. Mollison, Dr J. Purser, Dr A. Seen, Professor F. Vanclay, Mrs H. Williams, Dr R. Williams, A/Professor D. McWilliam.

Ms N. Oliveira was present as Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES

Dr M. Cameron-Jones, Professor C. Carter, Professor Y. Choi, Professor R. Fay, A/Professor V. Karri, Dr A. Koutoulis, Dr P. Lane, Professor R. Large, Professor J. McPhie, Professor B. Mapstone, Dr G. Nolan, Dr E. Stratford, Ms A. Tyson and A/Professor R. White.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2005 were confirmed.

3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

No items of other business were raised.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Nil.

5. DEAN'S REPORT

The Dean reported on a number of matters, including:

2006 Faculty Budget

The Faculty Meeting had been arranged primarily so that the Faculty Budget could be presented prior to the meeting of Academic Senate.

The Dean reported that the Faculty faces two significant challenges in the coming year. The first would be to meet the challenging enrolment targets (2153 EFTSU) and the second, would be to position the Faculty to

maximise the reputational and financial returns from the introduction of the research assessment exercise. The impact of not meeting target was the possibility of clawback from the centre and not performing well in the RQF would impact significantly on future research funding.

The Dean provided an overview of the budget noting that the Faculty receives 52% of funds earned from the University while, the Faculty guarantees a return to Schools of a minimum of 90% of funds earned. It was also noted that the Faculty had secured an additional \$400,000 to provide adjustments funds to Aquaculture, Computing, CODES and Geography & Environmental Studies. The other components of the budget - Faculty Office and Earmarked funds (i.e equipment & minor works, study leave, domestic and international marketing etc.) - had not increased.

As a final comment, the Dean stated that the 2006 Faculty Budget was a workable budget but stressed that pressure would be felt if the Faculty failed to meet target and there was a reduction in research earnings.

The Faculty Meeting *agreed* to endorse the indicative 2006 Faculty Budget.

2006 Application Numbers

The Dean presented a snapshot of 2006 application numbers - 651 (11 October 2004) compared to 670 (10 October 2005) - which indicated that the Faculty was marginally ahead and that the increase was mainly in the Year 12 category. However, the expected bounce back in Year 12 applications from the dip in 2005 has not been seen.

Teaching Merit Certificates

For information, it was reported that nominations for Teaching Merit Certificates close on October 24, 2005.

6. FACULTY TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

New course proposals

It was noted that three late course proposals were being advanced through the Faculty in the hope that they would be introduced in 2006:

- Graduate Certificate in Science Methodology
- Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma of Marine Sciences
- New Honours field in the Bachelor of Biotechnology with Honours

Despite the uncertainty as to whether the programs would be approved for introduction in 2006, it was important that they were considered by the Faculty Meeting.

Graduate Certificate in Science Methodology

Currently, Honours programs are year long involving 9 to 9 and a half months of teaching (or the equivalent of 40 weeks) but the University only receives 1 EFTSU for a student.

Honours is defined as 100% by DEST so in order to achieve recognition that teaching occurs over a period of 39 weeks, it was noted that Schools had been asked to develop a 50% research methodology to form the basis of a tri-semester Honours program. Initially, it was hoped that students would take the 50% unit as an additional requirement at the end of their BSc. However, advice had been received that this would not be possible and hence a Graduate Certificate proposal was developed. The Graduate Certificate, it was explained, would cover the initial phase of Honours where a student develops their Honours project. It was also noted that students would be given a 50% HECS exemptions by the University so there would be no financial impact on students. In the short-term there would also be no impact on a student's learning entitlement but by about 2008 there could be an impact. The Dean stressed it was up to each School whether they participated but if they did not they would only receive 1 EFTSU per Honours student.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on how the Graduate Certificate program would work in practice. It was pointed out that the Honours program doesn't change but some re-arrangement of assessment may be required. Students would not be doing any extra work to achieve Honours but rather Weeks 1 to 13 would consist of the Graduate Certificate (50%) and Weeks 14 to 39 would consist of Honours (100%). As students would be entitled to take out the Graduate Certificate clear assessment tasks would be required. Units would be graded on a UP/NN basis because fine assessment would not be used. Dr Koutoulis commented that he thought there could be benefits to the student, as they would be required to deliver something after 13 weeks and this would give them an indication whether or not they were on track.

The Faculty Meeting *agreed* to support, in principle, the introduction of a Graduate Certificate in Science Methodology (title to be reconsidered).

Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma of Marine Sciences

The PhD program in Quantitative Marine Science involves a number of coursework units. The Dean explained that the proposal involved the

re-packaging of these units in order to make available a Graduate Certificate (based on 4-units) and a Graduate Diploma (based on 8-units) thereby providing a funding source to the Centre for Marine Science and attracting extra EFTSU. There was believed to be potential demand from within the Tasmanian marine science workforce for quantitative and policy knowledge.

The Faculty Meeting *agreed* to support, in principle, the introduction of a Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma of Marine Sciences.

Bachelor of Biotechnology with Honours - new specialisation

A proposal for a new area of specialisation - Population Health - to be offered by the Menzies Centre under the Bachelor of Biotechnology with Honours was presented.

This was considered to be a relatively straightforward proposal and the Faculty Meeting *agreed* to support, in principle, the introduction of a Population Health specialisation under the Bachelor of Biotechnology with Honours. The Dean undertook to follow-up the question as to whether there was any impediment to Aquaculture being added as a specialisation Biotechnology Honours specialisation.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 11.55am.