

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY FACULTY MEETING

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting held at 10.00am on Monday 19 June 2006 by video link from Room H102 at Hobart, Room L023 at Launceston and Room B119 at Burnie.

PRESENT:

Professor J. Reid (Dean and Chair), Dr C. Burke, Professor Y. Choi, Professor J. Dickey, Dr S. Ellingson, Dr J. Ellison, Dr D. Fitzgerald, A/Professor B. Gemmell, Ms M. Hazelwood, Dr P. Jarvis, A/Professor S. Jones, Dr A. Kelarev, Dr P. Lane, Dr T. Lewis, Dr N. Mendham, Ms J. Mollison, Dr J. Osborn, Dr J. Purser, A/Professor A. Richardson, Dr D. Russell, Dr A. Seen, Dr G. Unwin, A/Professor R. White and A/Professor B. Yates

Ms N. Oliveira was present as Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES

Dr M. Cameron-Jones, Professor C. Carter, Dr J. Dermoudy, Dr G. Hannan, Professor C. Johnson, Mrs C. Jones, Dr A. Koutoulis, Dr B. Leon de la Barra, Professor C. Lueg, Dr N. Moltschaniwskyj, Dr R. Sandford, Ms A. Tyson and Professor F. Vanclay.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2005 were confirmed. It was also noted that the December Examiners Meeting also served as a Faculty meeting but no issues requiring minuting were raised.

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 Student Load

The Faculty's student load, a key driver of the budgetary process, was reported as being better than anticipated as early predictions had the Faculty falling, 300 EFTSU below target. It was noted that the Faculty was only 80 EFTSU below target and this was largely attributable to the

fact that the census date had been brought forward. There was some risk that the loss of students would be higher after the release of Semester 1 results and therefore the Dean urged Schools to put in place retention strategies. The importance of Semester 2 enrolments was also emphasised.

It was noted that RHD enrolments were strong with several Schools approaching 50 EFTSU and this could be improved through Semester 2 scholarships.

FFPOS numbers were steady but the predicted growth had not been reached. The School of Engineering had suffered a fall in FFPOS but this could be recouped in Semester 2.

The Dean also reported that there would be no clawback this year for under enrolment. Last year the Faculty was required to return \$1.25M which was a significant impost.

2007 Budget

An indicative, University budget had been presented at the last meeting of the Planning & Resources Committee. The Dean reported that the 2007 Budget looked good and included growth places.

It was noted that discussions would soon take place with Heads of Schools to look at individual targets. It was noted that there were a number of Schools that were in a good position.

RQF/Strategic Positions

The Dean reported that the RQF was likely to be delayed by one year, which meant that articles published up to the end of 2006 would count. Also, the staff census date would now be March 2007. Generally, there would be more time for Schools to fine tune staffing and publications. Also, there was an opportunity for Level A staff to seek promotion to Level B (promotions close July 10).

It was noted that the six strategic appointments secured by the Faculty to assist in the RQF process were continuing to be made with three appointments having already accepted.

Restructuring

The Dean reported on the Vice-Chancellor's proposal for restructuring, which would impact on the roles of the senior executive. The Vice-Chancellor was looking to take on more of a president style role and to allow for this there would be a DV-C Academic Provost and a PV-C

(Research). It was unclear, at this point in time, whether the PV-C (T&L) role would be retained or a Director of Teaching & Learning position would be established. Deans would be given University-wide portfolios.

It was also noted that a small committee (CUSP) had been established to look at structural issues, including the number of faculties, two discipline based areas (Visual Arts and IT) and student administration matters. It was noted that the location of Fine Furniture could become an issue under the review of the school of Visual and Performing Arts to be held later this year.

6. FACULTY TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

A function of the Faculty Meeting is to comment on proposals for new courses and for significant amendments to existing courses. It was noted that the following new course proposals had been progressed through the relevant Faculty committees and referred to the University Teaching & Learning Committee. Also, a number of preliminary course proposals currently under consideration were noted.

Associate Degree in Fine Furniture

It was noted that an Associate Degree in Fine Furniture, offered through the School of Architecture, had been approved late in 2005. The program which is based on the VET-accredited Diploma of Arts (Furniture Design) has been enhanced to increase the level and depth of design skills and knowledge as well as ensuring the generic attributes expected of a university level education are provided systematically within the course.

Bachelor of Marine Science with Honours

In line with the introduction of the Bachelor of Marine Science in Semester 1, 2006 a one year research-orientated Honours program had been approved. Details of the Bachelor of Marine Science with Honours were included in Attachment 1.

A/Professor Jones commented that it maybe appropriate to shift some of the material in the Honours units into the Research Methodology units. It was noted that the Research Methodology units, which were introduced in 2006 to form the basis of a tri-semester Honours program, were an interim arrangement that needed to be reviewed for 2007.

New Civil-Mining Engineering specialisation in the Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering with Honours.

Contained in Attachment 2 were details of a new Civil-Mining Engineering specialisation that had been considered and approved. This was not a complete mining degree but a stream which has been created within the existing civil engineering program to address the acute shortage of engineering for the mining industry and the fact that only a few Australian universities are offering courses in mining related engineering degrees.

It was noted that the proposal had been developed following an offer of external sponsorship from Coffey International (Geosciences) to cover teaching and other expenses associated with the new units to support the stream.

The Faculty Meeting *agreed* to support the introduction in 2007 of the new courses outlined above.

Redevelopment of the Architecture Program

A report was received on a proposal being progressed to redevelop the Architecture program to offer it as a Bachelor + Masters program, following a move by the profession to deliver the graduate component of Architecture as a Masters degree. A recent announcement by DEST that the Masters program would be commonwealth supported (ie. HECS based) meant that a 3+2 program would be developed. The only issue that was unresolved was whether students carrying on to the Masters program would be eligible to receive Austudy.

Counselling/Rehabilitation Programs

A report was received that the School of Psychology had been approached by the Faculty of Education to take over responsibility for postgraduate counselling programs currently offered by the Faculty of Education. The University wishes to remain involved in counselling teaching and therefore the School of Psychology is currently considering the restructuring of existing rehabilitation programs to develop an integrated program.

7. DEGREE NOMENCLATURE - BACHELOR OF GEOMATICS

A proposal, contained in Attachment 3, to re-name the Geomatics degree programs *Surveying and Spatial Sciences* was considered. It was noted that the recommendation had resulted from consultations with the profession, general public and students and would provide greater recognition for the program and clarity in marketing. The term Geomatics had not been taken-up broadly across the profession.

The recommendation to change the name of the Bachelor of Geomatics and Bachelor of Geomatics with Honours to Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences and Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences with Honours was supported.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 11.00a.m. It was noted that the next meeting would be the Faculty Examiners Meeting scheduled for Friday 7 July 2006.