

ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

Report of meeting of 12 April 2005

This was one of Senate's longer meetings, with full and productive discussion of a wide range of important topics.

Membership

New members: Professor Angela Woollacott (Humanities) and Dr Julie Fitness (Linguistics and Psychology). Resignations: Associate Professor Judy Ungerer (Linguistics and Psychology). Senate also welcomed Professor John Hooper (new Dean of Higher Degree Research) as an observer.

Vice Chancellor's Report

Professor Loxton reported on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He told Senate about four new papers issued by DEST, on which comments are sought:

- Research Quality Framework,
- Building University Diversity (which involves the definition of a university),
- Building Better Foundations for Higher Education in Australia (proposal to shift legislative responsibility from states to commonwealth) and
- National Quality Strategy for Transnational Education and Training (quality of offshore programs in all education sectors).

Professor Loxton also reported on

- the commonwealth's new Learning and Teaching Performance Fund,
- the 2005 version of the MU Teaching and Learning Plan,
- 2005 enrolments,
- student evaluation reports (aggregated by Divisions),
- the commonwealth requirement of a course eligibility score (matriculation score in a previous era),
- domestic undergraduate fees for 2006,
- a proposed MU Foundation Studies Program (for entry to the university),
- a change of exam dates for second semester (two further days at the end of the period) and
- annual DEST funding agreement discussions.

Vice President's report

The Library Committee has requested that academic staff revive a custom long in force at Macquarie, under which staff publishing new books presented a copy to the University Council, after which they were donated to the library. All staff are urged to leave a copy of their newly published books with the Vice Chancellor's office with a request that they be presented to Council.

Academic Program Committee

On the recommendation of APC, senate approved the introduction of two specialised strands of the BBA, to be taught by the International College of Management (Sydney) at Manly. This change has been initiated by a change in legislation. Senate also approved a new graduate certificate and graduate diploma in Critical and Cultural Studies, and the change of names of some masters degrees. (New programs also require the approval of University Council, on the recommendation of senate.)

Review of SCMP

Senate discussed the recently completed review of the Division of Society, Culture, Media, and Philosophy, and the division's plans in response to the report.

Bruce Kercher

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC SENATE