

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.1

MEETING 07/6

VICE-CHANCELLOR

12 DECEMBER 2007

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Purpose

To report to Council on key developments and events that have occurred since Council's last meeting.

Recommendation

That the Vice-Chancellor's Report as detailed in Document 5.1 be received and noted.

1. UPDATE ON STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES FOR 2007

At the Council meeting in February, I presented to you the Strategic and Operational Issues we would be concentrating on in 2007. Below is an update of our progress against these important issues.

1a. Strategic Issues

➤ Initial Considerations of Setting the Pace and Strategic Plan

During 2007, Council approved a one year extension of the existing Strategic Plan with minor amendments to strengthen external engagement.

A review of the UTS mission, vision and guiding principles is well underway. During 2008, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor will seek the contribution of Council members to the review.

➤ Insearch Governance Reforms

Insearch reforms have been implemented. These include revision of the Insearch Constitution, changes in Board membership, allocation of UTS portfolio responsibility to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the establishment of new communication and reporting mechanisms.

➤ Approach to Intellectual Property Commercialisation

At its October 2007 meeting, Council approved the establishment of formal arrangements with an external service provider of research commercialisation services. Enabling contractual agreements are under preparation.

➤ Campus Development

Aarons Hotel was sold this year, and an expression of interest for student housing went to market in August. A number of submissions has been received, which are currently being evaluated by an external consultant, who will also prepare tender documents and provide guidance on commercial partnerships.

Recommendations and options for the Kuring-gai Campus are scheduled to be presented to Council in April 2008, as will the results of consultations currently underway to develop a new campus masterplan.

1b. Major Operational Issues

➤ Review of Academic Profile

The Academic Profile Review highlighted:

- strategically important areas of the UTS academic profile
- the need to improve performance in several areas, especially in research
- the potential to further leverage and build upon existing capabilities through proposed new courses in the broad areas of Environmental Studies, Digital Industries, City Studies and Global Studies.

Sub-projects established to implement the findings of the review include:

- more detailed assessment of postgraduate coursework
- working groups for the new areas of studies noted above, which are working through the University's usual course assessment process.

➤ Review of Academic Structures

Council has approved changes to UTS's faculty structure arising from the Academic Structures Review. Effective from 1 July 2008:

- a new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is to be established in place of the current Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Education and Institute for International Studies; and
- a new Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology is to be established in place of the current Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Information Technology.

By the end of the year we plan to have filled the new senior Faculty leadership positions, mainly through internal placement and selection processes, so that the new management teams are in place to lead the transition to the new structure.

➤ Review of Procurement Processes

The restructuring of the Facilities Management Unit, at sub-Director level, has been agreed. A new position will drive procurement processes, and recruitment should be completed by the end of the year. Procurement positions in the Faculties have also been redefined and upgraded.

1c. Implementation of Major Initiatives/Process Improvements

In February, I presented some important examples of major initiatives and process improvements for 2007. An update on these follows.

➤ **Student Administration**

On 5 November 2007, the University moved to providing support services to coursework students through five student centres. This model, which replaced the former Faculty-based centres, aims to provide our students with consistent, transparent and high quality service.

In April 2007, the Subject Logistics Management team was established to provide centralised timetabling support services for the University, thereby enhancing data entry/system controls, consistency of operations and more appropriate support to Faculties.

➤ **Implementation of Research Quality Framework**

The Research Quality Framework (RQF) was initiated by the previous government to assess the quality and impact of research undertaken at publicly funded Australian research institutions. In preparing for this assessment, the University has gained a greater understanding of our research strengths and our potential, which will be useful in the next phase of strategic investments in research.

With the election of the Labor government, the RQF is unlikely to remain in its current form.

➤ **Refinement of Planning, Quality Management and KPI Frameworks Post AUQA**

A review of our planning and quality management framework is now underway and is expected to be complete by mid 2008, in parallel with the revision of Setting the Pace and the development of a new strategic plan. The KPI framework, which has been refined each year since 2005, will be reviewed more comprehensively in parallel with the development of a new strategic plan.

➤ **Creation of an Environmental Sustainability Taskforce**

In May 2007, an Environmental Sustainability Initiative (ESI) was launched at UTS. The taskforce aims to coordinate all efforts within the University to create an environmentally sustainable campus. The ESI is made up of seven working groups focused on:

1. Recycling and Waste Management
2. Transport
3. Energy
4. Water
5. Procurement
6. Buildings

7. Communications and reporting.

The groups are consolidating the excellent sustainability work that has taken place at the university over the past few years and now leveraging off the latest technologies and research to improve the sustainability of our campus.

Work has taken place in lighting refits, water recycling, waste recycling and natural ventilation, to name just a few areas. Our Campus Master Planning is fully integrated into all of these initiatives.

The groups are also working closely with other areas of the university and community to create synergies for progress. These include:

- Exploring co-generation of energy and sewer mining of water with our neighbours on the former Carlton United Brewery site
- Discussing solar technology with industry and other universities around the world
- Working with the City of Sydney Council on transport solutions
- Consolidating UTS sustainability research for use on the campus
- Encouraging students to more actively participate in the initiative
- Commissioning a Carbon Emissions Inventory which should be complete by February 2008. This will provide the base line from which the university can calculate an emissions reduction target.

Large infrastructure projects associated with the Environmental Sustainable Initiative will be presented to Council as they arise.

➤ **Implementation of New UTS Policy Framework**

New policies and directives have been transferred into the format of the new Policy Framework. Existing policy instruments are being reviewed by the relevant member of the Senior Executive, following an agreed schedule coordinated by the Governance Support Unit. Regular reports will be provided to Council, including recommendations to rescind out-of-date policies.

Further elements to be undertaken in 2008 relate to a gap analysis of policy areas that may need attention; the development of policy tools, such as policy development and review guides; and improvements to the policy webpage.

➤ **International activities**

- As part of the new International Student Recruitment Plan an overall international student load target of 6000 Equivalent Full Time Student Load (EFTSL) has been set for 2015. By the end of 2007, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) will have established plans with the Deans to meet this target.
- A Pathway Programs Strategy has been developed to ensure appropriate recruitment and entry procedures and to identify specific Pathway Providers.

- UTS International has undergone change management, achieving a concentration of international activities management in the one office, greater economies in operation, and more effectiveness in meeting University needs for international activity support.
- UTS International Partnerships have been developed, and we have actively engaged in the establishment of the World City University Network. We will host the Network's inaugural conference in May 2008.

➤ **External Engagement**

A special presentation will be made to Council at its December 2007 meeting on External Engagement. The presentation will mention the new UTS External Engagement Enabling Plan and priorities for 2008, and outcomes of a review of the University's Development Capacity.

2. EXTERNAL MATTERS

➤ **Federal Election Outcome**

On 24 November, Australia voted for a change of government. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to work with the new Labor government in a (more) co-operative way to advance Higher Education.

Labor has previously committed to reducing the impost on students, increasing the operating grants of Universities and increasing both competitive and block research funding schemes. In the last few days, the government committed itself to removing domestic full-fee undergraduate places from 2009 and replacing the Research Quality Framework. It will be important for the sector to work with the new Minister, Julia Gillard, to ensure an orderly transition of these policies which does not disadvantage the sector.

➤ **Trade Delegation to China and India**

As foreshadowed in my last report, I have recently returned from accompanying the Premier, the Hon Morris Iemma MP, and representatives of other universities in NSW and the ACT, on a trade mission to China and India. China is now our number one bilateral trading partner, while India is our fastest growing market. We successfully engaged with their growing higher education sectors, as well as industry and research organisations, and extended the collaboration between the universities of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NSWVCC) and India.

Importantly, the trip was an opportunity for UTS to solidify some existing relationships, and I signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the National Thermal Power Corporation, GGS Indraprasatha University, and All India Association of Industries (AIAI).

➤ **Australian Higher Education Industrial Association (AHEIA)**

I recently agreed to fill a casual vacancy on the AHEIA Executive Committee. AHEIA is the employer association for the higher education sector, and protects the industrial relations interests of its members. I will join Vice-Chancellors of six other universities, including the University of South Australia and Curtin University of Technology. My term expires at the AHEIA Annual General Meeting in November 2008.

➤ **National Symposium: English Language Competence of International Students**

Universities Australia (UA) has released a report on the English Language Competence of International Students, following a national symposium in August. The aim of the symposium was to consider evidence about the efficacy of Australian policy and practice in the area of English language preparation, support and competence of international students with a view to identifying actions needed to enhance current knowledge and practice.

The key actions proposed by the symposium include:

- a more generalised use of English language diagnostic tests (for all students) including post-entry
- consideration of the establishment of a set of national standards for all English language proficiency programs focused on outcomes measures
- a priority research agenda to be determined in consultation with industry, governments and with Australian employer and professional groups
- agreement by stakeholders to act in concert to share and exchange information and ideas and to tackle shared problems

The report was commissioned by Australian Education International (AEI) in the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Copies of the report are available at

<http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/PublicationsAndResearch/Publications/IndustryPublications.a.spx>.

➤ **Australian Technology Network (ATN) - Engineering in Schools Initiative**

The ATN, of which UTS is a member, will partner 15 schools across Australia to introduce engineering into high school curricula and promote engineering to students, under its Engineering in Schools initiative, which is part of ATN's Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers campaign. The campaign aims to boost the industry's public profile and address severe skill shortages. More information is available at <http://www.atn.edu.au/wgroups/engineering.htm>.

➤ **Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) – 2007 University Rankings**

Eight Australian universities have made the top 100 in the latest world rankings of institutions of higher education. The top three performers were the Australian National University at number 16, followed by the University of Melbourne (27) and the

University of Sydney (31). Australia's top six research-intensive universities remained in the top 50.

UTS ranked 259, down from 255 last year. This result is disappointing given our ranking in the top 100 in 2004. However, QS, the company responsible for data collection and analysis for the THES Rankings, advises that “serious” universities worldwide need to be in the top 450, and we fall well within that number.

QS advises there have been several significant changes that may affect UTS ranking:

1. The various indicators are being scored and interrelated through Z-scores and their aggregation.
2. Inclusion of many additional universities from outside the English-speaking world.
3. Less resistance from universities to provision of data to QS.
4. Citations index generated from Scopus.
5. New calculation of staff numbers (to include casuals).

Our major weakness is published research citations, which needs to be addressed as part of our strategic focus.

At a faculty level, Engineering and Information Technology (137), and Arts and Humanities (139) performed at a level just outside the top 100 universities. Science was ranked at a lower level (256).

➤ **2007 Equal Opportunity for Women Agency's (EOWA) Business Achievement Awards**

I am pleased to advise that UTS was a finalist in the 2007 EOWA's Business Achievement Awards, shortlisted from the more than 3,000 organisations that report to Equal Opportunity for Women Agency.

UTS was nominated in the category “Outstanding Initiative and/or Result for the Advancement of Women”. The UTS initiative that has been nominated is the University's sustained, comprehensive and integrated Gender Equity Program.

Unfortunately, we did not win on this occasion. But our sustained effort over many years, and the championing of gender equity from the top down, has led to outstanding results, and a well-earned reputation for UTS within the sector as an organisation which promotes the advancement of women on merit, and is a “good place for women to work”.

3. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ **Kuring-gai Update**

The NSW Department of Planning is continuing to progress our application for the rezoning of our Kuring-gai Campus. At this stage, we are running some three weeks behind the original project plan of June 2007. The second of three community reference

groups took place on 14 November, with the third planned for mid December. All is progressing smoothly. The major concerns from the residents appear to be keeping the oval for community sport, and bushfire protection.

At this stage, we expect Ministerial feedback early in the New Year. This timeline should enable evaluation of the Kuring-gai campus use to take place with a final recommendation to Council in April 2008.

➤ **Research Update**

- UTS (through the Institute for Water and Environmental Resource Management) has become a founding research provider member of Water Quality Australia Research Limited, an industry and government entity established to source applied contract research on a wide range of water quality issues.
- I have received a “thank you” email from Elias Messaike, alumnus and casual academic, Faculty of Science. At the beginning of 2007 I forwarded an email regarding the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship Award, which Elias followed up and subsequently won. He is currently in Brussels pursuing his studies, and credits UTS, and particularly his supervisor, Dr Tamara Szynda, with his success. I have replied to Elias, wishing him all the best with his project.
- The Australian Institute of Energy (AIE) has recognised the exceptional contributions of Professor Geoff Smith’s work in innovative solar lighting and solar reflective coatings, and awarded him an AIE Excellence in Energy Award for 2007, in the category of “Innovation in Energy Science and Engineering”. This is a major achievement and recognition of Geoff’s work.

➤ **Teaching and Learning Update**

- UTS has been awarded \$220,000 over three years by the Carrick Institute, under the Promoting Excellence Initiative. The grant will fund a staff member to work on initiatives and oversee our liaison with the Carrick Institute.

➤ **External Engagement, Development and Alumni Update**

- I was pleased to speak at a morning tea recently, acknowledging UTS staff payroll donors. We now have 55 staff contributing to the program in support of scholarships.
- With 400 enthusiastic guests, the end-of-year Alumni event on Friday 16 November had the largest attendance of any alumni end-of-year event to date. Special effort was made to invite alumni from antecedent organisations and encourage longer serving academic staff to attend.
- UTS has joined the Australia China Alumni Association, which will improve links with UTS alumni in China and Hong Kong.
- I attended the Australia China Business Council 2007 Oration on 12 November, accompanied by China researchers and members of the Advisory board. UTS had

an additional presence by circulating a new publication, the UTS China Atlas, at the event.

- Submissions to Foundations and Trusts continue. The George Alexander Foundation has given \$10,000 for scholarships for indigenous students; and the Cowled Foundation has given \$20,000 to support living costs and tuition costs for a high achieving indigenous female student from a rural area for one year.
- On 29 November, UTS co-hosted an event with the Australian American Leadership Dialogue, “The Emerging Dominance of the American West in the Economy, Culture and Politics of the United States”. This event came about because Bob Carr recommended UTS after he mediated a Global Panel Student Forum in September and was very impressed by UTS students and staff.

➤ **Industry Views of UTS: 2007 Reputation Survey**

The UTS Key Performance Indicator (KPI) framework developed in 2005 identified “UTS reputation” as a critical dimension of our performance, for which we needed to develop one or more KPIs. We subsequently commissioned a marketing research firm, AMR Interactive, to conduct a UTS Reputation Field Study. UTS compared very favourably with other Australian organisations in overall reputation, and against other NSW Universities. Importantly, UTS top rated five attributes by Industry are:

- “Prepares its graduates for the workplace”
- “Offers high quality teaching and learning”
- “Has an Industry-focused approach”
- “Is a high performing University”
- “Is an innovative University”

In benchmarking terms, among NSW Universities, UTS leads in 11 of 27 attributes, which are mainly grouped under ‘Industry focused’ and ‘forward thinking’ dimensions.

This survey will enable us to develop Reputation KPIs, and will complement other intelligence being gained through the international and postgraduate student market research. All of these inputs will contribute to the review of the University’s mission, vision and guiding principles and development of a new strategic plan in 2007-2008.

➤ **Accolades for Professor Archie Johnston**

As mentioned to you email by email on 9 November, I have passed on my congratulations to Professor Archie Johnston, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, who has been named 2007 Australian Civil Engineer of the Year. This honour is awarded by Engineers Australia, the national peak body for all engineering disciplines. This is the first time an academic has ever received this honour which is usually made to practising engineers.

On 21 November at the annual Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) Awards Dinner, Archie was presented the B-HERT Award for Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year. The citation covered the many collaborative engineering initiatives at UTS, and portrayed both Archie and UTS in a very good light.

These awards recognise Archie's immense contribution in making our Faculty of Engineering a leader in practice-based industry education.

➤ **Sporting Update**

- On the weekend of 10 and 11 November, UTS Norths equaled their Record Gold Medal haul from 2006 at the NSW State Relay Championships. They won 13 Gold, 14 Silver and 12 Bronze – the second largest medal count ever in the history of the event. UTS Norths is home to six UTS Union High Performance Sports Scholars, who are amazing contributors to all levels of athletics and a real jewel in the crown of UTS Sporting Clubs.
- Eight rowers from the Korean Rowing Association recently arrived at the UTS Rowing Club for a six week intensive training camp, to train alongside our coaches and athletes in their final training block before the Olympic qualification regatta. Over the years UTS RC has worked with many International Clubs and Associations. Our rowing family extends not only to Asia, but also through Europe and the United States. The UTS Rowing Club is seen as a real point of contact for rowing athletes around the globe.
- UTS's own first year Law Student and High Performance Athlete, Georgia Woodyard, has been shortlisted for the 2007 Australian University Sport (AUS) Female Athlete of the Year Award. Georgia was a member of the Australian Women's Basketball Team that won gold at the 2007 World University Games. This was the first Australian team in the history of the event to win Gold.
- Three UTS students have been nominated for the NSW Institute of Sport Annual Awards:
 - UTS High Performance Sports Scholar and 2006 Sportswoman of the Year, Melissa Ashton Garard, a finalist for the Powerade Academic Excellence Award
 - UTS's 2007 World Champion Rower, Miranda Bennett, a finalist for the NSW Arts, Sport and Recreation Award
 - UTS Rowing Club Captain, Nick Baxter, a finalist for the Lawler Partners Career Development Award.

4. EVENTS

➤ **Australia Latin America Awards 2007**

On 22 October UTS was presented the Education Award of the Australia Latin America Business Council and the Council on Australia Latin America Relations. The award was accepted by Professor David Goodman, who thanked the Latin American Studies team at UTS, ably led by Dr Jeff Browitt. Professor Goodman commented that our graduates are at the forefront of the effort to bring Australia and Latin America closer together through their work in business, government and the professions.

➤ **Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**

On 24 October, Professor Vicki Sara presented the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. These fellowships are awarded annually to outstanding early career researchers, and UTS usually receives around 70 applications from around the world. The fellowships provide for a three year research only appointment or a four year research/teaching appointment, and applicants receive project funding for their research project. I congratulate this year's recipients:

- Dr Paul Gribben (Novel impacts of invasive species on native organisms), supervised by Dr Brendan Kelaher, Faculty of Science.
- Dr Wei Gao (Rollover propensity of vehicles with uncertainties in system parameters and road conditions), supervised by Associate Professor Nong Zhang, Faculty of Engineering.
- Dr Wenshan Guo (Domestic wastewater treatment: reuse opportunities and revolution in technology), supervised by Dr Hao Ngo, Faculty of Engineering
- Dr Wenjing Jia (A novel and fast detection system from outdoor scene video), supervised by Associate Professor Sean He, Faculty of Information Technology .

➤ **Faculty of Engineering Industry Advisory Network (IAN) Dinner**

On 29 November I hosted the annual IAN Dinner, at which we thanked Dr John Nutt for his unstinting efforts as convener of IAN, a position he has held since the forming of the network in 1999 and is now stepping down from. John and IAN have contributed greatly to our links with industry. In recognition of his tremendous contribution, the Faculty of Engineering has instigated the Dr John Nutt International Undergraduate Scholarship, which offers students the opportunity to obtain an undergraduate qualification at UTS: Engineering. John will remain a member of IAN.

5. AROUND CAMPUS

➤ **Celebrating 10 Years of Reconciliation at UTS**

In October I attended a Flag Raising Ceremony to open Cultural Awareness Week, and officiated at a ceremony to mark Ten Years of Reconciliation at UTS. UTS was among the first universities in Australia to formally adopt a Reconciliation Statement in November, 1998. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was the Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Fair Trading. Twenty-five Indigenous artworks have been installed throughout the foyer and Chancellery public spaces, and are on loan for 12 months from private collector Mr Patrick Corrigan AM.

➤ **Year 10 & 11: Preparing for Uni Event**

Thinking about university study is an exciting prospect for many high school students. However, the process of choosing a course, applying, enrolling and preparing for university can be confusing for students and parents alike.

On 24 November, UTS hosted an event to provide Year 10 and 11 students and their parents/guardians with tips to manage the transition from school to university, strategies to help make career choices, and information about preparing for university. While students engaged in hands-on activities, their parents and guardians were given information about fees, the admissions process and tips to help their child manage HSC stress.

6. APPOINTMENTS AND DEPARTURES

Professor Tony Baker has been reappointed as Chair of Academic Board, for a third term. I have congratulated Tony, and thanked him for his ongoing commitment to the University.

Professor Paul Redmond, who took the role of inaugural Sir Gerard Brennan Professor at the beginning of 2006, retired from UTS on 28 November. Paul has been a wonderful supervisor and has assisted staff in the faculty to reach their potential. He has played a leading role in curriculum review, and enhanced the profile of UTS through his contribution to scholarship and research including producing another edition of his landmark casebook.

Professor Tom Hintz, who has been ably steering the Faculty of Information Technology for the last 12 months, retires at the end of this year. Tom has over 20 years' distinguished service with the University, and we wish him the very best for the future.

Mr Michael Pennisi has been appointed to our new position of Manager, Strategic Finance. This position will focus on providing Management Accounting and Business Partnering services to the Faculties, as well as more comprehensive analysis and benchmarking for UTS. Michael is a finance and planning professional with over 15 years' experience in capital budgeting, costing, business planning, reporting, risk management and project delivery. Michael's most recent role has been Finance Manager at the Sydney Operating Centre of the engineering services consultancy, GHD. Michael has also worked as a lecturer and instructor at the University of NSW.

7. CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following:

- **John Hartigan**, Director, UTS Legal Services, has been appointed President of the Society of University Lawyers, for a term of two years. John will use his term to increase cooperation between university legal offices and to further a number of projects that the Society has been considering.
- **Professor Theo van Leeuwen**, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; and **Louise Edwards**, Director of the Sydney China Research Centre, have been named Fellows of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Fellows elected to

the Academy are residents of Australia who have achieved the highest distinction in scholarship in the humanities.

- **Professor Mark Tennant**, part of the ATN Deans of Graduate Studies Group, which has won a 2007 Carrick Award for Australian University Teaching for Programs that Enhance Learning – postgraduate education category (\$25,000).
- **Professor Derek Eamus**, who has been awarded one of only two Land & Water Australia Senior Research Fellowships.
- **UTS Union Ltd** has a new President, David Latham; and a new Vice President, Rebecca Trewick.
- **All staff involved in helping us achieve our outcomes in the 2008 Learning & Teaching Performance Fund.** We achieved a tremendous result that would not have been possible without input from staff across the University.

8. IN MEMORIUM

I was saddened to hear that the husband of Associated Professor Rosemary Johnston, Director of the Centre for Research and Education in the Arts, recently passed away after an ongoing illness. I have passed the condolences of the University community on to Rosemary and her family on the loss of Malcolm.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLED PAPER 5.1

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.1

MEETING 07/6

VICE-CHANCELLOR

12 DECEMBER 2007

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Purpose

To report to Council on additional key developments and events that have occurred since the dispatch of the last Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council.

Recommendation

That the Vice-Chancellor's Report, as detailed in Document 5.1 and the Supplementary Tabled Paper 5.1, be received and noted.

REPORT

1. EXTERNAL MATTERS

➤ New Ministers and Shadow Ministers

It has been confirmed that the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has been appointed Minister for Education in the new Federal Government. The Department of Education, Science and Training has been renamed the Department of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in keeping with Minister Gillard's portfolio. The Hon Kim Carr is Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

The Coalition's Shadow Minister is the Hon Tony Smith, Victorian MP for the seat of Casey. I have written to Minister Gillard and Tony Smith, as well as other newly-elected MPs with whom we have a relationship, congratulating them and stating our intention to work with them to deliver the best outcomes for our sector.

3. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Following an internal selection process, Professor Theo van Leeuwen has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, in line with our revised academic structure. Theo brings a wealth of experience to the role, and has a strong vision for the future of the new Faculty.

External recruitment processes are currently underway for the positions of Deans of the Faculties of Nursing, Midwifery and Health; and Engineering and Information Technology.

➤ Visit by Higher Commissioner and Consul General of India

I was pleased to receive a request last week from the High Commissioner of India, Her Excellency Mrs Sugatha Singh, and the Consul General of India, Mr Sujan Chinoy, to visit our city campus and meet with me. In a broad-ranging discussion, Professor Sue Rowley and I talked with them about our recent visit to India; Her Excellency's interest in promoting academic exchanges and identifying academic synergies and institutions that can work with Indian counterparts; and potential research links between UTS and India, overlapping with NSW State Government priorities and our key industry partnerships.

➤ **Peer Network Celebrations**

On 6 December I hosted the Peer Network Program Farewell Event in the Chancellery, at which we acknowledged the significant contribution the Student Peer Network makes to the Orientation Program and the successful transition of students to UTS. Peer Networkers commit to participate in a minimum of two Orientation periods (totalling three to four weeks) and any associated compulsory training sessions, and their tremendous commitment makes UTS a welcoming place for new local and international students. I presented certificates of appreciation and personalised references to over 30 Peer Networkers who were able to attend the event, and it was a very successful celebration.

➤ **UTS Inventors Among Top in the Country**

The Personal Health Monitor of Dr Valerie Gay and Dr Peter Leijdekkers from the Faculty of Information Technology was judged among the top five inventions this year on ABC TV's The New Inventors. Valerie and Peter were up for the 2007 Invention of the Year for their software that uses wireless sensors and the latest mobile phone technology to monitor heart function and automatically alert emergency services, family and bystanders if problems are detected. Although not the ultimate winners, the judges had high praise for a life-saving application that utilises existing communications technology and can be adapted to keep pace with it.

It is the second year running for a UTS New Inventors grand finalist – last year Engineering PhD student Dominic Dowling was selected for his bamboo, string and wire "Quake Safe" system for improving the earthquake safety of traditional mud brick housing in developing countries.

➤ **UTS Alumni Shine at 52nd Walkley Awards for Journalism**

Five UTS alumni have been honoured with Walkley Awards, announced on 29 November. The Walkleys are the premier awards in Australian journalism.

Eurydice Aroney and Sharon Davis won for their ABC Radio National documentary, "The Search for Edna Lavilla". Eurydice teaches radio journalism at UTS, and Sharon is a previous Walkley and UN Media Peace prize winner.

Matthew Brown (with Wayne Harley), won for his piece on Foreign Correspondent, ABC TV, "West Bank, Love and Betrayal". Matt, who is the ABC's correspondent in the Middle-East, has previously received two Walkley commendations.

Wendy Page won for her sports feature on Australian Story, ABC TV, "Man of the Century".

These awards reinforce the quality of our graduates, and I have sent my congratulations to each winner.

➤ **Sporting Triumphs**

On Friday 7 December, third year Law Student, Georgia Woodyard, won the Australian University Sport Female Athlete of the Year. Georgia was a member of the Gold Medal winning Women's Basketball Team that competed at this year's World University Games. On her return from the Games, Georgia donated her Gold Medal to UTS, which will proudly hang from our new trophy cabinet in 2008. This is the second year in a row that UTS has taken top honours at the AUS Awards. Hugh Tait, High Performance Sports Scholar for Sailing, was the 2006 AUS Male Athlete of the Year.

UTS will have seven teams out of eight featuring in the finals series of the Sydney Indoor Hockey competition on 17 December at Homebush. The standard of competition in all grades has been very high this year, so it is a great testament to the talent of the club that we have made so many finals.

Following magnificent results at the first round of Olympic Trials last week, seven UTS Rowing Club Members have been selected to attend a National Camp at the AIS, in Canberra this week. Our athletes are:

- Katelyn Gray, UTS Union High Performance Sports Scholar
- Miranda Bennett
- Ian Allsop
- Steven Stewart (AIS Scholarship Holder)
- James Chapman (AIS Scholarship Holder)
- David Dennis (AIS Scholarship Holder)
- Sam Loch (AIS Scholarship Holder)

➤ **Professor Shirley Alexander**

Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity) was involved in a bicycle accident last weekend which resulted in a broken shoulder and hand. Shirley will be convalescing for the rest of the year, and we look forward to her return in the new year.