

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY**

**COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM 3.1**

**MEETING 08/1**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**27 FEBRUARY 2008**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

**Purpose**

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

**Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the report, as detailed in Document 3.1 and Attachment 1, *Vice-Chancellor's Report*.

## **1. EXTERNAL MATTERS**

### **➤ Federal Government Agenda**

#### *Meetings with Ministers*

This year, Australian Technology Universities (ATN) Vice-Chancellors and I have met with both:

- The Hon Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister MP; Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations; Minister for Education; Minister for Social Inclusion; and
- Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

At the meeting with Minister Gillard on 25 January, we discussed the role of our universities, and explained that Government policy needed to address the following key issues:

- Increased government targeted funding to meet identified skills shortages and skills development essential to our future national growth
- Increased infrastructure investment to improve our research and teaching and learning
- A reformed income support system for students
- A simple funding framework
- A clear and consistent regulatory framework that reconciles expectations and standards for international and domestic higher education.
- The Minister's proposed review of higher education

At the meeting with Senator Carr on 6 February, we discussed:

- The terms of reference of the proposed National Innovation Review
- A new framework for the assessment of research quality
- A shift from centralised sectoral reform to compacts between the Commonwealth and individual universities
- Co-operative Research Centres and the Higher Education Endowment Fund
- The need to increase both competitive research funding and research infrastructure funding.

#### *Australian Research Council (ARC)*

In January, Senator Carr confirmed that the previous Government's plans for a Research Quality Framework would not go ahead. He reiterated Labor's election promise to restore independence to the ARC and announced the establishment of an ARC Advisory Council to provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer, Professor Margaret Sheil, on key research issues.

Senator Carr said that the Advisory Council, to be chaired by Professor Sheil, will provide her with non-binding strategic and policy advice on strategic issues relating to the mission of the ARC; policy matters relating to innovation, research and research training; and

matters relating to the evaluation of the quality and outcomes of research and research training in an international context.

### ***Improved Financial Benefits for Students***

Postgraduate students will be eligible for welfare benefits for the first time this year after Minister Gillard approved 310 professionally oriented masters degrees (across the sector) for which students can claim Youth Allowance or Austudy of up to \$355 a fortnight, plus rent assistance - previously not available for students aged 25 years and over – up to \$105.40 a fortnight.

The change was announced in the federal budget last year as masters qualifications were recognised as increasingly necessary to gaining a job in a competitive market. The chief executive officer of Universities Australia, Glenn Withers, said the extension was "a good start to improving the stressful financial situation many of our university students find themselves in". The relevant masters qualifications at UTS include:

- Juris Doctor
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Arts in Music Therapy
- Master of Industrial Property
- Master of Planning
- Master of Professional Accounting

### **Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and the National Governance Protocols.**

On 6 February, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) wrote to me about the Minister's decision regarding compliance by UTS with Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs) and the National Governance Protocols (NGPs) under relevant legislation. The Minister was satisfied that, as at 31 August 2007, UTS met all legislative requirements. As a result, the 2008 Commonwealth contribution amount for each funding cluster payable to the University will be paid in full.

The Minister indicated that it is her intention, that, prior to the next compliance date of 31 August 2008, the conditions on funding under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme associated with compliance of higher education providers with HEWRRs and NGPs are to be removed.

#### **➤ Annual Australian Technology Universities (ATN) Conference**

The annual ATN conference was held in Perth on 29-31 January. This year's conference marked a decade of national collaboration among the five member universities and featured the largest attendance at an ATN conference (176) including some overseas observers. We welcomed delegates from Chinese affiliated ISTA Network and the South African Technology Network – two of our important and significant international alliances. The Hon Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research also attended.

The theme of the conference was future directions for our Universities in the new policy environment and ATN initiatives in sustainable futures and Engineering. During the conference, the ATN Vice-Chancellors signed three Memorandums of Understanding:

- a) *ATN and Engineers Australia*: this MOU aims to establish a mutually beneficial and co-operative partnership between parties to increase the rate of students in Engineering programs, advocate jointly on mutual areas of interest and promote engineering curriculum reform.
- b) *ATN and selected schools*: this MOU establishes a project the aims of which include providing secondary school students with the opportunity to experience “the world of engineering” and learn about the role of science and technology within engineering and assist teachers with curriculum development.
- c) *ATN Declaration of Commitment to Local, National and Global Sustainability*: ATN universities commit to making sustainability a focus in teaching and learning, research, operations, infrastructure, service and outreach to local, regional and global communities.

➤ **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

I am delighted to announce that the World Health Organisation, after consultation with the Federal Government, has designated the UTS Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health a WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development. Professor Denise Dignam will head the Centre.

WHO collaborating centres are institutions such as research institutes, parts of universities or academies, which are designated by the Director-General to carry out activities in support of WHO’s programmes.

Designation as a WHO Collaborating centre will provide the Faculty with improved recognition by national authorities, open up opportunities for co-operation and exchange of information at an international level, and mobilise additional resources from funding partners.

The launch of the WHO Collaborating Centre will be held on 7 April, “World Health Day”.

➤ **University Partner – Country Education Australia**

I have recently received a letter of thanks from the Board of Directors of the Country Education Foundation of Australia, for our becoming a University Partner. The partnership demonstrates our commitment to assisting youth from rural and regional areas overcome some of the financial obstacles when transitioning to University.

➤ **Alliance of Global Sustainability (AGS) Annual Meeting at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) 28-31 January 2008**

In January, Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) represented me at meeting of University Presidents and Vice-Chancellors at the Alliance of Global Sustainability (AGS) Annual Meeting at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The AGS is an international partnership between leading science and technology universities. It brings together university scientists, engineers, and social scientists to address the complex issues that lie at the intersection of environmental, economic and social goals.

Patrick reported that the Annual meeting looked at issues such as co-operation between industry, university researchers and government on research and biofuels. A strong message of the meeting was that it is not too late to address climate change: it is time to deploy the knowledge that we have, or soon will have, to pursue sustainable pathways. Researchers from UTS were also present at the AGS meeting.

## **2. INTERNAL MATTERS**

### **➤ Research Update**

#### ***Research Quality Framework (RQF)***

While the new Federal Labor Government has abandoned the RQF in the form proposed by the previous Liberal Government, our preparation work was a great investment in positioning UTS research for the future. Major work was undertaken to review and restructure UTS research strengths, entailing:

- Completion and implementation of the Science and Information Technology reviews commenced in 2006. These reviews utilised panels of distinguished external researchers in the fields; and
- The review and restructure of research strengths across the remainder of the University.

The result is a set of 25 research strengths which position UTS in areas where it can grow its research productivity, impact and reputation. It is from these research strengths that the proposals for a major investment to create areas of significant international research impact will be drawn. The March Council Retreat will feature more on this issue.

#### ***Grant Successes***

- Professor Lynn Chenoweth, Professor of Extended Care Nursing, and colleagues have been awarded a National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grant. This was for a project on Dementia Research valued at \$1,473,395.00 over three years to conduct a study titled: 'Person-centred environment and care for residents with dementia: a cost-effective way of improving quality of life and quality of care?'. Other UTS researchers involved are Dr Ian Forbes, Dr Madeleine King, and Professor Jane Stein-Parbury.
- **Faculty of Science** - The following Faculty of Science researchers have been successful with recent grant applications to a range of research funding sources outside the ARC/NHMRC:
  - Professor Ann Simpson: 'Reversal of Diabetes in Pigs Using Liver-directed Gene Therapy', Diabetes Australia Research Trust, \$49,991

- Professor Ann Simpson: 'Expansion of Tissue Culture Facilities for a Preclinical Trial: Reversal of Diabetes in Dogs Using Liver Directed Gene Therapy', Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation, \$16,412
  - Dr Tony George: 'Computational design of inhibitors of P-glycoprotein', Cure Cancer Australia Foundation, \$75,000
- Professor John Dalton, Faculty of Science, has been successful as part of a team of researchers in obtaining funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to conduct a project called 'High Through-Put Screening of Plasmodium Falciparum Aminopeptidases'. If the project is successful it should lead to potentially patentable drugs for malaria and further NIH support
  - Professor Clive Chappell, A/Professor Alison Lee, Dr Roger Dunstan and Professor Rick Iedema at the UTS Centre for Research in Learning and Change, University of Technology Sydney were successful in a research bid in partnership with the Centre for Health Services Development (CHSD) at University of Wollongong. This 18 month research project involves an evaluation of the functioning and performance of Cancer Australia.

#### ➤ **Alumni News**

##### *Alumni engagement with Chinese, Indonesian and Indian alumni*

UTS: Alumni is assisting UTS International with recruitment by developing overseas alumni networks:

- In late 2007, UTS joined the Australia China Alumni Association. Recently, the Association organised a speaking engagement for the DVC International in Beijing attended by 160 and which received wide media coverage in Australia and China. A UTS Beijing Alumni Network has been established and a dinner held recently. The Hong Kong and Shanghai networks are growing following recent events.
- UTS is a founding member of the new association in Indonesia for alumni of Australian universities, OzMate.
- In February, Alumni in India are to be invited to form an Indian alumni network.

#### ➤ **Sporting News**

##### *Rowing*

In January, surrounded by controversy, the Russian Men's 8 was disqualified from Beijing, clearing the path for the Australian Men's 8 who had yet to qualify for the Olympics. In contention for this crew are five UTS Rowers:

- Nick Baxter (UTS Club Captain)
- James Chapman
- Stephen Stewart
- Sam Loch
- Dave Dennis

With less than 200 days to go to the Opening Ceremony, training is intensifying for our Rowers and trials begin in April for seats in the Australian qualified boats.

### ➤ **Promotions to Professor and Associate Professor**

I am pleased to advise Council that the following staff have been promoted to Professor on the basis of personal merit, effective 14 March 2008:

- Alison Lee, Faculty of Education
- Jie Lu, Faculty of Information Technology
- Massimo Piccardi, Faculty of Information Technology
- Nicky Solomon, Faculty of Education

The following staff have been promoted to Associate Professor on the basis of personal merit, effective 10 January 2008:

- Dr Martin Kornberger, Faculty of Business and Faculty of Design, Architecture and Bulding
- Dr Dikai Liu, Faculty of Engineering
- Dr Madeleine King, Faculty of Business and Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health
- Ms Karen Bubna-Litic, Faculty of Law
- Dr Yusuf Pisan, Faculty of Information Technology
- Dr Devleena Ghosh, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

I thank all these staff for their commitment to the University, and congratulate them on their promotions.

### **3. EVENTS**

#### ➤ **Commemorating the Federal Government Apology**

On Wednesday 13 February, I shared a memorable time with many students, staff and Council members when we gathered at the Guthrie Theatre from 8am to commemorate the Federal Government's apology to the Stolen Generation.

A packed-out theatre hall listened to guest speaker Joan Tranter from the Equity & Diversity Unit who reflected on her personal experience and why the apology is an important step for all Australians. We then watched a screening of Prime Minister Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Federal Government and Parliament.

An apology was a key recommendation of the 'Bringing Them Home' report. UTS has a long-standing interest in the 'Bringing Them Home' Report, having awarded its authors, the late Sir Ronald Wilson and Mick Dodson, honorary doctorates in 1998 for their work in compiling the report.

In the spirit of the Federal apology, UTS will be looking at ways in which we can continue to build bridges between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.

Universities Australia is also working closely with the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC) to achieve better outcomes in Indigenous Higher Education.

➤ **The UTS Bell Rings Again, 4-6pm, February 28, Bell Tower, Cnr Quay Street and Ultimo Rd**

After several decades of silence the Paddy's Market bell outside the library will ring again, this time to mark the beginning and the end of each semester and other important events in the University's life.

To celebrate the occasion, the bell tower will become the scene of an old market place. One of UTS' PhD History Graduates, Stephen Gapps, along with colleagues from Historica, will bring history to life by paying tribute to some of the market's colourful characters.

The old markets' bell was originally rung to mark the opening and closing of the markets each day so it's appropriate that UTS celebrates its ringing again with our neighbours at the present day markets. Paddy's Markets will join in the celebration along with other neighbours in the area.

➤ **Third Decade Celebrations**

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UTS as a university. Planning is well underway to celebrate how far we have come and the exciting opportunities our third decade presents for UTS. There will be various events during the year on which we will mark this occasion; however, the main focus will occur at the end of May with a formal dinner on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hilton Hotel and internal kickoff on campus on Monday 26th. Council members will be updated on details of these events as planning progresses.

#### **4. AROUND CAMPUS**

➤ **Corporate Sprint Triathlon**

In 2007 UTS had five teams in the BP Ultimate/BRW Corporate Sprint Triathlon, including one team of all women (who took first place in our category), two teams of men, and two mixed teams.

Jennifer Gilmore, Director of the Human Resources Unit, is coordinating our entries this year, and encourages any members of Council who made new year's resolutions about improving their health and fitness to enter this year's event. Each person in the mini triathlon does a 400m Swim + 8km Cycle + 4km Run. The Triathlon will be held on Sunday 14th April from 7.30am-12noon, at the Royal Botanic Gardens. For more information contact Jen Gilmore on 9514 4679 or email [jennifer.gilmore@uts.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.gilmore@uts.edu.au).

## 5. APPOINTMENTS AND DEPARTURES

### ➤ Deans

Following an exhaustive recruitment process, **Professor Theo van Leeuwen** has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and **Professor Archie Johnston** Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. Both of these appointments will begin on 1 July 2008, when the revised academic structure takes effect. Theo and Archie were standout applicants, and are looking forward to continuing their significant contributions to UTS.

Interviews for the position of **Dean of Nursing** have concluded and a preferred candidate selected. Discussion are currently underway with this candidate and I will advise Council members as soon as possible about the outcome.

Two Deans are leaving UTS this year. **Professor Rob Lynch** of the Faculty of Business has just announced his retirement in August of this year; and **Professor John Rice** of the Faculty of Science is completing his term at the end of June. We will begin recruitment for both these positions.

### ➤ Other appointments and departures

Congratulations to **Professor David Wilson**, Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, who was elected President of the Australian Council of Heads and Professors of Information Systems (ACPHIS) in December. David stood down as President of the Australasian Association of Information Systems (AAIS) in the same month, following four years as President.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC** as a Visiting Professor, for a term of two years. As previously mentioned in this report, Denise is a former staff member of NSWIT and most recently, Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Australia.

We say farewell to **Tim Laurence**, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. Tim has accepted the position of General Manager, Education, at Insearch. I have thanked Tim for his hard work and commitment while at UTS, and look forward to our continued relationship.

**Debra Bock**, Director, Financial Services Unit is leaving us to pursue a more senior position and continue the development of her career. During Debra's six and a half years at UTS, she has overseen a great many positive changes including the introduction of a new accounting system, much improved budgeting processes, accrual accounting, structural and staffing changes and improved management reporting. Debra also established good relationships with the Finance Committee, University Executive and a broad range of staff.

## **6. CONGRATULATIONS**

### **➤ Australia Day Honours 2008**

Former staff and students of the University were recognised in the recent Australia Day Honours List. Congratulations to:

- Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC (Companion of the Order of Australia), for service to higher education; formerly a lecturer in the Faculty of Science of NSWIT;
- Emeritus Professor Gerard Sutton, AO (Officer of the Order of Australia), for service to tertiary education; formerly head of the School of Mathematical Sciences, NSWIT and UTS; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, UTS;
- Ross Gittins, AM (Member of the Order of Australia), for service to journalism and to the accountancy profession; graduate of NSWIT;
- Vance Gledhill, AM (Member of the Order of Australia), for service to computer science; formerly Dean of the Faculty of Mathematical and Computing Sciences, and head of the School of Computing Sciences, NSWIT; and
- Dr Roger Morris, AM (Member of the Order of Australia), for service to the adult, continuing and community education sector; recently-retired senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education, UTS.

### **➤ Other congratulations**

Congratulations to the UTS Faculty of Business. UTS's 'business school' has been ranked among the world's top 100 Business Schools in the world and in the top 20 in Asia by Quacquarelli Symonds, the principals of the [www.topmba.com](http://www.topmba.com) organisation. A report on this website states:

“The Global Recruiters Top 100 Business Schools Report, which canvassed opinions from 489 human resources managers and MBA recruiters from 35 countries, put the following Australian business schools in the top 100 (alphabetically):

- Australian Graduate School Management
- Australian National University.
- Macquarie Graduate School of Management.
- Melbourne Business School.
- Monash University Graduate School of Business.
- Queensland UT, Brisbane Graduate School Business.
- University of Technology Sydney.”

The authors of the report claim it provides the definitive list of business schools whose MBA students are currently most attractive to international recruiters.

## **7. IN MEMORIAM**

I was saddened to hear of the passing of James McCawley in January. Jim was a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education who had worked at Balmain Teachers College and Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education from 1970, and retired at about the time of amalgamation with UTS. Jim turned 79 a few days before he died.

**DOCUMENT 3.1  
SUPPLEMENTARY TABLED PAPER**

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY**

**COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM 3.1**

**MEETING 08/1**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**27 FEBRUARY 2007**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY 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 Council receive and note the supplementary report, as detailed in Document 3.1, *Vice-Chancellor's Supplementary Report*.

## **1. EXTERNAL MATTERS**

### **➤ Universities Australia Challenge to the Federal Government**

On 19 February Universities Australia released a position paper calling for the Federal Government to commence further action on its election promises to the higher education sector from the 2008 Budget. The paper puts forward some key actions for the Government, including:

- further implementation of the commitments it made to the higher education sector prior to the election
- expansion of core university funding in the Budget to account fully for the real costs of provision (an additional \$210 million for 2008-2009)
- establishment of a new \$6 billion HECS Fund from either securitisation of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme or additional Budget surplus (a further \$300 million per year for infrastructure).

### **➤ China Business Summit**

I was pleased to be invited by the City of Sydney to speak at their inaugural China Business Summit, themed '*Looking beyond the resources industry*'. I sat on a panel debating the economic framework for trade with China in industries such as tourism, education, law, and banking. I discussed the most important principles for engaging with China for the higher education sector; and how the opportunities for Australian engagement will change as China develops its own Higher Education sector.

## **2. INTERNAL MATTERS**

### **➤ Events**

#### ***Environmental Sustainability Initiative (ESI) Launch***

I encourage all members of Council to attend the launch of the UTS Sustainability Website on 13 March, to which you have received an invitation. This event aims to improve the awareness of university staff and students of the ESI activities, and promote their active involvement in projects to reduce our campus emissions.

The ESI has continued to progress on a number of fronts. The ESI is driving a Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) inventory, which will allow a sensible reduction target to be set. UTS will be one of the few universities in Australia, and the only ATN university, to have completed this inventory. Working groups have been involved in projects such as ensuring our Campus Master Plan incorporates all of the appropriate sustainability designs; auditing of our waste recycling; continuing our conversion to energy efficient lighting continued; and investigating the greening our vehicle fleet.

## *Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations*

We are hosting dinner at the Hilton Hotel on 23 May, to celebrate our twentieth anniversary and launch our Third Decade. There is a suite of events planned in the following week, and I hope you can join staff and students to celebrate this important milestone.

### *Staff Awards*

- On 14 February I presented Career and Professional Development (CAP) Awards to three staff, in recognition of their exceptional performance:
  - Kathy Grattan, AVS Program Manager, ITD
  - Iuliana Stroe, Lending Services Assistant, Library
  - Garry Irwin, Projects Administrator, Student Administration Unit
  - and a commendation to Ruth Cavanna, Senior Customer Support Officer
  
- On 19 February I was delighted to host the annual UTS Long Service Awards. This year a total of 59 staff reached their respective 20, 25, 30 and 35 year milestones. Thirty-eight of these hard-working staff were able to join us on the evening, where we honoured 890 years of service to UTS.

Congratulations to all these members of staff.

#### ➤ **Congratulations**

Please join me in congratulating:

- **Brendon Nelson, Deputy Director, Governance Support Unit**, who has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and related diseases. Brendon worked for many years in the community and government health sectors in health promotion, disease prevention and in support for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

#### ➤ **Appointments and Departures**

I am happy to report the appointment of a new Director, Facilities Management Unit. **Robert Kelly** has spent the last ten years leading the facilities area at Macquarie University, and his experience and leadership skills will enable us to continue our considerable push in campus development and facilities management. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Glen Rabbitt for acting in this position since October 2006.

#### ➤ **Sporting News**

### *Rowing*

Our UTS Women Rowers won three gold, one silver and a bronze at the State Championships recently. Top results for the Men also with Geoff Stewart leading his charges to a Silver Medal in the Men's Coxless Four.

Four UTS Rowers have secured a place on the Australian Olympic team - James Chapman, Sam Loch, Dave Dennis and Stephen Stewart have been selected to crew the Men's 8. Further selections are anticipated as trials continue here and overseas. World Champion Women's Lightweight, Miranda Bennett, has finished second in the Women's Single Scull, keeping her in contention for a spot in the Olympic Team.

### ***World Cross Country Championships***

2006 UTS Sportswoman of the Year and 2007 UTS High Performance Sports Scholar, Lucy Starrat, has been selected in the Australian Cross Country Team that will compete in France at this year's World University Cross Country Championships.