

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 3.1

MEETING 08/2

VICE-CHANCELLOR

16 APRIL 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

Review of Higher Education

On 13 March, the Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Gillard, announced independent, evidence-based review of Australia's higher education system, to be chaired by Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Australia and Chair of the Australian Technology Network (ATN), of which we are a member. The review will consult with State and Territory tertiary education authorities, and invite submissions from the sector and community. It will report on future direction of sector, its capacity to meet the needs of the Australian community and economy, and options available for ongoing reform.

The review panel is due to deliver priority action plan by October; and full report by the end of the year, meaning universities are likely to have to wait for next year's budget before receiving funding increases.

Review of the National Innovation System

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, recently announced a wide ranging review of Australia's national innovation system, to be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler. The panel will include Professor Mary O'Kane, who will be charged with the specific task of reviewing the Cooperative Research Centres Program. Universities Australia (UA) and the ATN will input to the review; and a Green Paper will be received from the panel by the end of July 2008, followed by a White Paper response from the Government.

Australian Research Council (ARC) Advisory Council, and Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Initiative

In January, Senator Carr confirmed that the previous Government's plans for a Research Quality Framework would not go ahead. On 26 February, he announced the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, to be developed by ARC in conjunction with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. ERA will use leading researchers to evaluate research activity progressively in each of the ARC discipline clusters and several clusters covering health and medical research that will be informed by experts from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Senator Carr has also 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.

Voluntary Student Unionism Review

In February 2008, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth, invited universities, students, small business, sports and community groups to help inform the Government on the impact of the current VSU policy. Minister Ellis has invited submissions in response to a discussion paper on the issue of VSU by COB 11 March. See www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/VSU/Voluntary_Student_Unionism.htm

Minister Ellis is meeting with representatives from the groups concerned from across Australia during February and March to hear about the impact of VSU. On 3 March 2008, Shirley Alexander, Tom O'Sullivan and I met with Minister Ellis and other Sydney-based Vice-Chancellors to discuss our views. The consultation supersedes a planned review of impact of the legislation which was to commence in June 2008. Findings from the Minister's consultation will help inform any future Government response.

➤ UTS – Employer of Choice for Women

Once again, UTS has been successful in obtaining a 2008 EOWA Employer of Choice for Women (EOCFW) citation. This year six pre-requisites were added to the selection process and UTS has not only met these pre-requisites, but also helped raise the bar for what it means to be an Employer of Choice for Women. This prestigious citation allows organisations to differentiate themselves from their competitors and achieve public acknowledgment of their efforts in the area of equal opportunity for women.

➤ ATN Project

In conjunction with our ATN partners, UTS has commenced a three-year project to look at staff reward and career paths. The project aims to help ensure that UTS is an employer of choice for staff. As part of the project we will be drawing on staff input received in our 2007 Staff Survey. We will also be inviting a cross-section of staff to contribute ideas and suggestions through focus groups.

➤ IDP Education Australia Scholarship Program

IDP Education Pty Ltd (IDP) is a global company offering student placement and English language testing services. IDP was established by Australian universities in 1969. I have been advised by IDP Education Australia that they have awarded five Study Overseas Scholarships to UTS students this year. The scholarships provide a living/travel allowance of \$5000 to each student, and our five students will travel to Denmark, Amsterdam and Tokyo to further their studies.

2. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ Faculty and Division Visits

I have recently completed my annual visits to all Faculties and Divisions, and was pleased to see so many staff attend. I took the opportunity to present a brief overview of last year's key achievements and highlights, but focused mainly on the year ahead and our strategic goals for third decade. I was accompanied by Peter Booth, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who sought feedback on the revision of the strategic plan. My presentation has been made available to all staff via the VC's Communications web page.

➤ AUQA Progress Report

The University has made significant progress over the last 18 months in addressing the issues raised in the 2006 audit report of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). In line with AUQA policy, the University duly received correspondence from AUQA requesting the University's response to its published audit report, showing how the University has addressed or is addressing each of the recommendations and affirmations in the audit report.

Our progress report has subsequently been placed on the University's website – see <http://www.planning.uts.edu.au/pdfs/UTS.progressreport.March2008.pdf> - and linked to the AUQA website.

➤ Insearch Board Membership

Last year, as part of a package of improvements to the University's governance arrangements with Insearch Limited, Council endorsed my intention to submit amendments to Insearch's constitution to a meeting of the company's members. My proposal, which was agreed to by the members, included transition arrangements to refresh the Board membership and the introduction of a maximum tenure of eight years (to apply to all members other than the Vice-Chancellor and the Managing Director).

As Council will recall, Patrick Woods joined the Board in April 2007, while Di Leckie replaced Ken Rennie as Council nominee from January this year. New Managing Director Alex Murphy was appointed to the Board in December 2007, and Ms Dianne Hill in March 2008. A new Insearch Board Chair will be appointed at the conclusion of current Chair Richard Hill's final term in May 2008.

The University has received a request from the Insearch Company Secretary for support for a proposal to amend the Constitution further, to allow Dr Katherine Woodthorpe to complete an eight-year term. The Board is concerned that otherwise, with Dr Woodthorpe, Mr Hill and Professor Lynch all departing from the Board by May this year, there would only be one director who will have served on the Board for longer than a year.

I wish to advise Council that, as a member of the Company, I propose to support the transitional amendment to the Insearch Constitution to be put to members at the 2008 AGM in May that would extend Dr Woodthorpe's tenure as a member of the Board until November 2008.

➤ **Research Update**

Designing Out Crime Research Centre

UTS was successful in winning a tender from the NSW Attorney General's Department to establish a Designing Out Crime Research Centre, which promise to provide an exciting new focus for applied research in the Faculties of Design, Architecture and Building, and Law. To be launched in June 2008, the Centre will take up the challenge of assisting the Government of NSW achieve its goal of a reduction in crime against people and property through more secure design.

Reshaping the Future of Urban Design

Jason McDermott, who completed a Bachelor of Architecture in 2007 and is currently working as graduate architect as well as teaching sessionally in the Master of Architecture program, is one of fifteen of Australia's most talented young architects, visual artists, urban planners, designers and engineers selected for Cityscapers: By The Throat, international multi-disciplinary design studio in Edinburgh. This prestigious design studio is funded and commissioned by British Council and directed by Professor Richard Goodwin of College of Fine Arts (COFA), University of NSW.

Funding Submissions

We have submitted 78 applications for ARC Discovery Program funding in 2009. This is down from 90 last year, as we implemented a deliberate strategy with faculties to discourage clearly non competitive applications.

We also submitted 15 NHMRC project grant applications for funding in 2009, up from 11 last year. This in part reflects a stronger focus by UTS on winning NHMRC funding.

➤ **Learning and Teaching Update**

UTS Learning and Teaching Awards 2007

The annual UTS Learning and Teaching Awards recognise the importance of learning and teaching for undergraduate and postgraduate students, and are aligned with the national Carrick Awards.

I am pleased to announce 2007 award winners:

- Team Teaching (\$5,000) - Master of Interactive Multimedia Teaching Team (IML)
- Early Career Teaching (\$3,000) - Leanne Houston (Faculty of Law)
- Postgraduate Supervision (\$3,000) - Professor Alison Lee (Faculty of Education)
- Internationalisation of Teaching and Learning (two recipients - \$3,000 each) - Louise McWhinnie (Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building); Dr Kylie Redfern and Associate Professor Anne Ross-Smith (Faculty of Business)
- Academic Support (\$3,000) - Alex Barthel (ELSSA Centre)

Commendations were awarded to:

- Susan Oguro from the Institute for International Studies (Early Career Teaching)
- The Peer Network Program Team, from the Student Services Unit
 - Chris Hepperlin
 - Fiona Robertson
 - Jessica Mander-Jones
 - Tienne Simons
 - Bonnie Vincent
 - Brett Smout

➤ **Sporting News**

UTS Sailor Headed For 2008 Olympic Games

Angela Farrell, Master of Design student, was selected in the Australian Sailing Team in 2006 and has since deferred her studies to focus on the upcoming Olympic Games. Angela has significant experience on the water and she hopes to bring home the Gold from Beijing. Angela's Olympic journey begins on 9 August (Day 1 of Competition) with finals held on 16 August.

2008 Australian Speed & Marathon Water Ski Titles

The 2008 Australian Speed & Marathon Water Ski Titles were held at Grafton NSW in January. Despite a field which included numerous past and present national champions and the current world champion, Peter Procter won the 2008 Australian Men's Open Marathon.

➤ **Honorary Appointments**

A new webpage for Honorary Appointments has been created by the Human Resources Unit, allowing staff to easily locate the policy, process, revised forms and relevant information. The new Honorary Appointment webpage is located at <http://www.hru.uts.edu.au/recruit/honorary.html>

3. EVENTS

➤ **CEDA National Innovation Forum**

A year ago, UTS rejoined as a corporate member of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), which brings together leaders in business, government, academic and the broader community. On 1 April 2008, UTS was pleased to sponsor the CEDA 2008 National Innovation Forum.

We were able to use this occasion to publicly show UTS's interest in the innovation debate, and also showcase our credentials in innovative research and teaching. A group of 80 delegates attended the Forum at the Westin Hotel, and 110 joined us for lunch. I introduced Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, and also chaired the Panel session where five senior managers from public and private sector organisations related their own very different experiences of innovation. The Chancellor chaired the lunchtime session featuring Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC.

➤ **Informa 6th Annual Higher Education Summit**

I was invited to join the Round Table Debate at the Annual Higher Education Summit on 3 April, to discuss the topic, "Should Australian universities work towards becoming specialist institutions?" Joining me on the panel were:

- Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor, James Cook University
- Professor Gavin Brown AO, Vice-Chancellor, the University of Sydney
- Julie Moss, National Chair, Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick, UK

This event brought together over 200 senior representatives from universities, businesses and government, including the Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Gillard. The program offered updates on the future direction of policy, funding, regulation and examined a range of governance approaches and development strategies.

➤ **Vice Regal Visit**

The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, visited the Faculty of Law to open a short course on 28 March. Her Excellency was welcomed by the Dean, Professor Jill McKeough, on behalf of UTS and the Faculty.

The short course was The Mental Health Act - Issues and Consequences. Presenters included the Hon Greg James QC, Her Honour Deputy Chief Magistrate Helen Syme, and other leading professionals in the Mental Health field.

➤ **Lord Mayor's Welcome to International Students**

I was invited by the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, to speak at a reception for international students studying in Sydney, on 26 March. I joined the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of Sydney and NSW in welcoming almost 1,000 students to our vibrant city, and wished them well in their studies and the lifelong friendships they would make.

➤ **UTS Writing Festival**

UTS was pleased to welcome the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett, who opened the second Australian Contemporary Fiction Festival hosted by the Centre for New Writing at the NSW Writers Centre in Rozelle, on 29 March. The Festival featured 40 writers, poets, playwrights, publishers and critics, whose talents created an inspiring program for everyone interested in contemporary Australian fiction.

➤ **WHO Collaborating Centre Launch at UTS**

I recently reported to you that the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health has been designated a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre. I was delighted to join Professor Denise Dignam, who heads the Centre, to launch the Centre on World Health Day, 7 April. We welcomed 150 guests, including WHO representatives and experts from across Australia and the Asian region.

UTS: Nursing, Midwifery and Health is internationally recognised within the profession, academia and the health services for its research, education, consultancy and policy development, and the Centre is one of only six nursing and midwifery WHO Collaborating Centres in the Western Pacific Region.

4. AROUND CAMPUS

➤ **Autumn Graduation Ceremonies**

Graduation ceremonies will be held at the Kuring-gai campus on 22 and 23 April, and in the City from 5 – 14 May. Members of Council have received invitations to these important events, and I encourage you to attend and help create wonderful memories for our graduates and their families and friends. We have specifically targeted occasional speakers to coincide with our 20th anniversary celebrations, and speakers of particular note include David Murray AO, alumnus and Chair of the Future Fund; and NSW Chief Nursing Officer, Debra Toms.

Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to:

- Steve Wallace, Manager, Security Services, retiring after 37 years
- Patrick Healy, former Council member and Senior Lecturer, School of the Built Environment
- Alan Brady, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Engineering

➤ **UTS Careers Fair**

On 9 April, the Careers Service welcomed industry to UTS at the Careers Fair. The annual Fair is a great opportunity for final year students to speak to representatives from over 120 companies about employment opportunities, explore options for further study or seek membership with a professional association. UTS External Relations staff, and staff who play a role in establishing and maintaining relationships with industry, ran a “Connect with UTS” booth, which provided a point of contact and information for industry people.

5. APPOINTMENTS AND DEPARTURES

I am delighted that **Professor John Daly** RN, BA, BHSc, MEd(Hons), PhD, will join us as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health later this year. He is currently Head of the School of Nursing at UWS. John has extensive experience as an educational administrator and academic, and he is active in research. His current funded research programs include cardiovascular health, palliative and aged care. He is well published in national and international peer reviewed journals and textbooks.

We recently farewelled **Distinguished Professor Dexter Dunphy AM**, who has retired after eight years at UTS. The title Distinguished Professor was bestowed upon him at the time of his appointment by the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Blake, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an academic and his significant contribution to organisational change, sustainability and corporate social responsibility in Australian organisations. Professor Dunphy's eminent career included appointments at the University of Sydney, University of NSW, and Harvard University, and he was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in 2007.

6. IN MEMORIAM

I was saddened to hear of the passing of the mother of fellow Council member, Di Leckie, after a short illness. The thoughts of the University community are with Di at this time.

**DOCUMENT 3.1
SUPPLEMENTARY TABLED PAPER**

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 3.1

MEETING 08/2

VICE-CHANCELLOR

16 APRIL 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*.

REPORT

1. EXTERNAL MATTERS

➤ Australia 2020 Summit

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, will convene an Australia 2020 Summit at Parliament House on 19 and 20 April to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future. One thousand delegates were selected from over 8000 nominations, and I am pleased to report that many people with close ties to UTS were successful. These delegates include alumni (notably actor, Hugh Jackman, who will receive a special award as part of our twentieth anniversary celebrations), Emeritus Professor Mary O'Kane, (Visiting) Professor Julian Disney, former Council member the Hon Helen Sham-Ho, and pleasingly, the following members of staff:

- Professor Mary Chiarella, Professor, Clinical Practice Development and Policy Research
- Professor John Daly, incoming Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health
- Associate Professor Elizabeth Savage, Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation
- Professor Patricia Apps, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Business
- Mr Sam Jeffries, Adjunct Professor, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning
- Professor Martin Nakata, Director, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning (Martin's daughter, Sana, is also a delegate)
- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning
- Katherine Fallah, Research Assistant, Faculty of Law
- Samah Hadid, Research Assistant, Institute for International Studies and UTS Transforming Cultures
- Kathleen Swinbourne and Dr Ian Cameron, casual academics

I have congratulated these members of staff, and trust they will participate in meaningful debate and the formation of achievable, long term goals for the country.

2. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ Opening of Anatomy Facility

I took great pleasure in officiating at the launch of our new Anatomy Facility on 14 April, which was opened by the Chancellor, Professor Vicki Sara. We were joined by senior representatives of our partner in this enterprise, the University of Notre Dame. The dedicated Anatomy Lab complements our state-of-the-art Science amenities, with highly specialised facilities for the receipt, dissection, storage and use of human cadavers. The Lab will increase the capacity for anatomy training in NSW, and provides opportunities for the Faculty of Science, College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases and the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to become part of significant teaching and research in complementary medicine.

➤ **UTS Input to Carlton and United Brewery Site (CUB) Development**

Research staff at the Institute for Sustainable Futures have been researching sustainability initiatives to address energy, water, construction, social and cultural sustainability for the \$2 billion redevelopment of the old Kent Brewery site on Broadway.

The owners of the site, Frasers Property, engaged the Institute to help them achieve their goal of being the first urban development to achieve a six green star rating for an entire precinct, under a pilot programme of the Green Building Council of Australia. The Institute identified suitable best practice and leading edge sustainability initiatives; undertook feasibility studies and initial modelling; and then developed a sustainability strategy for integration into the concept plan.

The Institute also developed a sustainability framework for the Barangaroo site (formerly East Darling Harbour) which NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor described as the other 'book-end' for the city.

➤ **NSW Green Business Program**

Two water-saving projects have received significant funding in Round 1 of the Green Business Program under the NSW Climate Change Fund:

- Cooling tower bleed water reuse in toilet flushing
Funding: \$60,000
Recycling of waste water from the central plant cooling towers into the toilet flushing system throughout the Tower, saving 5.7 million litres of water a year.
- Sewer Mining for Cooling Tower Make Up Water
Funding: \$1,471,000
Students will be kept cool using recycled water from the Wattle Street sewer in a major project to dramatically cut cooling tower water use. The project will save 45 million litres of water a year.

➤ **Sports News**

UTS High Performance Sports Scholar Lucy Starrat finished in 20th place at the World Uni Cross Country Championships, held in France recently. This was an outstanding effort for Lucy, who just returned from an injury plagued 2007 season.

Nina Curtis, in her third year of a Bachelor of Human Movement Studies at UTS, recently competed in the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) Woman's Match Racing World Championship. Nina and Team Acuity finished in 5th place, a great result considering the very testing conditions.

➤ **Congratulations**

On his departure from the University of Western Sydney, Professor John Daly, joining us as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health on 5 May, has been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor for his distinguished service.

3. IN MEMORIAM

Two eminent Australians with strong ties to UTS have passed away recently.

Peter Cullen AO was a great friend of the University. He was a speaker at our Graduations, contributed to the review of the Faculty of Science in 2006, and led the inaugural external advisory board of the Institute for Water and Environmental Resource Management. He will be greatly missed.

Former federal Labor minister John Button was credited as being the principal architect of modernised Australian industry, and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from UTS in 1995.

I also note the passing of the former Chancellor of the University of Sydney, the Hon Kim Santow AO, aged 67. He contributed greatly to the higher education sector, and was made an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2007 for his service to the judiciary and the law, to education governance, and to the arts. A memorial service will be held in the Great Hall of Sydney University on Wednesday 23 April at 6pm.