

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 3.1

MEETING 13/4

VICE-CHANCELLOR

19 JUNE 2013

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Purpose

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

Recommendation

Council to receive and note the report, as detailed in Document 3.1 and its Attachment – *Report from the Vice-Chancellor*.

1. EXTERNAL MATTERS

➤ Federal Government Agenda

Renewal of Provider Registration - Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

We were delighted to receive notification on 18 April of TEQSA's decision to renew the registration of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) for a full seven years. The TEQSA register now reflects that UTS is registered until 18 April 2020. TEQSA congratulated UTS on this well-deserved outcome, and thanked us for the high level of cooperation received from UTS throughout the application and assessment process. They commented on the comprehensiveness and presentation of our application, which was particularly helpful to the case team in linking the evidence submitted to each of the Threshold Standards. TEQSA stated that as a well-respected Australian University, UTS plays an important leadership role in raising the quality and reputation of Australia's higher education sector. Thanks to Professor Peter Booth, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and his team, for coordinating UTS's application.

Reduction of Red Tape

Universities Australia (UA) welcomed the announcement on 29 May that the Federal Government will take immediate action to reduce the regulatory burden on the Higher Education sector. The announcement comes in response to concerns raised by UA, which estimates that Universities spend \$280 million a year complying with Federal and State Government regulation and reporting requirements.

The Government has established an independent review, which will concentrate on maintaining higher education quality and transparency, while minimising red tape under current regulatory and data management arrangements. The review will make recommendations on TEQSA's approach to regulation in order to reduce the burden of reporting on universities. Minister Emerson has also directed the Innovation Department to take immediate action to examine and simplify its own data collection and administrative requirements.

Funding Cuts – Update

The Government announced on 3 June that it will hold off putting legislation on its university savings measures to parliament until after the September Federal election. The legislation will now be introduced in the Spring session of parliament. Savings, to take effect from January, were produced to make fiscal room for the Gonski school reforms, and have been the subject of a publicity campaign by UA.

Digital Education Advisory Group Report

Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity), chairs the Federal Government's Digital Education Advisory Group (DEAG). Its report has just been released, providing recommendations and key areas to enhance educational outcomes in Australian schools through the use of digital technology. The report also recommends two pilot projects to demonstrate how digital technology can be used to enhance education outcomes. The report is available at: <http://deewr.gov.au/digital-education-advisory-group-report>

➤ **State Government Agenda**

NSW Universities Strong Contributor to Australian Economy

According to a recently released Auditor General's report, tertiary students from overseas are a significant source of revenue for NSW universities and a strong contributor to the Australian economy overall. The report states that:

- Overseas students studying at Australian tertiary institutions, here and overseas, contributed a total benefit of \$15.3 billion in 2011-12, with NSW universities accounting for \$5.5 billion
- Student numbers in NSW universities increased during 2011 by 4,622 (1.9 per cent) to 245,404 with overseas students representing 23.6 per cent of all enrolled students at the end of 2011
- Capital expenditure across all ten universities in 2012 increased from 2011 by \$200 million and was 2.4 times greater than depreciation charges.

The report is available at:

<http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/News/Volume-Two-2013-focusing-on-Universities---MPs-complying-with-the-rules>

➤ **Student Welfare Survey**

At an address to the National Press Club of Australia on 8 May, UA Chair Professor Sandra Harding revealed new survey results which show university students are under severe financial stress. The survey shows that even before the announced budget changes to student support programs, students were having difficulty making ends meet and their jobs adversely affecting their performance at university. UA found in 2012 more than 80 per cent of full time undergraduates had to find a job to support themselves studying, and worked an average of 16 hours a week during semesters. A third of students surveyed said they regularly missed classes because of their jobs and 17 per cent said they regularly went without food or other necessities.

The UA Study of University Student Finances in Australia in 2012 drew responses from 11,761 students Australia-wide. Students include domestic, international, undergraduate and postgraduate. More information is available at:

<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/category/students---teaching/the-student-experience>

➤ **Staff Appointments to External Bodies**

Congratulations to Professor John Daly, Dean, Faculty of Health; and Professor Patricia Davidson, Health, who have been elected as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). They will be inducted in Washington in October. Fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research. The Faculty now boasts three Fellows, John and Trish joining Professor Christine Duffield, who was elected last year. This is a great honour; there are only five Fellows in Australia, and of 3 million Registered Nurses in the USA, 2000 are Fellows.

➤ **Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) Award**

The new green learning and teaching space in Building 5 has won the Regional CEFPI Category 3 Award for best renovation over \$2 million. The CEFPI Australasia's Regional Educational Facilities Awards are open to registered CEFPI members whose projects demonstrate effectiveness in the planning, design and construction of educational facilities. Professor Shirley Alexander, and UTS academic, Susan Sherringham, worked closely with the architects, Woods Bagot, to design the space, which showcases UTS's approach to blended learning. Congratulations to all involved.

➤ **Swan Cleaning Services**

As advised to Council members via email, Swan Services, the cleaning company engaged by UTS, has been placed into voluntary administration by its directors. Swan Services employs around 2,500 cleaners nationwide, of which some 130 service UTS. Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources), and his team are actively managing the situation in order to prevent a disruption to campus cleaning services and secure ongoing employment for the 130 Swan employees based at the University.

In consultation with Swan's employees' union, United Voice, interim provider Perpetual Property Care has been appointed. They will engage all 130 Swan employees to the end of 2013, by which time we will have appointed a new provider. At this stage, UTS is confident that we have no financial exposure, with no outstanding invoices and the added protection of a sizable bank guarantee.

➤ **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings**

In the QS World University Rankings, UTS was ranked 285 (see table, below). For the past 3 years, UTS ranked in the 250-300 band.

UTS's position in the QS World University Rankings, 2007-12

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
UTS QS World University Rankings	259	234	232	257	268	284

It should be noted that each year more universities agree to provide QS with the relevant data; in most cases, our metrics have improved.

By Faculty areas in 2012 UTS ranks:

- 214th for Arts and Humanities
- 153rd for Engineering and Technology; and
- 212th for Social Sciences and Management.

By subject discipline, UTS ranks as in the following table. Note that in 2011 only the rank group was provided – where exactly UTS sat within this rank band was not provided by QS. Three general comments can be made: a) that UTS’ relative position improved from 2011-12 for Computer Science and Information Systems, b) UTS’ relative position worsened from 2011-12 for Economics and Econometrics, and c) that other subject disciplines for which there was data in 2011 and 2012 remained steady in terms of UTS’ relative rank group.

UTS QS rankings by subject discipline (where data was available)

	2011 (rank group)	2012 (rank)
Computer Science and Information Systems	151-200	143
Engineering – Civil and Structural	101-150	150
Engineering – Mechanical	151-200	198
Engineering – Electrical and Electronics	151-200	198
Accounting	51-100	96
Economics and Econometrics	51-100	147
Law/Legal Studies		146
Communication and Media Studies		144
Education/Training		144

By survey indices, UTS’s world rankings in 2012 are as shown in the following table.

UTS QS rankings by QS Survey Index, 2012

QS Survey Index	Rank
Academic Reputation	267
Employer Reputation	116
Faculty Student	301
International Faculty	68
International Students	74
Citations per faculty	301

While we cannot do much about our staff/student ratios, we have been working hard to lift our citations per staff member.

➤ **Sichuan Lushan Earthquake**

On 20 April, a devastating earthquake struck in Ya'an, China, resulting in a huge loss of life and property. In recognition of the deep friendship between UTS and China, UTS made a donation to The Consulate General of the People's Republic in China in Sydney to provide assistance to those affected. The Consulate General has formally expressed its thanks to UTS, on behalf of the Government and people of Ya'an. The UTS Chinese Students and Scholars Association also set up a donation collection booth in the Tower concourse.

2. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ **Vice-Chancellor's Committee (VCC) Annual Retreat**

At the Council Retreat earlier this year, the following critical areas were identified:

- a. UTS Model of Learning
- b. Academic Course Profile
- c. Research performance and Investment
- d. Process Efficiency and Improvement
- e. Workforce Alignment and Professional Development

Accordingly, on 23 and 24 May, a small group of the University's senior leaders met to consider UTS's strategic direction, with an emphasis on future revenue generation and cost efficiency measures, and the future of learning and teaching at UTS – Learning 2014 and Learning 2020.

➤ **Efficiency and Process Improvement**

One of the outcomes from the Council Retreat was for Council to receive updates of our on-going efficiency and process improvement projects. This has become even more important given the recent budget cuts. The following are in process, or were new projects begun as a consequence of our discussions at the VCC Retreat.

Staffing

	Sponsor	Timeline
Workload Issues:		
• 12 week / balanced semester	Anne Dwyer/ Peter Booth	End 2013
• Close non-performing / small subjects	Peter Booth	End 2013
• Review of Assessment practice	Shirley Alexander	End 2013
• Re-align workload model for new Teaching and Learning	Peter Booth / Anne Dwyer / Mary Spongberg	Pilot-end 2013 Ongoing
• Complete shared services agreements with Faculties	Anne Dwyer	End 2013
• Consolidate administration in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Faculties○ Divisions	Peter Booth Anne Dwyer	End 2013 End 2014
• Support staff re-profiling	Anne Dwyer	Ongoing

Non-salary items (see also processes below)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| • Review policy on printed material, replace with digital | Anne Dwyer | End 2013 |
| • Establish IT Strategy Committee | Anne Dwyer | Completed |
| • Review timetabling / space allocation | Patrick Woods /
Anne Dwyer | End 2013 |

Processes

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
| • New travel and expense management system | Patrick Woods | End 2013 |
| • Course Financial Feasibility process | Peter Booth | End 2013 |
| • Domestic Post Graduate Conversion | Anne Dwyer | End 2013 |
| • External Articulation and Pathways | Peter Booth / Bill
Purcell | End 2013 |
| • Grant application process | Attila Brungs | Completed |
| • Course approval process | Peter Booth | Completed |
| • Credit Recognition process | Shirley Alexander | End 2013 |

I will discuss some of these more fully in Council

➤ **Budget 2014 and Long Term Finance Plan**

In preparing for the 2014 budget and beyond, especially in light of announced government funding cuts, we have already undertaken the following actions in addition to those above.

1. As discussed at the Physical Infrastructure Committee, we have moved most of the next phase of the Campus Master Plan back 12 months, thus commencing the renovation of Building 2 at the end of 2015 rather than the beginning. This improves cash flow.
2. As previously advised, in order to protect student load, we have decided to move the Business School programs at Kuring-gai to the City for the start of 2015 rather than the end. We hope that will encourage greater uptake of offers if students only have to study for 12 months at Kuring-gai.
3. Because of future possible load capping we are embarking on a strategy of increased student load as quickly as possible. This includes an increased mid-year student intake, the introduction of a new degree, Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation, potential new programs in Allied Health and Health Management, and a temporary increased in load in biological sciences to trade off against our future load growth.

We are also looking at other sources of income generation.

➤ **Research Update**

Launch of Research Equity Initiative

The Research Equity Initiative is a major program to support researchers with carer responsibilities, and to promote gender equity in research at UTS. This important initiative was launched on 10 April, at an event attended by over 100 guests. Speeches were delivered by Dr Cathy Foley, CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering Division and 2013 NSW Woman of the Year, and Ann Reich, Senior Lecturer, FASS, who is one of the first recipients of support under the initiative. More information is available at:

<http://www.equity.uts.edu.au/women/researchers/initiative/>

Industrial Transformation Research Hubs

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has announced the outcomes of the Industrial Transformation Research Hubs for funding commencing in 2012. This is one of the ARC's newest funding schemes and is designed to encourage and support large, collaborative research projects that are addressing challenging industry focus research problems; having significant, underpinning industry investment is critical to the proposal's success.

UTS researchers within CenSoC, led by Professor Jordan Louviere, are involved in one of the four successful proposals. The project, 'Pathways to market: transforming food industry futures through improved sensing, provenance and choice', is led by the University of Tasmania and received \$2.5 million in this round of funding. Total ARC and industry funding to date is \$10 million, some of which will flow through to UTS.

MoU with NSW Department of Prime Industries (DPI)

Researchers within three Institute have signed an MoU to work with DPI on biosecurity issues. DPI is keen to utilise UTS's expertise and world-leading molecular technologies for the benefit of the agriculture, horticulture, livestock and equine industries. DPI and UTS are collaborating on diagnostic testing, vaccine development, disease detection and alternatives to antibiotics. Their latest research has identified a unique approach to preventing enzootic pneumonia in pigs, a disease which is estimated to cost Australia alone \$20 million annually.

Big Data Events

The Advanced Analytics Institute held a series of events, including Big Data Summits, in Sydney and Canberra and a two day Big Data School in Sydney. These events were attended by over 300 people, attracting a range of industry, government and academics attendees and speakers. Not only did these events underline UTS's research expertise in data analytics and data mining, they also generated a significant amount of awareness and new prospective research partnerships. UTS speakers included Professor Longbing Cao, Professor Mary-Anne Williams and Professor Hung Nguyen, alongside industry leaders.

Centre for International Finance and Regulation (CIFR) Update

The CIFR, of which UTS is a founding partner, has announced six new research projects, bringing their research program to 32 projects. Congratulations to Associate Professor Eliza Wu, UTS Business School, and her team, who have received funding for their project, *Assessing the Influence of Sovereign Rating-Contingent Banking Regulation on International Bank Lending Behaviour*.

Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) Report – Australian Mining

A report was released in May, the result of a three-year collaboration between ISF, CSIRO, and four Australian Universities. The Mineral Futures Cluster report call for a national minerals strategy to ensure Australia's natural resources are used wisely in the long-term, and recommends that social and environmental factors are given a greater focus. More information is available at:

<http://www.newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/05/national-strategy-is-key-for-the-future-of-australian-mining>

Science at the Shine Dome

Science at the Shine Dome is the highlight of the annual science calendar in Australia. Australia's foremost physical and biological scientists gather to honour outstanding work in science. At *Science at the Shine Dome*, prestigious awards are presented, high achievers are admitted to the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science, and a symposium is held on an issue of national importance. Scientists, policy makers, educators and the interested public are invited to attend. This year, Distinguished Professor Louise Ryan, School of Mathematical Sciences, will be presented with her fellowship to the Academy, and Distinguished Professor Matt Wand, also from the School of Mathematical Sciences, will receive the Hannan Medal, which recognises outstanding research in the fields of statistical science, pure mathematics, applied mathematics and computational mathematics.

UTS Researchers in Major Breakthrough

UTS researchers, Phil Doble and Dominic Hare, have been named in the prestigious scientific journal, *Nature*, for their work in developing a method that can be applied to fossil samples to uncover their breastfeeding habits. Identifying early life dietary shifts is essential to understanding life history evolution, and dietary patterns in our early life have far reaching consequences for human health. More information is available at:

http://www.campusdaily.com.au/read_university_news.php?title=sydney_and_us_researchers_uncover_breastfeeding_timeline_in_neanderthal_tooth_116758

Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) Research

New research from the UTS ACELG will assist councils across Australia take a consistent approach to measuring the wellbeing of their communities. The research, *Community Wellbeing Indicators: Measures for Local Government*, was conducted in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to support a community wellbeing indicators survey template. The tool can be adapted for use by local governments nationally to measure, analyse and assess the progress of community wellbeing. Thirty-nine indicators covering social, cultural, economic, environmental themes as well as views on democratic engagement are included in the template.

➤ Creative Intelligence Update

In 2011, Senior Executives and Deans unanimously endorsed the implementation of the Creative Intelligence Strategy. The primary focus was to channel existing strengths in creative practice and design-led innovation across all Faculties into a cohesive approach that would better leverage “Where Creativity Meets Technology” in teaching and learning, research, and external engagement.

During 2012, the UTS CI Strategy was developed, and a series of three pilot programs was executed to test the relevance of the CI Strategy.

Based on the robust success of these pilot programs, and the practice-based evidence that the CI Strategy was strongly aligned with the UTS strategic priorities, a proposal for a new degree has been developed, which is currently under internal review. The new degree will embrace the values of trans-disciplinary, creative practice and design-led innovation across all Faculties at UTS.

Further development of the pilot programs for 2013 includes:

- Shapeshifters – The Next Intelligence, held in April, explored the dynamic relationship between technology, creativity, engineering and science. Two more Shapeshifters forums will be held in July and October.
- CI Labs, Series 2. Building on the great success of the first series, participants will get firsthand experience in ‘solving the unsolvable’, creating new approaches that confound Government bodies and other organisations.
- The establishment of the UTS Design Innovation Research Centre, which will allow UTS to aggregate its strengths in design-led innovation. The DIRC will be led by Professor Kees Dorst, DAB. UTS has recently welcomed Professor Sam Bucolo, former Chair of Design and Innovation at Queensland University of Technology, to help develop the DIRC while conducting significant, industry-led research.

➤ **2012-2013 International Short Term Study Tour Initiatives – UTS Commercial**

The University has initiated a significant number of recent study tour programs, under the auspices of UTS Commercial, which has developed excellent working relationships internally with Faculties, Centres and Divisions and externally with Insearch Pty Ltd. Examples of recent programs of significance include:

- **Office of National Assembly (ONA Vietnam):** The ONA is charged with supporting Vietnamese Government and in particular is working on changes to legislation and the Vietnamese constitution. Commercial arranged a two week program for 22 Public Service Officers employed in various units and divisions within ONA, which was very successful. ONA are currently organising a second delegation scheduled to arrive in January 2014. They are doing this through an “Executive Fellowship” Application for the next round of Australian Government Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships. The program draws heavily on face-to-face elements provided by the Faculty of Law.
- **Far Eastern Federal University, FEFU (Vladivostok):** Seven FEFU academics attended a ten week training program last June, made up of Insearch English language training and afternoon lectures in design, animation and textiles provided by the Faculty of DAB. As a follow up initiative, Commercial and the Faculty are currently developing a consulting project proposal to design and develop a tailored, undergraduate Animation Degree Course for FEFU.
- **Santa Clara University:** Santa Clara has re-connected with UTS and now sends an annual Summer School group each June. Participants are all third year Law Students who undertake a joint program provided by our Faculty of Law staff and accompanying Santa Clara lecturers. We are expecting 14 participants this June.

- **The Association of Independent Indonesian Tertiary providers (APTISI):** APTISI Executive visited UTS in November 2012. This visit included a formal signing of the UTS – “APTISI MOU”. Since then, Commercial developed a one week Study Tour program in “Tertiary Sector Leadership”. We are expecting more than 50 APTISI member institution Rectors, Presidents, and Senior Academic Staff to register for the program, which is scheduled for August 2013. It is hoped the program will become an annual offering for APTISI member organisations and we are in discussions with AusAID for potential funding for in-country delivery from 2014.

➤ Events

Autumn Graduation Ceremonies

We have just concluded another season of graduation ceremonies, at which almost 4,000 graduates received their testamurs in front of 11,500 proud family and friends. Honorary awards were conferred on Reverend Tim Costello AO and Professor SP Kothari, and Emeritus Professor Tony Moon was presented the Distinguished Service Award. We celebrated these awards, and thanked our outstanding occasional speakers, at a cocktail function hosted by the Chancellor on 7 May. I thank all members of staff who were involved in the ceremonies, and Members of Council who were able to attend.

Book Launch – “Moving Forward: Introduction to Psychosis – a Reference Manual for Mental Health Professionals”

On 16 May we welcomed Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, to the Health Psychology Unit at St Leonards, to launch a reference manual for mental health professionals. The Governor is a psychiatrist, and spoke very highly of the manual, which has been well received by the mental health profession. The Unit is research and treatment unit within Faculty of Science at UTS, and UTS is proud of the work of Tony Kidman and his staff.

International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group Conference

The International Blue Carbon Scientific Group first met in Paris in 2011, and this year UTS was honoured to host the annual meeting of this group, which researches the role of coastal vegetation in storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. I welcomed delegates from 15 countries to UTS, on behalf of Professor Peter Ralph and our Plant Functional Biology and Climate Change Cluster research group, who are playing a key part in this vital research.

Academic Board Forum – The Future of Learning

I would like to congratulate Associate Professor Sally Varnham, Chair, for organising the Academic Board Forum, *The Future of Learning: How they want it, where they want it, when they want it?*, held on 30 April. The forum was a great success, and provided insights into the field of new teaching and learning platforms.

Thanks to moderator, Associate Professor Paul Allatson, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), FASS; and expert panelists:

- Professor Gilly Salmon, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Transformations), Swinburne University of Technology
- Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity)
- Jade Tyrell, President National Union of Students
- 3. Jenna Price, Lecturer, FASS.

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COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 3.1

MEETING 13/4

VICE-CHANCELLOR

19 JUNE 2013

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

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

REPORT

1. EXTERNAL MATTERS

➤ UTS in World Rankings

UTS has again appeared in two new global rankings for young universities: The Times Higher Education 100 under 50 (years old) and the QS Top 50 under 50. In both cases rankings are based on 2012 overall world university rankings, with Times varying the weighting formula by de-emphasising academic reputation and increasing emphasis on doctorates and the academic staff/student ratio. QS left weightings unchanged from the overall rankings.

In the 2013 rankings for Times 100 under 50 UTS improved by five places from 88th to 83rd, which translated to an improvement of two places in Australia from 12th to 10th. QUT passed Macquarie to take first place among Australian universities. Australia emerges as the second strongest nation in the ranking with 13 institutions in the top 100, behind only the UK with 18.

In the 2013 rankings for QS Top 50 under 50, UTS dropped two places from 29th to 31st, translating to seventh out of nine Australian universities in the list. Macquarie was the highest ranked Australian university at 18th.

➤ Brazil Research Partnership

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) has become the first university group in Australia to sign a landmark five year agreement with the Brazilian Government research agency, FAPESP. The Agreement with FAPESP will be underpinned by joint research projects on issues of common concern relevant to both nations. FAPESP is the premier research funding agency in the state of Sao Paulo, and is a centre of research in Brazil, generating some 50% of that nation's scientific publications. In 2012, it is reported that FAPESP invested approximately US\$550 million in fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students, exploratory academic research and applied research. Much of the research undertaken was in partnership with industry.

The signing of the MoU seeks to build further ties with key institutions and industry partners in Brazil, in line with the ambitions of the strategic partnership agreement between Brazil and Australia signed by Prime Minister Gillard in June 2012.

➤ **Queen's Birthday Honours**

The following outstanding UTS alumni have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for service to the Australian and international communities in various areas of endeavour:

- John Berryman – Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
- Andrew Downie - Medal of the Order (OAM)
- Eileen Henderson - Medal of the Order (OAM)
- Margaret Hunter - Medal of the Order (OAM)
- Bruce Irvine - Medal of the Order (OAM)
- Patricia Kelly – Australian Police Medal (APM)
- Christopher Lewis – Australian Fire Services Medal
- Shirley Phelps - Medal of the Order (OAM)
- Anthony Tricther - Australian Police Medal (APM)

2. INTERNAL MATTERS

➤ **Potential New Degrees – Faculty of Health**

The Faculty of Health is currently investigating the feasibility of offering two new undergraduate degrees from the start of 2015 - a Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree, and a Bachelor of Health Services Management (BHSM) degree. Both degrees would incorporate industry internships. The Faculty has the academic expertise to mount these course developments and both programs would be underpinned by relevant programs of research. The BHSM would require input from the UTS Business School and the Faculty of Law. If introduced, these new courses would assist in further broadening the range of undergraduate health courses at UTS, and the academic profile of the Faculty of Health. This expansion could lead to some new innovative double degree options at UTS as well.

Initial course assessments are underway and expert advisory groups are being established to provide advice and to solicit industry support. Preliminary indications are that both programs would have market appeal and industry support. This is to be further investigated.

➤ **Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) Grants**

Congratulations to Professor Longbing Cao, Director, Advanced Analytics Institute, and his team, who have been awarded \$218,000 in OLT funding for the project, *Data mining of learning behaviors and interactions for improved sentiment and performance*.

Congratulations also to Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity) and Associate Professor Jo McKenzie, Director, Institute for Interactive Media and Learning, who will partner with Swinburne University of Technology on the project, *Valuing student voices when exploring, creating and planning for the future of Australian higher education*, which has been jointly awarded \$212,000.