

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING 2/2011
HELD ON 15 JUNE 2011**

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. He particularly welcomed the following new members of Senate:

- Associate Professor Michael Bezzina, Director, Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership (newly elected academic staff representative);
- Ms Maria Hegerty, Office of Student Success (recently elected general staff representative); and
- Dr Daniel White, Executive Director, Catholic Education Office, Sydney (newly elected NSW Chapter representative).

Senate congratulated Messrs Stephen Elder and David O'Connor and Ms Bernadette Steele, on their re-election to Senate at the recent Annual General Meeting.

ACU Symbols Review: Working Party Final Report of Conclusions and Recommendations to Company

Senate noted that, at the Annual General Meeting on 13 May 2011, Members had approved the recommendations relating to University Symbols as contained in the working party's final report. Senate noted that, arising from this decision by Company, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop had been designated as the University-wide Patron.

Government Matters

Growth

Senate noted that data released recently on the growth in undergraduate Commonwealth Supported Places had indicated that ACU, with 36% growth in EFTSL, had experienced the highest growth rate of any university for the 2009-2011 period.

2011-2012 Commonwealth Budget

Senate noted the following announcements contained in the Federal Budget:

- an ongoing commitment to uncapping of undergraduate places from 2012;
- an increase in the indexation of the Commonwealth Grant Scheme grant to 3.8% per annum;
- the availability of \$500m over 5 years for the Education Investment Fund Regional Priorities to improve access of students and staff to world-class tertiary education facilities; and
- an increase in the regional loading, resulting in an estimated increase in funding, from \$190,424 to \$386,736, for ACU's Ballarat Campus.

Collaborative Research Network (CRN) Program

Senate noted that, although ACU's submission for funding of its CRN Program was very competitive, unfortunately it had been unsuccessful. Senate further noted that feedback would assist in clarifying the reasons and assist with the preparation of a successful submission in the next funding round.

Enterprise Bargaining

Senate noted a progress report regarding the University's application for the proposed Australian Catholic University Staff Enterprise Agreement, 2010-2013, lodged with Fair Work Australia. Subsequent to the meeting, the advice was received from Fair Work Australia that the Agreement had been approved and would take effect from 24 June 2011.

Adelaide Archdiocese

Senate noted that ACU had recently commenced discussions with Most Reverend Philip Wilson, Archbishop of Adelaide, following the announced closure of the Catholic Theological College (CTC) in Adelaide. Professor Craven explained that, due to financial circumstances, it would not be possible for the Archdiocese of Adelaide to maintain the cost of running the CTC beyond another two to four years. Senate noted that ACU and CTC were discussing possibilities for collaboration, and for ensuring the future of theological education in the Archdiocese.

Official Opening of Drake House, Melbourne

Senate noted that the Blessing and Official Opening of Drake House, named in honour of the University's foundation Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, had taken place on 27 May 2011 and had proven to be a wonderful occasion. Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that the Senate meeting on 3 November 2011 would be held in Melbourne and would utilise this facility.

Board of Directors, Universities Australia

Senate congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on his recent appointment to the Board of Directors of Universities Australia.

Review of Governance of Australian Catholic University

Senate received and noted the paper, prepared by the Vice-Chancellor in October 2009, in relation to the review of governance of ACU. Also considered were a series of preliminary discussion questions, prepared by the Vice-Chancellor regarding the composition of Senate and Company.

Casual Vacancy on Senate's Standing and Finance Committee

Senate resolved to nominate Associate Professor James McLaren to fill the casual vacancy on the Standing and Finance Committee.

Position of Chair of Academic Board

Senate resolved to appoint Professor Margot Hillel OAM as Chair of Academic Board for a period of three years.

Campus developments

Senate received a report regarding the following:

- Sydney master planning process;
- proposal to purchase 32 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy; and
- Brisbane campus developments.

Senate representative on Identity and Mission Committee

Senate resolved to appoint Ms Bernadette Steele as its representative on the Identity and Mission Committee.

Senior staff appointments

Senate received and noted details regarding the following senior appointments:

- Professor Michelle Campbell as Executive Dean of Health Sciences; and
- Dr Jim Nyland as Associate Vice-Chancellor (Brisbane).

Record of appreciation

Senate placed on record its appreciation to Mrs Joanne Wheatley, Secretariat who is retiring shortly from ACU following twelve years service with the University. Senators thanked Mrs Wheatley for the high level of support she has provided to Senate and its committees as well as Academic Board. Members wished her well in her retirement.

Course administration

Senate approved the following course proposals:

- the introduction of the Bachelor of International Development Studies effective from 2012 at the Melbourne and Strathfield campuses;
- the introduction of dual degrees in:
 - Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Global Studies
 - Bachelor of Business Administration/Bachelor of Global Studies
 - Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Global Studies
 - Bachelor of Theology/Bachelor of Global Studies
 from 2012 at the Melbourne and Strathfield campuses; and
- the introduction of the Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership (Pakistan) from international trimester 2, June 2011 at Karachi and Lahore, Pakistan.

Reports

Senate received and noted the following reports:

- Standing and Finance Committee meeting held on 24 May 2011;
- Identity and Mission Committee meeting held on 8 April 2011;
- Annual General Meeting of Members of Australian Catholic University Limited held on 13 May 2011;
- ACT Chapter meeting held on 3 March 2011;
- Queensland Chapter meeting held on 5 April 2011;
- New South Wales Chapter meeting held on 18 April 2011;
- Academic Board meeting held on 11 May 2011;
- 2010 Annual Report from the Quality of Life and Social Justice Research Centre;
- 2010 Annual Report from the Nursing Research Institute; and
- 2010 Annual Report from the Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership.

Next meeting – Thursday 15 September 2011 at 10.00 am in Sydney.

John Cameron
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)
24 June 2011