Dear Colleagues,

Most of the students have finished their studies for semester one and are on their mid-semester break, so in one way it is quiet, but on the other hand it is busy as we are all trying to use this time to catch up on administration and reports. The new semester commences on 27th July 2009 and we are looking forward to another productive semester.

CIER Units Update

Weemala – Update from Dean Duncan

I recently had the opportunity to promote our ‘Away from Base’ education programs at an international conference for Indigenous people of Pacific Nations. The conference host, First Nations University of Canada, gave me the opportunity to discuss the importance of our away from base courses and to highlight our success, through offering a flexible education program specifically designed to assist our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Utilising the promotional material we have recently designed and disseminated through each of our units, I was able to gain interest from other Universities Indigenous peoples’ from countries such as Canada, Mexico, Tibet, Taiwan and the United States. This was most pleasing, as each member recognised that the mode in which we offer the ‘Away from Base’ programs would greatly benefit the Indigenous people of their own regions.

Whilst attending the conference, I was also invited to attend Kamehameha Schools, which is an education facility set up to benefit Native Hawaiian students, through a trust bequeathed by an Hawaiian Princess. The trust governs an annual budget in excess of $4.8billion dollars. This allows the school to provide high level education at no costs to native Hawaiian people. It also enables the school to provide post educational support to its graduates.

Three exciting outcomes of my attendance at this conference are:

1. The possibility of a student exchange program with Kamehameha Schools for final year education students enrolled in our ‘Away from Base’ programs.
2. An undertaking from the First Nations University of Canada to also support an exchange opportunity for final year education students.
3. In collaboration with Charles Darwin University, a nomination to co-host the 7th International Conference in 2011 was welcomed by the organising committee.

Yalbalinga – Ken Ralph

Yalbalinga’s office is currently under refurbishment. The new office will be colour coordinated, with new lounges and new computers for the students. Thanks to Danielle and Fiona for their decorating skills! Ken recently attended the National Indigenous Higher Education Network (NIHEN) meeting in Broome on 4th and 5th June 2009.
CIER UNITS UPDATE CONTINUED

Dhara Daramoolen – Kath Wallace
Kath will be attending the ITAS Meeting on 30th June and the Higher Education Network Aboriginal Corporation (HENAC) meeting on 1st and 2nd July, at the University of Technology in Sydney in the Jumbunna Centre. Kath is holding a stall for the NAIDOC week celebrations on Sunday 5th July 2009 on the Peninsula presented by AIATSIS in Canberra.

Jim-baa-yer – Naomi Wolfe
Naomi is having a well earned break from 15th to 29th June, trusting she will come back refreshed. Mathew is capably managing the office in her absence.

CENTRE PLACEMENT PROCESS
The next stage of the placement process for general staff is being undertaken. Position descriptions and PIQ's are currently with the Academic Coordinators for review and are due to be back to Craig and Nereda by 26th June 2009. We are expecting those that require classification will go to a committee meeting the 3rd week in July. Positions that can be placed with existing staff will take place at the end of July and positions requiring external recruitment are expected to be advertised at the end of July. With the time required for recruitment and appointment, it is expected that the HEW 5 and 6 positions for Weemala and Yalbalinga and the HEW 3 positions for Dhara Daramoolen and Jim-baa-yer will all be in place by the end of September.

Further information regarding Expressions of Interest for these positions will be provided in the near future.

IESIP AND ITAS REPORTS
Ken has submitted the 2008 ITAS report to DEEWR and the AFB estimates for 2009. The 2008 IESIP will be submitted to DEEWR via the Indigo system this week by Ken and Pheng Schooling. Thanks to those staff as well as Kath, Danielle and Dean who helped with earlier work.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION STATEMENT
The 2009 Indigenous Education Statement is due on the 30th June 2009 at DEEWR. Nereda is working with Ken and Dean to develop this statement with input from Shani Gallegghan (Indigenous Employment Officer) and Alex Graham (Finance Manager).

CIER THEMATIC PLAN
The senior staff of CIER met with Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Evelyn Picot and Lorne Butt (Planning and Strategic Management) on 20th May to begin work on the CIER Thematic Plan. This plan sits underneath the University Strategic Plan and will provide strategic direction to CIER from 2009-2011. We are required to submit this plan with the Indigenous Education Statement to DEEWR and Nereda is working with Lorne and Anne Szadura from Professor McMullen’s office to develop a draft which will be circulated for comment.

EVENTS
NAIDOC Week (5 - 12 July 2009) – All Centre staff will be involved in community activities during this time.
CONFERENCES

The Fifth International Conference on Catholic Educational Leadership will be held in Sydney on 1-4th August 2010. The theme of the conference is: Catholic Educational Leadership - A Beacon of Hope: A Light for the Future. Details are on the ACU website.

ABSTRACTS

Just a reminder about the following:

- Learning, Teaching and Social Justice in Higher Education: 18 November 2009 (ACU Melbourne) – Abstracts Due: 30 June 2009

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Just a reminder about the following:

- Vice Chancellor’s Development Award for General Staff – closing date 30 June 2009
- AFUWQ Scholarships for Women – closing date 30 June 2009 (check out AFUW branches in other states for their closing dates) (http://www.afuw.org.au/ScholarshipsFS.htm)

If you have any contributions you would like to make to this Bulletin, please contact Melissa Derickx on (07) 3623 7554 or melissa.derickx@acu.edu.au

Kind regards

Nereda White
Director, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER)