

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING 1/2010
HELD ON 31 MARCH 2010**

Welcome

The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting. He particularly welcomed Mr Michael Villella, Student Senator for 2010. He informed Senate that Professor Gerard Sutton AO, Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong had been invited to present to members during the Strategic Retreat on 16-18 June 2010. As Professor Sutton had been unavailable at that time, he had kindly agreed to attend this meeting

Enrolments

Senate noted that the University had recorded significant growth in its domestic student enrolment for 2010. As at March 2010, continuing and commencing enrolments had increased by approximately 18% compared with 2009 and Commonwealth Supported Load was a total of 27% over the funding agreement. Senate was particularly pleased to note the growth at Banyo (in the region of 30% during the period 2009-2010).

Universities' Compacts

Senate noted that the Australian Universities' Compacts had recently been published on the websites of the Departments of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellors had been elected by the non-aligned universities to represent them on a working party to assist in the development of TEQSA. Professor Craven had attended the first meeting of the working party in February and provided feedback regarding the proposed model for TEQSA at the Universities Australia (UA) Vice-Chancellors' meeting in March. Concern was expressed by UA regarding certain aspects of the proposed model.

Meeting with Victorian Premier

The Vice-Chancellor reported regarding his meeting on 24 March 2010 with Mr John Brumby, Victorian Premier during which the Indian student issue was discussed.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA)

The Vice-Chancellor reported regarding the meeting between representatives from ACU and SOPA to discuss potential developments on the SOPA site at Homebush. Senate noted that, at this stage, it seemed unlikely that there would be an appropriate parcel of land at the site which would be appropriate for the University's use.

Research Progress

Senate noted that significant progress was being made with respect to research support, infrastructure and performance. The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the efforts of Professor Thomas Martin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Capital Planning

Sydney Master planning process

Senate noted that Hassell, a master planning and architectural firm, had been engaged to prepare a master plan to guide the expansion of the University in Sydney.

Melbourne campus developments

Senate noted that further action was being pursued with Yarra City Council to progress the approval of the site for the National Centre for Health and Wellbeing.

Senate further noted that, following lengthy discussion of the proposal, the Standing and Finance Committee had approved the Vice-Chancellor advising the Archdiocese of Melbourne of the University's in principle support for the purchase of the *Bicycle Factory* site. Any decision in respect of the purchase of the site must be made having regard to the considerable future capital requirements inherent in the Master Plan for the Sydney campuses and the future development needs of the Brisbane Campus. The final decision to purchase would be dependent upon the purchase price, to be approved by the University Senate, agreement on holding costs and the basis for the University's future tenure and timelines for development of the site.

Brisbane campus developments

Senate noted that the Brisbane campus developments were proceeding as planned.

Health collaborations in Ballarat

Senate noted that discussions were continuing between representatives from the Ballarat campus and the University of Notre Dame Australia's (UNDA) Sydney School of Medicine regarding the possibility of UNDA sharing accommodation and other campus resources, with ACU for UNDA's students' rural placements.

Review of University Governance

Senate noted that the first meeting of the working party, established to review University Governance, was scheduled to be held prior to the Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2010. Given the size of the task, a number of sub-committees would be established to each pursue various aspects of the review.

Review of University Symbols

Senate noted that the Symbols Consultation paper had been sent to the list of key stakeholders to enable them to provide feedback. Any subsequent feedback received would be collated and provided to Senate at its September or November 2010 meeting.

Senior Staff Appointments

Senate noted the following senior staff appointments:

- Professor Julia Connel as Dean of Graduate Studies;
- Mr David Craig as Director of Marketing and External Relations;
- Associate Professor Joe Flemming as Campus Dean, Ballarat;
- Professor Elizabeth More as Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Business; and
- Ms Anne Thoeming as Director of Research Services.

International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) General Assembly

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor had attended the IFCU General Assembly in Rome in November 2009 and was part of a panel discussion on the topic: *The Citizen-based University – Socio Political Positioning and International Cooperation*. Professor Craven was exploring the feasibility of holding a future IFCU meeting in Australia.

In Recognition

Senate congratulated the following staff members on their achievements:

- Professor Jude Butcher cfc, Director of the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement on his appointment as a Member (AM) in the Order of Australia for service to teacher education, particularly in the Catholic sector, and to the community through contributions to social justice;
- Dr Catherine Bell, Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design Course Coordinator and Art Lecturer at the Melbourne campus on her award of a prestigious studio residency in New York City by the Australia Council for the Arts; and
- Fr Frank Brennan sjc on his appointment as an official advocate to raise awareness and drive change for the health and welfare of disadvantaged Australians. Fr Brennan will be the *Catholic Advocate in Residence* for the St Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia and ACU's Public Policy Institute.

Presentation by Professor Gerard Sutton AO, Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong

Professor Gerard Sutton made a presentation to Senate entitled *Good Governance of a University in Changing Times*.

Senate Elections

Senate received and noted a report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources) advising that the term of office of a number of external Senators expires at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of Members on 21 May 2010. The Senators whose term concludes are:

State Chapter Representatives (Clause 13.2(d) of Constitution)

Mr Alan Druery (Qld); and
Ms Moira Najdecki (ACT).

Senators Elected by Members (Clause 13.2(e) of Constitution)

Mr John Carroll; and
Bishop James Foley.

Two Senators elected by the academic staff of the University (Clause 13.2(f) of Constitution)

Professor Judith Chapman AM; and
Associate Professor Marea Nicholson.

Senate determined that Mr John Carroll and Bishop James Foley DD be re-nominated and their names forwarded to Members for inclusion on the ballot paper for Senators elected in accordance with Clause 13.2(e) of the Constitution.

Elections of Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor

Senate received and noted a report, prepared by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources), regarding the search process to be followed in respect of the selection of the University's Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

2009 Statutory Accounts

Senate approved the 2009 statutory accounts, including the final statement by Directors, and authorised their signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and authorised presentation of the accounts to members of the company and to appropriate authorities.

Course Proposal

Senate approved the course proposal for the Bachelor of Information Technology, Graduate Certificate in Information Technology, Graduate Diploma in Information Technology, Master of Information Technology and Master of Information Technology (Advanced) for offering from 2011 in North Sydney.

Proposals to award the honorary title of Adjunct Professor

Senate awarded the following persons the title of Adjunct Professor for a period of three years to 31 March 2013:

Mr Jack de Groot;
Ms Janine Loader;
Mr John Nethercote;
Associate Professor Patricia O'Rourke; and
Mr Adam Tomison.

Reports

Senate received and noted the following reports:

- Academic Board meetings held on 2 December 2009 and 10 February 2010;
- Audit Committee meetings held on 5 November 2009 and 9 March 2010;
- Ceremonial and Protocols meetings held on 11 November 2009 and 9 March 2010;
- Goals Committee meetings held on 23 November 2009 and 16 February 2010;
- Standing and Finance Committee meetings held on 7 December 2009, 2 February, 9 March and 24 March 2010;
- New South Wales Chapter meeting held on 22 March 2010; and
- Queensland Chapter meetings held on 27 October 2009 and 23 February 2010.
- 2008 Faculty of Health Sciences Annual Report.

Tribute to Mr Alan Druery

The Chair noted that this would be the final Senate meeting to be attended by Mr Alan Druery. Senate paid tribute, by acclamation, to Mr Druery for his outstanding service to the Australian Catholic University and Catholic education generally. Mr Druery, a former Chair of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, was a member of the original Planning Committee for ACU, a long-standing member of Senate, the University's Standing and Finance Committee and Chair of the Queensland Chapter. Members placed on record their appreciation and wished him and his wife, Helena a very happy and healthy retirement.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that there would be a formal occasion to honour Mr Druery on the evening of Wednesday 16th June in Sydney.

Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled to be held on the afternoon of 16th June 2010 (during the Senate Strategic Retreat).

John Cameron
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)
15 April 2010