

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING 4/2009
HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2009**

Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed Professor Thomas Martin, who recently commenced as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Mr Michael Villela, Student Senator elect.

Enrolments

Senate noted that the University's first preference applications had increased by 10.2% for Commonwealth Supported Places (23% for all preferences) when compared to the same period in 2008 but that applications from international students were still tracking lower than last year.

Government

Capital Development Pool (CDP)

Senate was delighted to note that the University had received federal government funding of \$2.1 million over 2010-2011 from the CDP for the Physiotherapy Facilities at the Brisbane campus.

Meeting with representatives from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Senior management from the University met with representatives from DEEWR on 6 November 2009 regarding ACU's response to the Government's higher education reform agenda and the proposed content of the University's Interim Compact Agreement.

Melbourne campus developments

Senate noted that the Melbourne campus development project was proceeding according to plan. Senate further noted that the University was currently negotiating a partnership with the University of Melbourne and St Vincent's Hospital to establish a Cardiovascular Research Centre in Melbourne and that the University had undertaken to provide accommodation for the Centre. Senate noted the advantages of the co-location of ACU staff and that of St Vincent's Hospital and suggested that, where practicable, future such arrangements should be explored.

Sydney campus developments

Senate noted that various options were currently being considered in respect of the future development of the Sydney campuses.

Launch of the Public Policy Institute (PPI)

Senate noted that that the PPI was successfully launched in Canberra by Mr Paul Kelly on 14 October 2009.

Meeting of International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor would be holding discussions about the possibility of ACU hosting the 2012 meeting of IFCU.

2008-2009 Progress and Challenges

Senate noted the Vice-Chancellor's report setting out areas of progress for the University during 2008-2009 and major future challenges. These can be broadly summarised as follows:

Progress

- identity and Mission – including establishment of the Directorate of Identity and Mission and the introduction of Core Curriculum;
- sustainability – strong finance performance during 2008 and 2009 and a projected national increase in enrolments of 28% over a two-year period;
- strategic planning – new fully-targeted and bench-marked University Strategic Plan, with accompanying Thematic Plans;
- revised organisational structure;
- academic – establishment of the Faculties of Theology and Philosophy and Business (commencing January 2010) and the Institute of Public Policy;
- campus developments; and
- human – establishment of the Office of Student Success, refocusing of Human Resources on a service model and the effective program of staff renewal in the Faculty of Education.

Challenges

- raising ACU's research profile substantially;
- managing the future growth of the University effectively while maintaining teaching quality, student satisfaction and student services;
- improving and maintaining effective relations with government;
- resolving planning, capital and development issues appropriately in respect of the Sydney campuses;
- improving marketing and *brand recognition* of the institution;
- dealing with the implications of the Bradley Review effectively;
- improving sustainability of the University's international operations; and
- implementing institution-wide staff renewal.

2010 Operating Budget

Senate approved the 2010 Operating Budget.

Course proposals

Senate approved the following course proposals:

- Master of Educational System Leadership and Postgraduate Certificate in Educational System Leadership to be offered from Summer A, 2011;
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy to be offered in Brisbane from 2010 and North Sydney from 2011; and
- Bachelor of High Performance (Sport and Business) to be offered in Melbourne from semester 1, 2010.

Establishment of the national School of Physiotherapy

Senate approved the establishment of the national School of Physiotherapy effective from 1 January 2010.

Courses relating to governance

The Vice-Chancellor foreshadowed the establishment of a multi-disciplinary working party to consider the development of courses relating to governance, particularly in the Catholic context.

Report of the 2009 Brand Audit and Review

Senate received the above report of the review conducted by Mr Robert Lawrence, Prospect Research and Marketing.

Senate approved the discontinuation of the current branding of *ACU National* and that, in future, the University would operate publicly as *Australian Catholic University*, making use of the acronym *ACU* as appropriate.

Presentation – ACUNSA Strategic Plan 2009-2011

Senate received a presentation in relation to the ACUNSA Strategic Plan 2009-2011 from Mr James Wood, outgoing Student Senator. Senate paid tribute to Mr Wood for his contribution as Chair of ACUNSA and 2009 Student Senator and wished him well for the future.

Senate Retreat – 2010

Senate decided to schedule a retreat to coincide with its meeting on 17 June 2010.

Reports

Senate received and noted the following reports:

- Audit Committee meeting held on 21 September 2009;
- Goals Committee meeting held on 7 October 2009;
- New South Wales Chapter meeting held on 7 October;
- Honorary Awards Committee meeting held on 12 October 2009;
- Standing and Finance Committee meeting held on 12 October 2009;
- Academic Board meeting held on 14 October 2009;
- Victorian Chapter meetings held on 11 August and 20 October 2009;
- 2008 Faculty of Arts and Sciences Annual Report;
- 2008 Annual Report from the Institute of Child Protection Studies;
- Report from the Catholic Education Leadership Centre; and
- Newsletter, *Communique: News from the Vice-Chancellor* – November 2009.

Next meeting

Senate changed the date of its first meeting for 2010 from Thursday 1 April to Wednesday 31 March.

John Cameron
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)
11 November 2009