

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING
HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed Ms Bernadette Steele, newly elected member of Senate, and Professor Anne Cummins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning and Teaching), attending her first meeting of Senate since assuming that position.

Enrolments

Senate noted that early applications for enrolment by domestic students, including applications for the Early Achievers' Program, had indicated a strong demand for 2010. International enrolment applications, however had decreased markedly. The Vice-Chancellor foreshadowed his intention to conduct a review of the International Education area to ensure its readiness to deal with the anticipated challenges.

Commonwealth Compacts

Senate noted that a meeting had been scheduled with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on 6 November to discuss Commonwealth Compacts.

New South Wales operations and Strathfield Campus

Senate received and noted the interim report prepared by Massaro Consulting Pty Ltd, *Planning for the Future of ACU's Sydney Campuses*. The Vice-Chancellor reported regarding the following:

- the current limitations of the two existing campuses and, in particular, the ongoing deliberations with Strathfield Council;
- the development of a master plan to meet the University's strategic goals, especially with respect to the anticipated future growth in student numbers – the two Sydney campuses will be the first to undergo this formal master planning process;
- a working party, convened by Associate Professor Marea Nicholson, Associate Vice-Chancellor [AVC] (Sydney), has been requested to develop a master plan for the Sydney campuses; and
- this master planning process is expected to take 4-6 months during which the working party will consult with relevant internal and external stakeholders and engage expert advice as appropriate.

Proposed review of University Governance structures

Senate noted that a working party, to be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, had been established to consider the adequacy of the current governance arrangements of ACU and to make recommendations for any required revisions.

Proposed review of University Symbols

Senate authorised the Vice-Chancellor to convene a working party, to include appropriate senior members of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, to provide recommendations regarding University symbols.

Chapels

Senate received a progress report regarding the development of the Chapels at the North Sydney and Melbourne campuses, the working titles of which are *Mary, Seat of Wisdom* and *Mary of the Cross*, respectively.

Appointment of AVC (Brisbane)

Senate was pleased to note the appointment of Professor John Devereux as AVC (Brisbane). Professor Devereux, a former Rhodes Scholar, is a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland and is currently the Professor of Law at the University of Queensland. Senate placed on record its appreciation to Professor Peta Goldberg for her work as Acting AVC (Brisbane).

Meeting calendar for 2010

Senate received a meeting calendar for 2010 and noted that Senate meetings had been scheduled for:

Thursday 1 April
 Thursday 17 June
 Thursday 16 September (Melbourne)
 Thursday 4 November.

Vacancy on Senate Honorary Awards Committee

Senate appointed Ms Bernadette Steele as a member of the Honorary Awards Committee for the period ending 12 June 2010 following the resignation of Ms Susan Pascoe.

Proposed amendments to Statutes 2.5 and 2.6

Senate resolved to adopt the proposed amendments to Statute 2.5 – *The Academic Board* and Statute 2.6 – *The Faculties*.

Melbourne Campus Development – National Centre for Health and Wellbeing

Senate, upon the recommendation of the Standing and Finance Committee, approved the proposed project for construction of the National Centre for Health and Wellbeing on the Melbourne campus, with a budget of up to \$74M.

Course approval

Senate, upon the recommendation of Academic Board, approved the course proposal for the Graduate Certificate in TESOL for offering at the Strathfield campus from Summer A, 2010.

Colour for Faculty of Business

Senate, upon the recommendation of the Ceremonial and Protocols Committee, approved Gold to replace Sandalwood as the colour for the Faculty of Business.

Award of honorary titles

Senate, upon the recommendation of the Ceremonial and Protocols Committee awarded the titles of:

- (i) Emeritus Professor to Professor Tony d'Arbon; and
- (ii) Adjunct Professor to Associate Professor Robert Whitbourn for a period of three years.

Amendment of Policy on Academic Staff Honorary Titles

Senate approved amendments to the *Policy on Academic Staff Honorary Titles*.

Delivery of units from ACU's Business courses at inner-city Brisbane location

Senate noted that a working party, between ACU and St Joseph's College, Brisbane, had been established to discuss the possible use of teaching space at the College for the delivery of various units from the University's Business courses. Senate agreed that this initiative would provide a unique opportunity to *showcase* the University's courses in Brisbane.

Committee and other Reports

Senate received and noted the following reports:

- Victorian Chapter, 2 June 2009;
- Goals Committee, 4 June and 21 August 2009;
- Academic Board, 22 July 2009;
- Standing and Finance Committee, 6 August 2009;
- Ceremonial and Protocols Committee, 17 August 2009;
- New South Wales Chapter, 17 August 2009;
- Queensland Chapter, 25 August 2009;
- 2008 Faculty of Education Annual Report; and
- 2008 Annual Report for the Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care.

John Cameron
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)
30 September 2009