

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING  
HELD ON 2 APRIL 2009**

**Welcome**

The Chancellor welcomed Professor Gail Crossley, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Mr James Wood, Student Senator for 2009 and Mrs Joanne Wheatley, newly appointed Senior Administrative Officer (Secretariat).

**University Strategic Plan 2009-2011**

Senate endorsed the University's Strategic Plan for 2009-2011.

**Amendments to Statutes 2.5 and 2.6**

Senate adopted amendments to Statute 2.5 – *The Academic Board* and Statute 2.6 – *The Faculties*.

**2009 Graduation Ceremonies and Masses**

Senate noted that the Graduation Masses in Canberra and Sydney on 26 and 29 March respectively, had been very well attended (approximately 450 people had attended the Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney). The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the staff from University Relations and Campus Ministry for their outstanding work in making these occasions such a success.

**Status of enrolments**

Senate noted that the University has had a successful domestic student recruitment period for semester one, 2009. Senate further noted that the University's Commonwealth Supported load had increased by 15% when compared with the same period during 2008, with commencing load 26% greater than the 2008 figures. Professor Craven stated that international enrolments were relatively unchanged, with a 1% increase in international load being recorded for 2009 when compared with 2008 (ACU was carefully monitoring its international enrolments particularly in the midst of the global financial crisis).

**Senior staff appointments**

Senate noted the following senior staff appointments resulting from the University's restructure:

- Mr Steven Lawrence as Director of Identity and Mission;
- Associate Professor Marea Nicholson as Associate Vice-Chancellor (Sydney);
- Mr Con O'Donnell as Director of University Properties
- Dr Scott Prasser as Director of the Public Policy Institute; and
- Mr Chris Sheargold as Associate Vice-Chancellor, Melbourne.

The Vice-Chancellor expected to be in a position to shortly announce the appointments for the following positions:

- Associate Vice-Chancellor (Brisbane);
- Campus Dean, Canberra;
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research); and
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning and Teaching).

Subsequent to the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor announced the appointment of Dr Patrick McArdle as Campus Dean for Canberra.

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### **Establishment of Faculty of Business**

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor had commissioned Professor Geoff Kiel (formerly with the University of Queensland and the University of Notre Dame Australia) to undertake a scoping exercise in relation to the establishment of the Faculty of Business within the University. Professor Kiel will be meeting with a wide cross-section of representatives from ACU in the context of this exercise.

### **Workplace Renewal Program – Faculty of Education**

Senate noted that, in line with the AUQA recommendation and ACU's strategic goal to establish an appropriate staff profile and ensure staff members were productive, valued and satisfied, the University would be undertaking a Workforce Renewal Program in the Faculty of Education.

### **Bradley Review of Higher Education**

Senate noted that, in March 2009, Ms Julia Gillard, Minister for Education and Deputy Prime Minister, had announced the in principle support by the Commonwealth of a substantial number of recommendations contained in the Bradley review (the implementation of the recommendations would be considered in the context of the May Federal Budget). A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the implications for ACU of the implementation of the Bradley recommendations.

### **2008 Statutory Accounts**

Senate approved the 2008 statutory accounts, including the final statement by Directors, and authorized their signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and their presentation to members of the Company and to appropriate authorities.

### **Filling of Vacancy in Membership of Audit Committee**

Senate confirmed that Ms Moira Najdecki would fill the current vacancy in the membership of the Audit Committee.

### **Purchase of Land from Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Senate approved the outlay of \$4.38M to secure from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne a right of occupation for the Young Street property, subject to finalization of an appropriate trust instrument.

### **Course Approval**

On the recommendation of Academic Board, Senate approved the following courses:

- Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) to be offered at the Ballarat, Brisbane and Melbourne campuses from semester 1, 2010;
- Master of Social Work to be offered at the Brisbane, Canberra and Strathfield campuses from semester 1, 2010;

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- Bachelor of Media Communication to be offered at the Melbourne campus from semester 1, 2010;
  - the following new postgraduate business courses to be offered from semester 1, 2010 at various locations and study modes:
    - (i) Graduate Certificate in Logistics Management;
    - (ii) Graduate Certificate in Management of Not-for-Profit Organisations;
    - (iii) Graduate Certificate in Financial Counselling; and
  - Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling to be offered at the Brisbane and Melbourne campuses from semester 1, 2013.

### **Committee and other Reports**

Senate received and noted reports from the following meetings:

- Audit Committee, 13 November 2008 and 10 March 2009;
- Standing and Finance Committee, 2 February and 10 March 2009;
- Academic Board, 3 December 2008 and 18 February 2009;
- Ceremonial and Protocols Committee, 18 March 2009;
- Goals Committee, 3 December 2008 and 5 March 2009;
- Queensland Chapter, 10 February 2009;
- ACT Chapter, 26 February 2009;
- Victorian Chapter, 5 March 2009; and
- Annual Report October 2007-November 2008 – National Centre for Clinical Outcomes Research [NaCCOR].

John Cameron  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)

14 April 2009