

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DIGEST OF SENATE MEETING 2/2011
HELD ON 11 APRIL 2011**

ACU Enrolment Performance

Senate noted that ACU had experienced a significant increase in student demand. Nationally, applications for bachelor's degrees had increased by 8.7 percent in February compared to the same period in 2010. The Vice-Chancellor anticipated that the University would enrol approximately 36 percent over its government funding agreement in 2011. Professor Craven stated that, having regard to this proposed expansion, a range of measures were being implemented to ensure that appropriate levels of student support in terms of teaching and infrastructure are achieved. He said that this growth in student numbers will position the university extremely well when the cap on publicly funded places is lifted by the Government in 2012.

ACU Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Results for 2010

Senate was pleased to note that ACU had achieved some excellent results in the 2010 ERA assessment, namely:

- a result above world standard and well in excess of the Australian average (rating 4) in the area of Religion and Religious Studies; and
- world standard results (rating 3) in the key areas of Curriculum, Pedagogy, Nursing and Law.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he continued to be heavily involved on the Universities Australia Working Party for the establishment of TEQSA. Professor Craven advised that the legislation was introduced into Parliament in mid-March and subsequently referred to a Senate enquiry. Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor, together with other Universities Australia representatives, had been requested to provide evidence at this enquiry.

Course Proposals

Senate approved the following course proposals:

- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business Administration for offering from 1 January 2012 at the Brisbane, Melbourne and North Sydney campuses; and
- Bachelor of Arts and Economics for offering from 2012 at the Strathfield campus.

Proposal for Company – Objects of Australian Catholic University

Senate agreed in principle to the proposal, as amended, in respect of new objectives for the Company of Australian Catholic University, noting that it would be considered by Company at the Annual General Meeting of Australian Catholic University Limited to be held on 13 May 2011.

Review of Australian Catholic University Symbols – Conclusions and Recommendations of Working Party

Senate resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Australian Catholic University Symbols Working Party to the Company.

Proposal to amend University Statute relating to Academic Board

Senate resolved to approve amendments to Statute 2.5 as follows:

- a. in the case of a pending vacancy of the position of Chair of Academic Board, the Vice-Chancellor would formally consult with all members of the Board as to possible candidates;
- b. having consulted with the Board, the Vice-Chancellor would make a recommendation to Senate for appointment of the Chair of Academic Board;
- c. Senate would either accept or reject the nomination (in the event of rejection, the Vice-Chancellor would be required to make another nomination);
- d. only academics of the rank of Professor or Associate Professor would be eligible for nomination;
- e. the Chair of Academic Board would serve for a period of two years; and
- f. the Chair of Academic Board could be removed from office by a vote of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor.

Inclusion of additional information regarding Senate Members on ACU web page

Senate resolved that brief biographical details and photographs in respect of Senate members should be included on the relevant ACU web page.

2010 Statutory Accounts

Senate resolved to:

- (i) approve the 2010 statutory accounts, including the final statement by Directors, and authorize their signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor; and
- (ii) authorize presentation of the accounts to members of the Company and to appropriate authorities.

Award/renewal title of Adjunct Professor

Senate awarded the title of Adjunct Professor, for a period of three years, to 11 April 2014:

- Associate Professor Anthony John Penington;
- Professor Wayne Morrison;
- Professor Gregory Dusting; and
- Dr Geraldine Bednash.

Senate renewed the term of Adjunct Professor Rifaat Ebied for a further period of three years to 11 April 2014.

Award of Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University

Senate resolved to award the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to Reverend Peter Daniel Steele sj in recognition of his eminence and contribution as a Catholic scholar, priest and poet. The award is to be presented at the graduation ceremony to be held in Melbourne on 20 May 2011.

Reports

Senate received and noted the following reports:

- meetings of Academic Board held on 1 December 2010 and 9 February 2011;
- Audit Committee meetings held on 4 November 2010 and 8 March 2011;
- Standing and Finance Committee meetings held on 7 December 2010; 15 February 2011 and 8 March 2011;
- Ceremonial and Protocols Committee meeting held on 9 March 2011;

- Identity and Mission Committee meeting held on 12 November 2010;
- ACT Chapter meeting held on 2 December 2010;
- Victorian Chapter meetings held on 9 November 2010 and 15 March 2011;
- 2009 Annual Report from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences;
- 2009 Annual Report from the Faculty of Education;
- 2009 Annual Report from the Faculty of Health Sciences; and
- 2009 Annual Report from the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research.

Record of appreciation

Senate placed on record its appreciation for the contribution of the following retiring members of Senate:

- Br Anthony Robinson fms, NSW Chapter representative;
- Professor Peta Goldberg rsm, academic staff representative; and
- Ms Josephine Frawley, general staff representative.

Subsequent to the meeting, Associate Professor Michael Bezzina and Ms Maria Hegerty were elected as the academic and general staff representatives on Senate, respectively. The new NSW Chapter representative will be elected at the AGM on 13 May.

Next meeting

Friday 17 June 2011 at 10.00 am in Sydney.

John Cameron
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Resources)