COUNCIL

The University Council met in Meeting Room 1, Newnham Campus, Launceston on Friday 10 December 2010, starting at 9am.

UTAS Quality Management Framework

Council endorsed the proposed UTAS Quality Management Framework as represented in-
• the Quality Management Framework Governance Level Principle
• the Quality Management Policy.

Council noted that the framework will also include a range of other linked policies, guidelines and procedures, dealing with matters such as reviews and benchmarking.

Academic Senate meeting – 5 November 2010

Council received the report and draft minutes of the Academic Senate meeting of 5 November 2010.

Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics

Council received the report on the name change for the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics to the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society.

Cradle Coast Campus: Employer of Choice Award

The UTAS Cradle Coast campus has been officially recognised as a great place to work in this year’s Employer of Choice Awards, which were presented by the Tasmanian Minister for Economic Development Lara Giddings at an awards ceremony on 12 November. The awards are presented annually to identify Tasmanian employers who have embedded positive practices and staff opportunities within their workplace, with staff nominating their employers for the awards. The nomination from Cradle Coast staff noted that the campus was a great place to work for a number of reasons, including the support provided by the University in terms of personal and professional development, and the ability to manage work/life balance. Cradle Coast staff also singled out the encouragement provided by the University for involvement in community service projects and leadership programs as another positive. The work of Professor Janelle Allison, Director of the Cradle Coast Campus, is to be warmly acknowledged for the leadership she is showing in the North West region of the state.

Council recorded its appreciation and applauded the efforts made by the Cradle Coast Campus to achieve the Award.
Web Policy and Social Media Guidelines

Council approved the Social Media Guidelines and amended Web Policy as guidelines for the purposes of Ordinance 9 – Student Discipline.

As part of implementing the Web Services Strategic Action Plan (WSSAP), the UTAS web policies, guidelines and standards have been reviewed in line with the goal of providing ‘an effective and widely-supported governance, organisational and technological framework’ and, in particular, in consideration of Objective 3 which outlines the requirement for policies, guidelines and standards to support best practice in University web services and to receive effective compliance (WSSAP 2008-2010).

With the rapid advance in technologies, and more specifically, social media technologies, social media guidelines are required. Social media technology refers to a range of web-based tools that assist communication, information sharing and interaction.

The Social Media Guidelines are designed to assist UTAS staff and students when using:
- social media services (such as blogs, wikis, iTunes etc) that are centrally managed and supported by UTAS (these may be hosted on UTAS servers and platforms or hosted externally)
- social media services that are not centrally managed or supported by UTAS (such as Wetpaint, Wikispaces etc)
- external social media applications (such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn, Second Life, Flickr, Delicious, Wikipedia, iTunes, etc).

It is intended that the Social Media Guidelines will:
- complement the Web Policy and Web Publishing Guidelines
- provide advice for staff and students regarding requirements for UTAS social media sites
- clarify the considerations for use of social media
- establish consistent visual and content standards for social media
- promote compliance with UTAS legal requirements
- achieve industry best practice standards on web development
- provide a practical framework for the use of social media to support UTAS teaching, learning, research, collaboration, business and marketing.

The introduction of the Social Media Guidelines requires amendment to the Web Policy.

By-laws (no smoking)

Council approved the University By-Law amendment (smoking restrictions amendment). These by-laws amend the University By-Laws 1993 to prohibit smoking in these areas:
- all smoke free areas as defined in section 67B of the Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)
- all University vehicles
- the Medical Science Precinct bounded by Liverpool Street, Campbell Street, Bathurst Street and the Brooker Highway in Hobart, including car parks servicing the Medical Science Precinct; and
- those areas occupied or controlled by the University and designated by the University as smoke free areas.
Outstanding Community Engagement

Council received the Vice-Chancellor’s report on the 2010 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Community Engagement.

Nominations for the 2010 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Community Engagement closed on Friday 29 October. The awards aim to recognise staff members (or teams of staff members) who have made an outstanding contribution as members of the University of Tasmania to community life over the previous 12 months. The specific contributions can include a wide range of community areas and can involve many different activities on the part of the staff member (or team of staff members). This year, 2 individuals and 2 teams will receive awards, as follows:

- Natasha Cica (Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics in the School of Philosophy) for an individual award under the category of Creative Partnerships with the Community
- Rick Stuart-Smith (TAFI, Marine Research Laboratories) for an individual award under the category of Creative Partnerships with the Community
- Beneath the Tamar – More than Silt Team (Troy Gaston and David Maynard from the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability in the AMC) for a team award under the category of Creative Partnerships with the Community
- Institute for Regional Development Team of the Cradle Coast Campus (Janelle Allison, Robyn Eversole, Fleur Fallon, Catherine Feron, Clayton Hawkins, Sandra Knowles, Tony McCall, Kay Reardon and Nicki Fletcher) for a team award under the category of General Engagement with the Community.

Your Voice Process

The Your Voice process continues to influence developments across the University and activities with a Human Resources focus have been particularly notable in recent months. The internal renaming of General Staff as Professional Staff was confirmed in October 2010, following a survey on preferred nomenclature undertaken earlier that month. Negotiations leading to the proposed new Professional Staff Agreement, like the Academic Staff Agreement which preceded it, have been greatly informed by the Your Voice process, especially the proposed amendments around reclassification processes and casual employment. Likewise, the inclusion of bullying in the proposed new Harassment and Discrimination policy and procedures is a direct consequence of the Your Voice process.

NHMRC Success

Results have been announced for NHMRC Project Grants round for grants commencing 2011. UTAS received 7 grants worth $3.368 M. This is the same number of grants as last year and about the same level of funding. The majority of the NHMRC grants are in Menzies, with some projects including collaborators in Health Science and SET.
Teaching Matters 2010

Teaching Matters, UTAS’ premier learning and teaching showcase, is now in its ninth year. The 2010 program spans 2 days, with workshops being conducted in the afternoon of Wednesday 24th and the conference day on Thursday 25th November. The theme of this year’s conference is ‘Cultures of Learning’ and will focus on 3 main areas:

- racial/ethnic cultures of learning
- global trends toward a ‘Mass education’ culture of learning
- technology-based/mediated culture of learning.

Keynote speakers at the conference will include eminent Australian author and historian Professor Henry Reynolds and Social Inclusion Commissioner for Tasmania, Professor David Adams.

Appointment of New Senior Librarian

Luke Padgett from Curtin University has been appointed Senior Librarian (Copyright and Digital Assets). He will also be the University’s Copyright Officer. Luke has been the Copyright Officer for Swinburne University, where he also contracted as the Copyright Advisor for the University of Ballarat. He has a Bachelor of Laws as well as librarianship qualifications, and will commence his appointment at UTAS on 10th January 2011.

Awards and Grants

Nominations for the Vice Chancellor’s Awards closed on 29th October. A total of 79 nominations were received:

- 23 individual Teaching Excellence Award nominations (for 19 staff)
- 3 team Teaching Excellence Award nominations;
- 4 Program nominations;
- 41 individual Citation nominations (for 32 staff);
- team Citation nominations.

Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Award Program

The inaugural Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Award program was conducted during Semester 1 of this year. Forty-one of the original group of 50 students who commenced in Hobart and 23 of the 32 Launceston participants completed the program and received the Vice Chancellor’s Leadership Award.

In addition to participating in monthly scheduled sessions and undertaking group and individual tasks, students participating in the Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Award performed over 5,000 hours of volunteer community work.

A celebration and presentation ceremony, at which the Vice-Chancellor presented certificates of completion to students, was held in Hobart on the 10 November and in Launceston on the 11 November. Students also received a comment on their academic transcript.
A comprehensive evaluation of the program’s first year is currently underway. All students will be surveyed on their satisfaction with all components of the program. Short focus-group style interviews with a randomly selected group of the volunteer organisations will also be undertaken to analyse the richness of the community engagement aspect of the program.

Other Business

Council noted this was the last meeting for Associate Professor Kate Crowley, Mr Wayne Goninon, Associate Professor Anthony Koutoulis and Ms Clare Rutherford and expressed its appreciation for the contribution these members had made to the work of Council.

Council expressed its appreciation, with acclamation, for the Vice-Chancellor’s leadership, inspiration and positive approach to challenges during his term.