COUNCIL

The University Council met in the Council Room, Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart on Friday 23 March 2012, starting at 9am.

On the evening before, Council members attended the 2012 UTAS Foundation Dinner. This premier black tie event welcomes new scholarship students, acknowledges the generous support of donors and celebrates excellence, innovation and participation at UTAS. The outstanding achievements of UTAS alumni will be recognised with the awarding of the UTAS Foundation Graduate Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award.

2012 Council Planning Conference
This year’s Council Planning Conference will be held on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 April at The Sebel in Launceston. The conference will start on the Friday morning and there will not be a regular Council meeting in April.

Mr David de Carvalho, Head of the Higher Education Division of the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, and Professor Simon Marginson, from the Centre for the Study of higher Education at the University of Melbourne, have been invited to present to the conference in relation to issues affecting the higher education sector. The UTAS Senior Executive has also been invited to attend.

Built Environment Committee Terms of Reference
Council approved renaming the Built Environment Committee to the “Built Environment and Infrastructure Committee” and also approved amending its terms of reference to include an additional dot point –

• Policies in respect of the built environment and sustainability

Vice-Chancellor Portfolio Report

Trade delegation to China
In her State of the State address in the House of Assembly on 6 March 2012, Premier Lara Giddings announced the State Government’s intention to focus on exporting high quality, value-added products to China, attracting overseas investment opportunities and marketing the State as a must-see attraction for tourists from across Asia. The Premier announced the commissioning of a White Paper on ‘Tasmania’s Place in the Asian Century’ and that she would lead a trade delegation of business and industry representatives in September. The Premier has invited the Vice-Chancellor to join the delegation with the objective of exploring opportunities to attract more international students to the Tasmania.

SenseT
In February, the Federal Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, Mr Simon Crean and Premier Giddings announced an investment of $3.6 million in the Sensing Tasmania (SenseT) network as part of the Tasmanian Forests
Intergovernmental Agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian governments. The network will mesh together historical, spatial and real-time data and make it available through the web to the community. SenseT was initiated by UTAS, the Tasmanian Government and CSIRO (through the Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation) and there is engagement from a large number of organisations, including the likes of National ICT Australia (NICTA), IBM, and the Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society (University of Melbourne).

Students return
Several thousand students join us for the first time this year, navigating unfamiliar campus and online environments to begin their UTAS journey. Embracing the challenges articulated in our draft strategic plan, 'Open to Talent', we have been paying close attention to the essence of the “student experience”; from introduction to university life during O week, through access to online resources, to the range of on-campus facilities and opportunities. Our partnership with the Tasmanian University Union has been strengthened by revised catering and financial arrangements. Much more is planned including refurbishment of outlets and expansion of offerings.

O Week
The Tasmania University Union presented the biggest O Week in almost six years during the first week of University. The welcome back barrel in Hobart attracted almost 700 students. The jumping castle next to Churchill Avenue helped make the event more visual. Launceston and Burnie had afternoon barbecues which facilitated student networking and enabled them to meet their student representatives. Other events in the week included a comedy night, a movie night and breakfast sessions for students. Societies Day was attended by an estimated 2000-3000 students and the free concerts for UTAS students at the Hobart and Launceston Uni Bars attracted 1000 and 600 students respectively.

UTAS Leaders Retreat
The UTAS Leaders Retreat was held on 16 and 17 February in Launceston. The retreat brought together 75 senior staff and provided an opportunity to discuss the priorities of the University as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the University over the next 10 years. Leaders participated in an intensive program that included discussions about a range of topics such as the Open to Talent Green Paper, research, curriculum and defining a UTAS Academic to name a few. Key projects and achievements across the University were shared and celebrated over the two days. David de Carvalho, Head of Division of the Higher Education Group in the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science & Research and Tertiary Education as well as Professor Simon Marginson, Professor of Higher Education at Melbourne University’s Centre for the Study of Higher Education, provided a national perspective of the higher education sector. The Chancellor addressed staff at dinner, speaking about the role of the University Council in good and effective governance. The retreat will become an annual event on the University’s planning calendar.

Australia Day awards
Current and former UTAS staff members and alumni were honoured in this year's Australia Day Awards, including Professor Peter Davies, Dr Peter Smith, Mr Peter Byers and Mr Peter Heerey for their commitment to science, education, law, the arts and business. Professor Peter Davies, Professor at the UTAS Centre for Environment and Adjunct Professor with the School of Zoology, was honoured for his ongoing work in freshwater
ecology for 30 years. Dr Peter Warnock Smith, Honorary Research Associate in the UTAS School of Chemistry was honoured for his services to science education and to philanthropy. Dr Smith has long been a prominent figure in student welfare and much valued as a mentor to students. He endows the Dr Peter Smith Scholarship in the Physical Sciences. Mr Peter Byers was honoured for service to educational administration, to the arts and to business. Mr Byers was Business Manager and Deputy Principal at UTAS from 1981-1993. Retired high court justice Mr Peter Heerey is a distinguished alumni who was recognised for his service as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

Recognition

- Dr Elizabeth Shadwick, ACE CRC Carbon postdoctoral fellow and IMAS Climate Change and Ocean Processes program member, has been selected to become the first chairperson of ‘Young LOICZ’, which will include attending the ‘Planet Under Pressure’ climate-change meeting in London in March 2012. LOICZ (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone) is a core project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDIP), which aims to provide science to contribute to the sustainability of the world’s coastal zone.

- IMAS’ Associate Professor Neil Holbrook is currently leading the review of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan (NARP) for Marine Biodiversity and Resources which aims to be completed by May 2012.

- The School of Pharmacy has won the tender to deliver the Medicines Australia Continuing Education programme, a mandatory educational programme for the nation’s medical representatives. This was successfully rolled out on 1 February 2012, and includes a complete stand-alone student administration system and a comprehensive online learning system. Remuneration to the University is per student enrolment in the programme.

- Professor Emily Hilder from the school of Chemistry has won the LCGC 2012 Emerging Leader in Chromatography Award. The award recognises the achievements and aspirations of a talented young scientific or technical professional who has made strides early in their career toward the advancement of chromatographic applications and techniques.

- Professor Ian Hay, Dean of the Faculty of Education, has been asked to be the lead academic for the Australian Council of Deans of Education project reviewing Faculties of Education’s response to the new National Standard regarding maths and English teacher standards.

- Dr Nick Owen from the School of Education, Director of the Aspire Trust in the UK and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Education, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honour List for 2012 for his services to Arts Based Business.

Public outreach

- The Conservatorium of Music in collaboration with the Stephen F. Austin University in Texas, is creating the audio post production, foley, songs, and recording the orchestral underscore for a full length zombie feature film titled, Christmas with the Dead. The
Tasmania Discovery Orchestra, conducted by the Conservatorium of Music’s Mark Buys together with visiting artist and professional film composer, Vladimir Martinka, will record the score with a complement of 70 musicians at the Stanley Burbury Theatre on 23-25 March.

- The Law Faculty, together with the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society, co-hosted the visit to Tasmania of Serbia’s first Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Dr Nevena Petrusic, and her Deputy Commissioner, Ms Kosana Beker. Dr Petrusic presented a seminar on the subject ‘Making Equality a Reality – Across Meridians’ that was very well attended, including by the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Robin Banks and members of the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Tribunal.

- Simon McKenzie, 2011 graduate (Bachelor of Arts and Law with first class honours in Law) was awarded the 2012 Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship. Established in memory of Tim Hawkins, a talented UTAS Law/Commerce graduate tragically killed in the Bali bombing in 2001, this scholarship will enable Simon to take up the post of research assistant in the prosecutor’s office at the International Criminal Court in The Hague for six months.

- The Faculty of SET hosted 65 Year 9 and 10 students from 31 schools at the 2012 Science Experience in Hobart over three days in January. Students explored a smorgasbord of science activities presented by the Faculty, as well as the AMC, Faculty of Health Science, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

- Professor David Berliner (Visiting Research Fellow – Arizona State University), one of America’s most respected and leading public policy academics, commenced with the Faculty of Education in February 2012 for a period of six weeks under the sponsorship of Dr Marion Myhill. He will be presenting public lectures in Hobart and Launceston.

- The first cohort of the MBA Agricultural Innovation attended an orientation at Campbell Town in February. Holding the orientation in the relatively central Campbell Town enabled most students to attend. The new degree is a joint initiative of the Faculty of Business, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Research (TIAR) and the State Government which has provided ten scholarships as part of its Economic Development Plan.

- The Faculty of Business and the AMC co-hosted a visit and public lecture by Professor Peter Lorange, Director of the Lorange Institute of Business, Zurich. His visit formed part of a larger program of lectures sponsored by the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) as part of their Distinguished International Visitor Program. Professor Lorange’s gave a lecture on “Creating successful shipping in turbulent times: The role of innovation and a strategic approach”.

**Publications**

- Dr Kristy Sanderson from Menzies is featured in the National Health and Medical Research Council’s 2011 *Ten of the Best Research Projects* booklet. The booklet profiles some of the work done by NHMRC-funded researchers who are leading the way in
finding innovative solutions to some of the country’s greatest health challenges and highlights Dr Sanderson’s research into depression

- Professor David Bowman’s (Faculty of SET) paper “Conservation: Bring elephants to Australia?” was published in *Nature*. Professor Bowman has called for an urgent response to the African savanna grasses taking control in the Top End, contracting local Aborigine people to undertake regular burns. Professor Bowman says the only alternative would be to take the ecologically dangerous option of bringing in elephants to eat the grass, and idea which has sparked considerable public debate.

- Menzies’ Member and Principal Research Fellow, Associate Professor Greg Woods and ARC Research Fellow, Dr Alex Kreiss were co-authors on a paper titled: ‘Genome Sequencing and Analysis of the Tasmanian Devil and Its Transmissible Cancer’, published in *Cell*.

**Grants and Funding**

- Successful grants for Australian Rotary Health ($45,000), and from the National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant (NHMRC: $1,041,601) have been awarded to project teams collaborating with Dr Raimondo Bruno in the School of Psychology. These projects examine “Young people, drinking and the parental supply of alcohol: A longitudinal cohort study” and “Pharmaceutical opioid prescription for chronic pain in Australia: Trajectories of prescribing, risk of adverse events and predictors of harm”.

**Senior appointments**

- Applications for the position of Director of Menzies Research Institute Tasmania close on 12 March 2012. The international recruitment agency will then provide a short list of applicants for interviewing by 12 April 2012. The Institute anticipates the position being filled by mid-2012. Interest to date has been positive.

**The Active Launceston Project**

Active Launceston is a community driven project aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Launceston through increased participation in physical activity. The University of Tasmania is leading the project in partnership with the State Government Department of Sport and Recreation, Launceston City Council and the Tasmanian Community Fund. The project was initiated as an 18 month pilot in June 2008. Due to its initial success the project will continue for a period of three years (until Dec 2012), with further funding being sought to continue the project beyond this. Further funding has already been committed by the Launceston City Council.

The Active Launceston offices will be moving to the Northern Integrated Care Service (NICS) in the coming months, in response to a major recommendation from the 18 month pilot project evaluation report proposing that Active Launceston seek to secure a prominent display location. Active Launceston will be situated in the NICS (next to the Launceston General Hospital) with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Launceston Clinical School.
Active Launceston has received further sponsorship from St Lukes Health to purchase promotional items to give to participants in 2012. Due to its initial success, Active Launceston will also offer the successful pilot program Active and Trying New Things (Active TNT) again in 2012 in conjunction with a children’s therapy service. The program is aimed at children 8 to 12 years who experience difficulties in physical activity and therefore tend to avoid it.

Morris Miller Library Opening Hours
The 24/7 access to Levels 2 & 3 of the Morris Miller Library was successfully introduced in 2011. Statistics indicate that students have taken full advantage of accessing Levels 2 & 3 of the Library after staffed hours. Due to low use of staff between 9pm and 10 pm the Library will now be unstaffed with access to print collections closed from 9 pm during semester.

Dedicated postgraduate space open
The Library has made dedicated space available for postgraduate coursework degree students and graduate research candidates on level 3 of the Morris Miller Library. The space offers a quiet and comfortable office-style area which is available during the library's staffed hours. In planned future redevelopment of levels 3 and 4 of Morris Miller Library it is hoped to offer a dedicated postgraduate space with 24/7 swipe card access.

THETA13 conference
The biennial joint CAUL (Council of Australian University Librarians), CAUDIT (Council of Australian University Directors of IT) and ACODE (Australasian Council on Open, Distance and E-learning) conference will be held in Hobart in April 2013. UTAS staff from the Library, ITR and TILT are coordinating the organisation of the conference.

Academic Promotions Policy
University Promotions Committee (UPC) has undertaken its annual review of the Academic Promotions Policy following completion of the 2011 promotions round. It has proposed some revisions to the policy for the 2012 round and is seeking advice from the Senior Management Team before amendments are finalised and approved. The proposed revisions take account of discussions at Academic Senate on 2 March 2012. The associated Academic Promotions Procedure and Academic Promotions: Advice for Applicants and Heads will be updated to align with amendments to the policy.

Upcoming visit by Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, including first Denison Debate for 2012
Professor Sir Ian Kennedy will visit Tasmania in March. Sir Ian’s visit is hosted by the Inglis Clark Centre and is supported by the Office of the Provost and the Faculties of Law and Arts at the University of Tasmania, with the HC Coombs Policy Forum at the Australian National University. The key public event for his visit will be the first Denison Debate for 2012 – ‘Frank, Fearless or Forgotten? The Role of Public Service Today’ – to be held Wednesday 28 March, 6.00 – 7.30pm in the Stanley Burbury Theatre. Sir Ian will be joined by Mr Rhys Edwards, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet and Professor David Adams, Social Inclusion Commissioner. He will also be
presenting at events hosted by the School of Medicine and School of Nursing and Midwifery (Hobart and Launceston) as well as the School of Law (Hobart).

**Voluntary Positions Policy**
Council approved the Voluntary Positions Policy. The Policy on Honorary, Visiting, Clinical and Adjunct Appointments was last revised on 22 August 2003. The new Voluntary Positions Policy is to replace that policy.

There has been an extensive and protracted process of consultation on the current Honorary, Visiting, Clinical and Adjunct Positions Policy. That process has identified a number of important deficiencies. These include but are not confined to-

- There is confusion between titles that are awarded in recognition of status or achievement and those that are awarded to individuals making a current contribution to the work of the University; in particular, honorary titles are awarded for both purposes.
- There is a confusing and inconsistent array of titles or voluntary positions available to identify individuals making a current contribution.
- Practice (particularly with respect to which title to award in given circumstances) varies significantly across the University.
- Some titles have been awarded that are not provided for in the policy.
- Procedures for making these awards differ between the awards resulting in significant inconsistencies and inefficiencies.
- Delegations for making at least some of these awards are more demanding than for salaried positions at the same level; in particular, while the Provost oversees substantive appointments at Level D and E, some voluntary positions (e.g. Visiting Professor) need to be approved by Council.
- There is confusion and, to some extent, varying practice over the employment relationship implied by the award of a title or creation of a voluntary position.

**Academic Senate**
Council received a report and the draft minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 2 March 2012.

Council also received the 2011 Academic Senate Annual Report to Council. Clause 4.3 of the Ordinance of Academic Senate states Academic Senate is to report to Council once a year on the exercise of delegations under the Ordinance.

**Graduation in Absentia and Conferring of Awards**
Council approved the applications for the conferring of awards on 38 people, and the Chancellor conferred degrees in absentia on them.