

Summary of Forum Questions from UTAS and AMC Staff

Q: What plans are there for AMC schools to amalgamate with UTAS – or vice versa?

A: Firstly, everyone will be a member of the University of Tasmania, whether they are from the AMC, the Menzies Institute, the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute or whatever.

Having said that, some schools may work together – for example, the School of Engineering may work with the Centre for Hydrodynamics or Aquaculture with the AMC's Fisheries and Aquaculture. – Professor Daryl Le Grew.

Comment: The three marine science areas – fisheries (AMC), marine science (Hobart) and aquaculture (Launceston) do not meld easily. We need to get together to find out what is distinctive. – Colin Buxton, Director, TAFI.

Q: How will integration affect current VET programs at AMC?

A: It won't. They will continue but there are some funding issues related to non-Tasmanian students. – Professor Malek Pourzanjani.

Q: On graduation, will students' awards be UTAS / AMC – branded?

A: We are unanimously agreed that the AMC brand is very strong and we don't want to diminish it. The AMC will be co-branded like the Menzies Institute. They will be University of Tasmanian students with University of Tasmania degrees but

there is no reason why we can't say they were obtained through the AMC institute. That's done in lots of universities. – Prof. Le Grew.

Q: In terms of marketing, what is the AMC selling to students for 2008?

A: We will be selling the courses we have *and* the new ones we are developing; it's not in our interests to sell them separately. – Prof. Pourzanjani.

Q: How does AMC Search fit into the scheme of things?

A: AMC Search is a fundamental and strong part of the AMC and will continue within the new AMC institute. – Prof. Le Grew.

Q: What are the likely implications of the merger for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology in Launceston?

A: The range of science units will be expanded by the faculty and the AMC institute working together. – Prof. Le Grew.

Q: What are the issues relating to AMC staff salary rates and conditions?

A: A forum will be held informing staff moving onto university rates and conditions. The details are complex but our over-riding principle is that no AMC staff member will be disadvantaged. – Stuart Andrews, Director, Human Resources.

Q: What are the details of the redundancy program?

A: There will be no forced redundancies. The smaller AMC administration centre means there may be some voluntary redundancies but that is not our primary modus operandi. There will be a level of natural attrition and we are identifying how we fill university-wide positions which are coming up naturally. – Stuart Andrews, Director, Human Resources.

Q: How will the university deal with the situation where AMC academic staff have industry-recognised qualifications which are not necessarily academic?

A: The AMC has attracted the best possible people to its employment and in future their qualifications will be just as valued as they are at present. In terms of promotion opportunities, there is no definite answer but consideration is being given to how best to incorporate industrial experience. – Prof. Le Grew.

Q: With regard to the last question, the university has associate lecturers. Will this apply to AMC staff?

A: Salary rates have all been aligned; there will be no position changes for AMC staff. – Stuart Andrews.