



AMC – an institute of UTAS

Monthly joint communiqué to AMC and UTAS staff providing a summary-form update on progress towards integration of AMC and UTAS as a combined single entity.

Integration of AMC with UTAS from 1 January 2008

All is on track for the repeal later this year of the Commonwealth legislation that established AMC as a separate legal entity. This will enable AMC to integrate with UTAS from 1 January 2008 and for AMC staff to become employees of UTAS from that date.

We have been advised that the legislation will be presented to Federal Parliament in August and given that it has bi-partisan support, no delay in passing the legislation is anticipated. In any event, all major business systems of AMC will cease with effect from 31 December 2007. To facilitate this process, a transfer to UTAS business systems is already well underway, led by the integration of data and communications networks.

AMC as an institute of UTAS

AMC will be established as an institute of UTAS through a new UTAS ordinance. The ordinance provides that AMC will have a Board that is accountable to the University Council through the Vice-Chancellor. The Principal (Chief Executive) of AMC will report directly to this Board.

The Board, reporting through the Academic Senate or the Vice-Chancellor, as appropriate, will advise the University Council on matters affecting AMC, including:

- a) The good governance of the institute
- b) The programs offered through AMC
- c) Admission to those programs
- d) Assessment of students in those programs
- e) Diplomas, certificates and degrees that may be offered through AMC and the requirements for their award
- f) Scholarships, bursaries and prizes granted to students enrolled in programs through AMC

The Board will be responsible for overseeing the delegations of authority, including financial delegations made to AMC under the University's delegations framework. The Board will also be responsible for the appointment of directors and the oversight of any controlled entities of AMC as delegated by the University Council.

Consistent with this approach, AMC will maintain the AMC brand-name following integration with UTAS.

The structure of the AMC as an institute

The future structure of AMC is to be based around three National Centres. These are:

- National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics
- National Centre for Marine Environment
- National Centre for Ports and Shipping

Project Unity



These National Centres will be serviced by an Administrative Centre and by the major Administrative Divisions and Sections of the wider University.

Directors of the National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics (Professor Tom Hardy), and National Centre for Marine Environment (Professor Chad Hewitt) are now in place and the selection process for the Director of the National Centre for Ports and Shipping is progressing well.

The breadth of academic and research functions of the AMC may also increase following Integration. Discussions are currently taking place between UTAS and the AMC to identify new growth opportunities for the combined entity.

The existing AMC Division of Corporate Services

The existing Division of Corporate Services will be significantly reduced in size following Integration with a transition to the post-Integration AMC Administrative Centre to occur progressively during 2008. It is anticipated that final staff numbers in the post-Integration AMC Administrative Centre will be approximately one third of current numbers. The remaining staff of the Division of Corporate Services will be transferred into job-roles within the wider University. In that regard, a number of AMC staff have already taken advantage of redeployment opportunities within UTAS.

The existing AMC Division of Academic and Research

Subject to interim arrangements where necessary, the existing organisational structure of the Division of Academic and Research will be maintained until each of the new Directors has had the opportunity to consult with staff during the second half of this year. These consultations will inform the optimal placement of existing academic, research and support functions within the three National Centres and alignment of centrally provided administrative functions. All staff currently employed within the existing Division of Academic and Research will be distributed across the revised AMC structure and no consideration has been given to any transfers outside of AMC based on Integration.

Staffing Translation Arrangements

A set of provisions has been developed to deal with the translation of AMC staff onto the UTAS classification structures and other conditions of employment applicable to academic and general staff. These proposed provisions are being discussed with AMC academic and general staff representatives with a view to ensuring that AMC staff are not disadvantaged in terms of their overall conditions of employment on becoming employees of UTAS.

UTAS Library Access for AMC staff

Arrangements are currently being made for AMC staff to have UTAS staff cards issued (on request) and UTAS IT usernames and passwords assigned to formalise AMC staff access to the UTAS Library collections. Further information will be provided to AMC staff about this shortly.

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Staff Forums and other communication with staff

An 'Integration Matters' Forum for staff of both the AMC and UTAS, hosted by the Professor Daryl Le Grew, Vice-Chancellor and Professor Malek Pourzanjani, President AMC, will be held on Monday 23 July 2007 from 1pm to 3 pm, Lecture Theatre 5, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Launceston Campus.

This will provide an opportunity to update staff on key strategic issues associated with the University's EDGE 2 agenda, a key component of which is Integration with AMC. We will also be providing an update on a number of generic issues identified by staff and will also provide staff with an opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

An external consultant has been engaged to assist with the communication strategy for Project Unity. The consultant, Sandra Stubbings, has commenced consultations with various AMC and UTAS stakeholders with a view to organising other activities and information sharing for AMC and UTAS staff aimed at increasing the knowledge about both organisations and the opportunities that Integration will bring to strengthen the integrated organisation moving forward.

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