

## **Minutes Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group held on Wednesday 11 April 2007**

**There were present:** Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Professor Derrick Armstrong) presiding, Ms Janet Mooney, Director, Koori Centre, Ms Michelle Blanchard, Deputy Director, Koori Centre, Dr Margaret Edmond, Director Student Services, Ms Sally Farrington, Deputy Head, Yooroang Garang, Mr Colin L. James, Director I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre, Ms Shona Kennedy, Indigenous Employment Policy Officer, Ms Jenny Leong, President of SUPRA, Ms Leona Oliver, representative of SUPRA, Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre, Ms Anne Scahill, Director Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit, Dr Manjula Sharma, Sydney University Physics Education Research Group. Ms Elizabeth Yashadhana, Change Manager, Sydney Learning and MS Sally Paynter were in attendance.

### **1. Apologies**

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting and Business Arising**

The Committee noted the minutes from the previous meeting held on 8 February 2007.

### **3. A new entity for indigenous support services**

#### **3.1 Moving forward**

The Chair, Professor Armstrong, advised members that in response to the discussion paper *Proposal for the establishment of new entity through the integration of the Koori Centre and Yooroang Garang* drafted by Academic Coordinator of the Koori Centre, Lynette Riley-Mundine discussions had begun in regards to change management.

The Chair introduced Ms Elizabeth Yashadhana, Change Manager, Sydney Learning who gave a presentation on Change Management and strategies to engage in the change process, enhance performance and manage risk. Ms Yashadhana also spoke about methods of dealing with resistance to change and positive ways of handling these obstacles.

The Chair thanks Ms Yashadhana for the presentation, noting that the development of a new entity for Indigenous Support Services would enable the University to approach issues of recruitment and retention of Indigenous students in a holistic way and would enable the University to both broaden and improve our practices.

The Committee noted that Ms Yashadhana, the Director of the Koori Centre, Ms Mooney, the Head of Yooroang Garang, Ms Farrington and the Deputy Director, Koori Centre, Ms Blanchard would meet to begin discussions about the development of the new entity. Once a management strategy had been established the group would report back to the Committee. It was resolved that once a proposal had been approved by Professor Armstrong and the Committee that it may be circulated to the Committee of Deans for comment and feedback. Members noted that it was important to remind deans of the issues surrounding Indigenous Education at the University and that the development of a new entity for Indigenous Support Services was an opportunity to open up communication with faculties about these support services. The Chair advised that as equity was a leading key performance indicator for the University that deans would be looking to ensure their faculties complied with the priorities set for Indigenous Higher Education across the University.

### **Resolution 1/07**

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the presentation on Change Management and agreed that the Director of the Koori Centre and the Head of Yooroang Garang would report to the Committees next meeting on the development of the new entity for Indigenous Support Services.

### **3.2 Implementing a change management proposal**

This was discussed under item 3.1.

### **4. The Indigenous Support Grant**

The Chair advised that he now had the Indigenous Support Grant money awaiting allocation. The Committee noted that the money was internally funded (not funded by DEST) and was calculated based on a funding model used by the Planning and Support Office. Prior to 2007 the money was allocated to each college based on the number of ATSI students enrolled in degrees programs offered by the faculties in those colleges. The amount was initially calculated at the faculty level and then aggregated to the college level. The amount for 2007 was calculated at the faculty level based on the number of ATSI students and then aggregated to one amount, \$442,000 and transferred into the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) budget.

The Chair advised that the Committee needed to decide on how much of these funds would be dedicated to Indigenous scholarships. Ms Mooney tabled a draft budget for the funds which included funding for scholarships, annual activities run by the Koori Centre Yooroang Garang and other projects which included the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Program.

The Committee discussed the allocation of funds to scholarships which included the awarding of 10 laptop computers in addition to the undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships on offer.

The Committee agreed that Ms Mooney would revise the draft budget and submit it to Professor Armstrong for final approval. The AIME program proposal would be circulated to members for consideration and subject to their endorsement would be forwarded to Professor Armstrong for approval.

### **Resolution 2/07**

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the draft budget for Indigenous Support Grant funds and agreed to consider the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Program proposal which would be circulated.

### **5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.