

Minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 26 September 2007.

There were present: The Chair of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Professor Derrick Armstrong, Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor presiding, Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair Academic Board, Ms Janet Mooney, Director Koori Centre, Ms Sally Farrington, Head, Yooroang Garang, Dr Ann Cheryl Armstrong, Director Professional Learning, Faculty of Education and Social Work, Dr Margaret Edmond, Director Student Services, , NTEU Indigenous Members Caucus, Ms Kate Barnsley, Co-President of SUPRA, Mr Colin L. James, Director I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre, Ms Leona Oliver, representative of SUPRA, Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre and Ms Lyn Shoemark, Assistant Director of SydneyPeople Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit. Ms Sally Paynter was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Dr Lilon Bandler, Dr Stuart Rosewarne, Dr Manjula Sharma and Ms Sue Page.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution 9/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2007 as a true record.

3. Matters arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

3.1 Indigenous student recruitment seminar

At the Committee's last meeting Ms Farrington had suggested that as several faculties and centres were developing and running programs aimed at recruiting Indigenous high school students that a seminar be held where ideas could be shared with the aim of co-ordination these programs. The Chair agreed with the suggestion and proposed inviting key stakeholders to a Committee meeting to present their recruitment programs and to facilitate discussion about a common strategy for the University. Members had agreed to take this suggestion back to their respective faculties for consideration.

The Chair advised that his office would arrange a suitable meeting date for the seminar and include representatives from the Student Marketing and Recruitment office.

Resolution 10/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee resolved to arrange an Indigenous Student Recruitment Seminar.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair advised that he had nothing on which to report.

5. Update on the development of a new entity for Indigenous Support Services

Ms Mooney advised that the Koori Centre retreat had been held earlier that day and that it was an annual event which normally focused on curriculum review and strategic directions for the coming year, however this year the retreat focus was on the change management proposal for the new entity. Members noted that staff had completed the SWOT analysis and had initially felt confused and negative towards the process, however after presentations at the retreat by Sue Page and Antoinette Holt and an engaged discussion about the future of the Koori Centre, staff were enthusiastic about the proposed changes.

Ms Mooney reported that the Chair had spoken at the retreat and had been able to reassure staff about the proposed changes. She said that the membership of the change management committee had been established and that a meeting had been scheduled for early November.

The Chair advised that although he had initially envisaged the change management process to be completed before the end of the year, he was now encouraging a slower process with greater consultation that may take more than 12 months to finalise. He said that changes would continue to occur during this time. Dr Ann-Cheryl Armstrong reported that as an alternative to the SWOT analysis an asset based management approach which involved a skills audit was a proven alternative and that she would be happy to consult with relevant staff about this approach if they felt it appropriate.

The Chair stressed that the change management process was in no way starting from a view that the Koori Centre was working at a deficit level but that it was much more focused on the institutional relationship with the Koori Centre and that it was critical for the University to engage with issues surrounding Indigenous education. Members noted that at the last Senate meeting fellows had discussed the University's Strategic Plan and were particularly keen to focus on engaging with Indigenous education support. The Chair said that it was a common mistake to focus only on the support units for Indigenous education but that there needed to be a cultural change and a commitment across the broader University community to accept and address the relevant issues which surround it.

The Chair of the Academic Board agreed that the time was right to make changes and that the Academic Board would be seeking the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee's (IEAC) assistance in reviewing relevant Academic Board policy which touched on issue of Indigenous education.

The Chair said that there was a need for a more co-ordinated approach which would require accountability and engagement across the University. To do this he suggested establishing an Indigenous Strategy Committee with senior staff of the University as members to tackle issues that were not able to be dealt with by the IEAC. Members agreed that the IEAC membership should be expanded to ensure there was a representative from all faculty clusters to enable interface with all areas of the University.

Members noted that any future developments would be reported to the IEAC.

Resolution 11/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the update on the development of a new entity for Indigenous Support Services.

6. Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Program

The Chair introduced Ms Lisa Kelaher, program advisor for the Faculty of Economics and Business who had been invited to address the IEAC to discuss how it might assist in attracting more funding for the AIME program which was currently being funded in part by her Faculty.

Ms Kelaher informed members that in early 2007 AIME, the Faculty of Economics and Business and Tranby Aboriginal College submitted an application to DEST for funding based on a School to University Pathways project. The submission was successful but negotiations led to non-acceptance due to intellectual property not being protected and an inability to have contracts reflect the true partnership involving 3 parties. The program was now looking to alternative funding methods in an effort to employ more staff and to secure the program. Members noted that AIME was currently funded by three contributors, \$10,000 from the community, \$20,000 from the Faculty of Economics and Business and \$70,000 from the IEAC (who had agreed to fund the program for one year whilst other sources of funding were being explored).

Ms Mooney provided some background about AIME's relationship with the Koori Centre where it was developed out of Klub Koori activities which saw students being introduced to significant Indigenous role models through the community. The program grew and was supported through the University Union until the resourcing implications from Voluntary Students Unions (VSU) made

supporting the program impossible. Ms Mooney advised that AIME was currently being supported by staff from the Koori Centre and that this was problematic as the resources available to support their core business were limited and were not equipped to support the expanding AIME program.

The Committee noted that AIME was looking towards incorporation and had been developing business plans with some support from an academic in the Faculty of Economics and Business. Members questioned the impact that incorporation may have on the University's willingness to offer funding for a service that they may or may not require and that more consideration of what was on offer was needed.

Members noted that AIME currently did not have an overall business structure and that a meeting needed to be convened between AIME's Director Jack Manning-Bancroft, Ms Mooney and Professor Armstrong to discuss the operation of AIME, its business structure and to review the risk issues associated with the program. Ms Kelaher agreed with the suggestion that the Faculty of Economics and Business participate in these discussions.

Ms Kelaher sought the Committees advice about acquiring information about successful Indigenous Students recruitment strategies that were operating around the University. Ms Mooney advised that through the change management process an external consultant would be employed to survey these strategies. Ms Farrington said that Diana Day and Rhonda Craven had both worked on projects mapping factors which lead to the success of Indigenous students at secondary school and that this information was available on the DEST website.

The Chair thanked Ms Kelaher for attending the meeting and agreed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the business meeting with Mr Manning-Bancroft.

Resolution 12/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report on the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Program.

7. 'Life at University' student visit

Ms Leona Oliver reported on the success of the 'Life at University' student visit that was hosted by the University on 23 August. Approximately 20 year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and some teaching staff representing several Catholic High Schools in metropolitan Sydney visited the University and were introduced to the culture and experience on main campus. Small workshops covering different subject areas were held and continuing Indigenous students studying at the University shared their experiences of tertiary study. Feedback from students and teachers who participated in the event had been positive and the Catholic Education Office was keen to make the program an annual event.

The Chair thanked Ms Oliver for her efforts and members also recognised the collective work of representatives from the Koori Centre, the Scholarships Office and the Deputy Provost's Office.

The Chair also noted that this was Ms Oliver's last meeting as her term of office as a SUPRA representative had ended. Members thanked Ms Oliver for her commitment to IEAC and for her considerable contribution to its achievements throughout her membership.

Resolution 13/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report on the 'Life at University' student visit.

8. Any other business

8.1 ITAS

Co-President of SUPRA, Ms Kate Barnsley, advised that SUPRA case workers had spoken with several Indigenous students who had found it difficult to access tutor support through Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) and that many postgraduate

students were completing block mode courses and were finding it difficult to access much needed support. Ms Lyn Riley-Mundine said that ITAS had strict requirements that effected access by postgraduate students such as not allowing support to those postgraduate students who were undertaking a course they had studied in their undergraduate degree. Ms Barnsley said that there were many administrative loop holes and that it was difficult for students to know who to talk to about the problem. Ms Mooney advised that Ms Barnsley should approach the Finance and Marketing Manager at the Koori Centre, Patrick Snowdon for further information.

Members agreed that these issues surrounding postgraduate student support should be taken forward to DEST to ensure adequate resourcing of Indigenous students and away from base students.

The Chair advised that this may be an issue for the Academic Board when approving admission requirements for new and existing postgraduate courses/degrees. He suggested that SUPRA should send him a letter outlining the issues which may then be sent to DEST via the Vice-Chancellor. Ms Barnsley agreed to draft such a letter and forward it to the Chair accordingly.

8.2 Re-naming of Maze Green

Mr James advised that the Vice-Chancellor had suggested that the University have a Koori meeting place and that the meeting place would be developed in what was previously referred to as Maze Green. Mr James tabled a design concept for the meeting place and sought members' opinion on the suggested name 'Gadigal Green'.

The Committee resolved to recommend that the newly developed Koori meeting place be re-named 'Gadigal Green'. The Chair advised that he would write to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community) Professor Andrew Coats recommending the name change.

Resolution 14/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee resolved to recommend that the newly developed Koori meeting place be re-named 'Gadigal Green'.

9. Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee would be held on Wednesday 7 November 2007.