



The University of Sydney

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Secretary: Sally Paynter

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NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee** will be held at **2.00pm** on **13 February 2008** in the **Kevin Lees Room**

Members who are unable to attend are asked to notify Sally Paynter at the above address. Enquiries concerning this meeting may also be directed to Sally.

Sally Paynter
12 February 2008

Members

Prof Derrick Armstrong, Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair Academic Board
Ms Janet Mooney, Director Koori Centre
Ms Michelle Blanchard, Deputy Director, Koori Centre
Ms Sally Farrington, Head, Yooroang Garang
Dr Lilon Bandler, Indigenous Health Education, Faculty of Medicine
Dr Ann Cheryl Armstrong, Director Professional Learning, Faculty of Education and Social Work
Dr Margaret Edmond, Director Student Services
Dr Stuart Rosewarne, NTEU Indigenous Members Caucus
Dr Manjula Sharma, Sydney University Physics Education Research Group
Ms Vicki Bradford, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
Mr John Evans, Postgraduate student representative
Mr David Guest, Undergraduate student representative
Mr Shane Hearn, Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health
Mr Colin L. James, Director I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre
Ms Leona Oliver, Acting Indigenous Employment Coordinator/Policy Officer, SydneyPeople Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit
Ms Kate Barnsley and Mr Jack Clegg, Co-Presidents of SUPRA
Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre
Ms Anne Scahill, Director Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit
Mr Clark Webb, Undergraduate Student Representative

Corresponding Members:

Ms Ros Field, Director Indigenous Education, DEST
Prof John Lester, Director of Aboriginal Education & Training, DET
Mr Kevin Lowe, Inspector, Aboriginal Education, Office of Board of Studies
Professor Don Nutbeam, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** (pages 4-7)

Recommendation

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 November 2007 as a true record.

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

4. **Report of the Chair**

4.1 Prime Minister's Apology to the Stolen Generation

I will report at the meeting.

4.2 Indigenous student recruitment seminar

Members will recall that at past Committee meetings it had suggested that as several faculties and centres were developing and running programs aimed at recruiting Indigenous high school students that a seminar could be held where ideas could be shared with the aim of co-ordination these programs.

I am supportive of the suggestion and propose inviting key stakeholders to a Committee meeting to present their recruitment programs and to facilitate discussion about a common strategy for the University. My office will be arranging a suitable meeting date for the seminar and include representatives from the Student Marketing and Recruitment office.

4.3 Faculty of Medicine \$10 million pledge

Members will no doubt be aware of the Faculty of Medicine's plans to establish a Centre of Indigenous Health with the \$10 Million donation received early this year. Details of the Centre are outlines in the press release below:

Indigenous Health to Benefit from \$10 Million Pledge

25 January 2008

The Faculty of Medicine will establish a Centre for Indigenous Health following a \$10million donation, the largest pledge by a living individual to the University of Sydney.

The immediate objective of the new Centre is to establish a number of outreach medical clinics in western New South Wales, which will directly provide health care to local Indigenous communities.

The Centre will also significantly increase the Faculty of Medicine's commitment to the education and training of medical and public health students in the challenges of Indigenous health. It will provide similar opportunities for students in other health disciplines such as nursing, physiotherapy and speech pathology.

"This is a very exciting project for the Faculty and the University, and we are enormously grateful for this donation. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to work towards correcting problems and inequities that exist in Indigenous health, thanks to the generosity and farsightedness of an individual," said Professor Bruce Robinson, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The first outreach clinics will be held in Dubbo, Bourke, Brewarrina and Broken Hill.

"These locations were chosen because we already have established links with the communities," said Professor Robinson. "Our plan is to start on a relatively small basis,

learn from our experiences and proceed to expand the program provided that we have adequate funding."

"The Faculty has for many years had a strong commitment to Indigenous health education but the establishment of this new Centre allows us to expand our programs."

"One of our key aims is that, with a greater exposure to Indigenous health, more of our young medical, dental, nursing, physiotherapy and other health science students will be well equipped and inspired to work in this important area."

I recently met with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Bruce Robinson to discuss the establishment of the Centre and will report on the discussions at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee note the report of the Chair

- 5. Update on the development of a new entity for Indigenous Support Services**
SydneyPeople HR Relationship Group Co-ordinator, Ms Carol Ible, to report.

Recommendation

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

- 6. Membership of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of Dr Christine Asmar to the IEAC. Dr Asmar is a Senior Lecturer with the Institute for Teaching & Learning (ITL). Funded by a grant from the Australian Institute for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies she has been working for some years on a study of Indigenous Australian academics, in collaboration with Associate Professor Susan Page. She is currently planning another project, this time on ways of developing appropriate resources for Indigenous teachers. She has been active in introducing Indigenous content and issues into ITL programs.

Recommendation

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee appoint Dr Christine Asmar to membership of the Committee.

- 7. Any other business**

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 7 November 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 Michaele Blanchard, Deputy Director of the Koori Centre, Ms Sally Farrington, Head, Yooroang Garang, Dr Margaret Edmond, Director Student Services, Ms Kate Barnsley, Co-President of SUPRA, Mr Colin L. James, Director I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre, Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre and Ms Lyn Shoemark, Assistant Director of Sydney People Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit. Ms Sally Paynter was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Drs Ann Cheryl Armstrong and Manjula Sharma, Ms Vicki Bradford, Ms Janet Mooney, Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine and Ms Sue Page.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee agreed to the following amendments to the minutes:

(deletions indicated with strikethrough, additions indicated with underline)

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.~~ The Chair suggested that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community), Professor Andrew Coats could be invited to attend the IEAC meetings to discuss relevant Indigenous issues and that these issues may be taken to senior executive committees such as the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee or the Senior Executive Group for discussion. 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.

Resolution 14/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopted the amended minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2007 as a true record.

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

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 National Study of Indigenous Support Centres

The Chair asked Ms Blanchard to report on the National Study of Indigenous Support Centres conducted by Erebus International. Ms Blanchard explained that the University had been invited by Erabus to participate in the Survey and had completed an initial questionnaire in August and had also hosted a site visit on Friday 2 November. Representatives from Erabus interviewed various representatives from the Koori Centre and Yooroang Garang including staff and student focus groups and community members. These interviews were carried out with a view to gathering data to build on the results already gathered from the questionnaire and to identify wide-ranging issues and to develop best practice. Ms Blanchard added that the Erabus representatives had been impressed by the quality of Indigenous Support Services offered by the University of Sydney.

The Chair thanked Ms Blanchard for the report and requested that she report back to the Committee when the results of the Survey were known. He added that the participation in the survey was an ideal opportunity for staff to reflect on their activities and to look at how the Koori Centre and Yooroang Garang as support units related to and were supported by the University.

Resolution 15/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report on the National Study of Indigenous Support Centres and that the results of the survey would be reported to the Committee once they were known.

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

The Chair welcomed Ms Antoinette Holt, HR Relationship Manager for SydenyPeople, to the meeting and asked her to update the Committee on the change management process for the new entity for Indigenous support services. Ms Holt advised that she and Ms Mooney had finalised the membership of the working party and that the composition of this group, approximately 10 representatives, would be approved by Professor Armstrong. Ms Holt had held sessions with the administrative team from the Koori Centre at the retreat in September and that once the report on these discussions had been approved by Ms Mooney a report could be circulated to the IEAC.

In response to a question raised about the terms of reference for the working party, Ms Holt advised that the group would be reviewing the current model of the Koori Centre and examining the interaction between the Koori Centre and faculties and building upon the initial change management discussions that Ms Yashadana had conducted. Ms Holt added that she hoped to run a similar information sharing session with academic staff from the Koori Centre to identify common areas where positive changes could be made. Ms Blanchard advised that the issues identified by staff and students during the Erabus Survey would be beneficial to this process.

Ms Farrington asked Ms Holt what advice she should be providing to her staff at Yooroang Garang about the change management process. Ms Holt advised that it was important to ensure that all staff were informed honestly about the process and that once the Working Party had met there would be more information available to staff about the direction that the process would be taking. The Chair advised that there was also the more complicated issue of where Yooroang Garang fitted within the Faculty of Health Science and how this would inturn fit with the new entity. Members noted that there would be consultation with staff at Yooroang Garang and discussions across all faculties with a view to enhancing central Indigenous support services and building relationships between these central services and faculties.

The Chair thanked Ms Holt for the report and noted that she would continue to provide updates to the Committee on the change management process.

Resolution 16/07

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

6. Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS)

The SUPRA Co-President, Ms Kate Barnsley advised that SUPRA had been contacted by several students about concerns they had in relation to accessing ITAS programs and the confusion about the processes that surrounded the scheme. Ms Blanchard advised that the Koori Centre were in the process of reviewing ITAS and had identified similar issues with the current processes that SUPRA had highlighted. The Committee noted that the Koori Centre would be preparing a report on ITAS which would outline details of initiatives adopted to address these issues. Ms Blanchard questioned whether the IEAC meeting was the appropriate forum to be discussing internal processes and that she would be happy to meet with SUPRA representatives to discuss ITAS further.

The Chair commented that the issue of how the University was communicating with students was a valid one and that this would be something to be mindful of whilst reviewing the ITAS processes.

Ms Barnsley and Ms Blanchard agreed to continue discussions about the current ITAS processes outside the Committee with a view to the Koori Centre reporting back to IEAC on the outcome of the review of ITAS.

Resolution 17/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the discussions on the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme.

7. Meeting dates 2008

The Committee approved the following meeting dates for 2008:

13 February

16 April

4 June

20 August

22 October

Resolution 18/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee approved the meeting dates for 2008.

8. Progress report on the proposed "expression of interest" for the Victoria Park Gardener's Cottage, engaging the local Koori community and the Sydney City Council with the University

Mr Colin James reported on the proposed expression of interest to use the Victoria Park Gardener's Cottage as a multi-purpose meeting space and a Koori Café. Mr James advised that because of the location of the Cottage the Café would attract a lot of passing trade and be an ideal place for cultural displays or as an information centre. In addition to this proposal Mr James advised that the Indigenous Community had discussed establishing a proper burial ground for the Gadigal people that may include Indigenous sculpture or a totem pole.

Members noted that the University had once owned the Gardener's Cottage but that it was now owned by the Sydney City Council. The Chair suggested that Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community), Professor Andrew Coats and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Infrastructure and Campus Services) be consulted about the proposal and that Mr James could present these ideas to seek the University's support. Members noted that an accessible Indigenous meeting space in Victoria Park would form a very strong link between the University and the Indigenous Community.

Mr James agreed to prepare a briefing paper on the proposal for the Victoria Park Gardener's Cottage for the Chair to discuss with Professor Coats.

Resolution 19/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report on the expression of interest for the Victoria Park Gardener's Cottage.

9. Update on the Yabun Festival

Dr Lilon Bandler advised that there had been some effort made this year to run a stall at the Yabun Festival but that it had not been as successful as hoped. The Committee agreed that a collective approach from the Koori Centre, Yooroang Garang, the School of Public Health and the Faculty of Medicine would enable the University to make a greater impact at the festival. Dr Edmond suggested that the Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment, Ms Adrienne Jerram could also be consulted about the arrangements for the festival.

Resolution 20/07

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report on the Yabun Festival.

10. Any other business**10.1 Cadet Officers**

The Committee noted that Ms Leona Oliver from Yooroang Garang had been seconded to the SydneyPeople Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit as Indigenous Employment Officer and would be overseeing cadetships. Members agreed that the issue of Indigenous student cadetships was something the Committee would explore in 2008 and that it was a possible agenda item for an early meeting next year.