

Minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 10 June 2008

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 Money, Director, Koori Centre, Ms Sally Farrington, Head, Yooroang Garang, Dr Stuart Rosewarne, NTEU Indigenous Members Caucus, Dr Manju Sharma, Sydney University Physics Education Research Group, Ms Kate Barnsley, Co-President of SUPRA, Mr Colin L James, Director I.B Fell Housing Research Council, Ms Leona Oliver, Acting Indigenous Employment Coordinator/Policy Officer, SydneyPeople Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit and Ms Lynette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre and. Ms Sally Paynter was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Dr Ann Cheryl Armstrong, Dr Christine Asmar, Dr Lilon Bandler, Dr Margaret Edmond, Ms Michelle Blanchard, Ms Vicki Bradford, Mr John Evans, Mr David Guest and Mr Shane Hearn.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution 9/08

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopted the amended minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 May 2008 as a true record.

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

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 Indigenous Education Review 2008

Members noted that at the Committee's last meeting discussion had focused on the establishment of a review panel to examine the current provision for Indigenous education and educational support services within the University.

The Committee discussed the terms of reference and agreed to the following amendments as indicated by underline:

The amended sections are underlined below:

1. To review the current profile of educational support services for Indigenous students within the University of Sydney.
2. To review the role of the faculties in relation to pedagogical practices the recruitment and retention of undergraduate and postgraduate Indigenous students.
3. To review the programs offered for Indigenous students at the University, specifically which faculties offer them and how they are supported and promoted both centrally and at a faculty level.
4. To consider the role of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, membership, terms of reference and reporting lines with a view to ensuring that its operations are transparent and its decisions are disseminated throughout the wider University community.
5. To consider the sources of Indigenous support funding and how this flows through to teaching and support across the University, specifically in relation to the allocation of funding to faculties and to programs which promote and support Indigenous education at the University.
6. To propose a model for the delivery of Indigenous support and education across the University.
7. To review the staffing profile of Indigenous academic and general staff of the University.

8. To review to what extent Indigenous issues and knowledge are embedded in the core University goals of Learning and Teaching, Research and Community Engagement and in all other activities of the University.

Members discussed the reference to ‘educational support services’ under point 1 of the terms of reference and whether the term covered all the services offered to students including the counselling services, learning centre etc. The Chair agreed to follow this up with the Acting Director, Student Administration and Support, Dr Margaret Edmond. In response to a question raised about whether point 8 of the terms of reference would include investigating pathways for research training and academic careers for postgraduate Indigenous students, the Chair advised that it may be something the review panel would explore.

The Chair announced that Professor Michael McDaniel, Dean, Indigenous Education at the University of Western Sydney had agreed to Chair the Review and Professor McDaniel had put forward the names of potential members for the review panel. The Chair would write to these potential members to invite them to participate and would report back to the Committee on the outcome.

The Committee noted that Professor McDaniel supported the terms of reference as endorsed by the Committee and believed that the review would touch upon the seven areas as outline. He also felt that a more concise statement about the review may be beneficial. He summarised the aim of the review as follows:

To review Indigenous education across the University with a view to developing University-wide strategy that aligns with the National priorities as specified by the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council.

The next stage of the review was to confirm the membership of the review panel, establish an appropriate schedule for the review including meeting dates and contacting staff and students to arrange interview times.

Resolution 10/08

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report of the Chair and approved the terms of reference for the Indigenous Education Review 2008 as set out above.

5. Proposal to fund programs that promote Indigenous education and encourage and support Indigenous students

At the Committee’s last meeting the Chair tabled a proposal for a new process for funding programs already running and/or provide financial support for developing new programs to address relevant issues affecting Indigenous students.

The Committee supported the proposal and considered the following draft documents:

- the overview of the process
- the selection criteria
- application forms

Members discussed at length the selection criteria, the amount of funding allocated to each project and how to ensure that projects currently running were not disadvantaged by the process.

The Chair proposed that the process be amended and it was suggested that applicants submit expressions of interest only and that these projects be considered and managed centrally to ensure a co-ordinated approach across the University. Priority would be given to those projects which had

cross-faculty benefits. It was agreed that the proposal would be discussed at the Committee's next meeting.

Resolution 11/08

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee resolved to defer approving the process for funding programs that promote Indigenous education and encourage and support Indigenous students until the next meeting.

6. Any other business

6.1 Farewell

The Co-President of SUPRA, Ms Kate Barnsley advised that this would be her last Committee meeting as the new Co-Presidents had been elected and would begin their terms on 30 June 2008. Members joined the Chair in thanking Ms Barnsley for her valued contribution to the Committee and wished her success in the future.

6.2 Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)

The Chair provided the Committee with an update on the drafting of a formal agreement between AIME and the University. A meeting had been held between the Chair, the University Solicitor, Ms Mooney, the CEO of AIME Mr Jack Manning-Bancroft and a member of the AIME Board, Mr Maurice Shipp to discuss the details of a formal agreement. The Chair advised that there was a lot of support and good will for AIME throughout the University and it was envisaged that a single University-wide contract would be drafted to ensure a coherent approach to running the program across faculties. AIME's lawyers were re-drafting a contract in light of the outcomes of the meeting and the Chair would be updating the Committee of Deans about the developments.

7. Next meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting would be held on 20 August 2008 in the Western Tower Room, Quadrangle Building.