

Minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 22 April 2009

There were present: The Acting Chair of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Ms Janet Money, Director, Koori Centre, Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair, Academic Board, Ms Sally Farrington, Head, Yooroang Garang, Dr Lilon Bandler, Indigenous Health Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dr Gaynor MacDonald, Faculty of Arts, Dr Manju Sharma, Sydney University Physics Education Research Group, Mr Colin L James, Director I.B Fell Housing Research Council, Ms Rashmi Kumar, President of SUPRA, Ms Lynette Riley, Acting Deputy Director, Koori Centre, Mr Stuart Rosewarne, NTEU Indigenous Member Caucus, Mr Noah White, President of SRC. Ms Sally Paynter was in attendance.

1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies have been received from: Professor Derrick Armstrong, Dr Margaret Edmond, Ms Vicki Bradford, Ms Maree Murray and Mr Vladamir Williams.

Members welcomed Dr Gaynor MacDonald from the Faculty of Arts to membership of the Committee.

Members noted that Professor Armstrong had been delayed and had asked Ms Mooney to chair the Committee meeting in his absence.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 6/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 February 2009 as a true record.

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

There was no other business.

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 Indigenous Education Review update

The Acting Chair advised that the second phase of the Indigenous Education Review had now been completed and the final report was being prepared by the Review Panel. The Panel would return to the University next month to present the final report to the Vice-Chancellor.

Ms Mooney praised the efforts of the Review Panel in making the staff and students that they consulted with feel comfortable with the process. Members noted that this review had been widely a transparent and widely consultative process.

The Acting Chair thanked all those members of the Committee who took the time to meet with the Review Panel and acknowledged the warm welcome they received by staff and students at both the Koori Centre and Yooroang Garang.

4.2 AIME Liaison Group

The Committee noted that the inaugural meeting of the AIME Liaison Group had been held on 31 March 2009 and a report on the outcomes of the meeting was being prepared.

Resolution 7/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report of the Acting Chair.

5. Report from the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group

Ms Sally Farrington spoke to the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group report advising that she had spoken with Dr Lilon Bandler and Kate Conigrave about the shortage of scholarships for Indigenous postgraduate coursework students, noting that these students were ineligible for

ITAS funding. Members noted that all Block Mode students were given an allowance once they arrived in Sydney and that each program was funded at a different rate. As newer programs were often funded at a lower rate the Koori Centre compensated by paying the same rate across all programs.

The Committee discussed a recommendation to award the top 10 students entry scholarships as opposed to those with a UAI of 85+. The Chair of the Academic Board advised that the NSW Vice-Chancellor's Committee had agreed to a proposal to change the UAI to Australian Tertiary Ranking ATR which would put NSW students on the same scale as other states. The ATR was originally to be introduced in 2009 but there had been a number of complaints about its implementation negatively affecting year 12 students' preparation for the HSC. It was agreed that altering the selection process for entry scholarships needed further consideration.

Members agreed that the approval of funding for the entry, top up and laptop scholarships for postgraduate and undergraduate students needed to be secured further in advance and that a rolling three year commitment to fund these scholarships needed to be made. Ms Farrington advised that the table of page 5 of the report detailing all the scholarships available for Indigenous students across the University had been uploaded onto the Yooroang Garang's website. It was agreed that this information would be included in a prospectus for Indigenous students looking to study at the University.

The Committee resolved to ask the Committee secretary to re-circulate the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group report to members asking for the submission of comments by 3 June 2009. The Report and any comments would be discussed in detail at the June meeting.

Resolution 8/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee resolved to re-circulate the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group report to members for comment.

6. Indigenous Support Allocation Funding

In 2008 a proposal was considered by the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee to fund programs that promote Indigenous education and encourage and support Indigenous students. The Committee resolved to re-circulate the proposal to members for consideration and comment by 3 June 2009. The proposal and any comments would be discussed in detail at the June meeting.

Resolution 9/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee resolved to re-circulate the proposal to promote Indigenous education and encourage and support Indigenous students to members for comment.

7. Report from the Koori Centre

Ms Janet Mooney advised that she would circulate her report to members after the meeting but noted the following key issues during discussion:

- There had been several staff changes at the Koori Centre with Ms Sarina Solar being appointed as Community Liaison Officer and Mr Patrick Snowdon returning from leave in May.
- The Indigenous Support Scholarships had been awarded including 20 Lap top scholarships, 6 entry scholarships and 20 postgraduate scholarships.
- Ms Mooney was working closely with the Poche Centre to develop cultural competency guidelines.
- Indigenous acknowledgment to country signage which had been commissioned by the University had been considered and was deemed to be unsuitable. AN Indigenous artist would be commissioned to create the appropriate signage for the campus. A Sub-

Committee had been formed with members from the University and representatives from the land council and environment group.

Resolution 10/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report from the Koori Centre.

8. Report from Yooroang Garang

Ms Sally Farrington provided the following report from Yooroang Garang:

- The Cadigal Orientation Program had been conducted successfully for the new enrolments for 2009.
- Ms Farrington would be meeting with the Director of the Social Inclusion Project, Ms Annette Cairnduff to discuss collaboration on various initiatives run through the program specifically to identify groups within the low SES schools with large Indigenous populations.
- Yooroang Garang was proposing to work with AIME to use their school sites to work with students interested in studying health science in order to place them with Indigenous graduates from the health science area.

Resolution 11/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report from Yooroang Garang.

9. Indigenous Restaurant in Victoria Park

Mr Col James advised that he had been working on an expression of interest proposing to establish an Indigenous Café and Restaurant in the Gardner's lodge in Victoria Park. The space would be used as a restaurant and meeting space with a proposed BBQ area to be built outside the lodge. The plans are subject to some constraints due to the heritage of the building however there have been discussions with permaculture groups to explore the use of environmentally sound recycle toilets.

Members noted that this development would raise the level of activity in the park and increase the Indigenous presence.

Resolution 12/09

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee noted the report.

10. Any other business

10.1 Indigenous student accommodation

The Committee resolved to recommend that an Indigenous Student Accommodation workshop be held to bring together representatives from CIS, the Accommodation Service and the IEAC to discuss the current housing crisis and the develop strategy to address these issues.

11. Next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee would be held on Wednesday 24 June 2009 at 2pm in the Western Tower Board Room A14.