

## **Minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 24 June 2009**

**There were present:** The Acting Chair of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Ms Janet Money (Director, Koori Centre), Dr Lilon Bandler (Indigenous Health Education, Faculty of Medicine), Dr Maree Murray (Assistant Director, Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit), Dr Stuart Rosewarne (NTEU Indigenous Member Caucus), Ms Michelle Blanchard (Director, Koori Centre), Ms Vicki Bradford (Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health), Ms Sally Farrington (Head, Yooroang Garang), Mr Colin L James (Director I.B Fell Housing Research Council), Ms Rashmi Kumar (President of SUPRA), and Ms Lynette Riley (Academic Co-ordinator, Koori Centre). Ms Keri Neveltsen was in attendance.

### **1. Apologies and acknowledgement**

Apologies have been received from Professor Derrick Armstrong, Dr Ann Cheryl Armstrong, Dr Margaret Edmond and Mr Vladimir Williams.

Ms Vicki Bradford was thanked for her contributions to the Committee and members wished her well on her 18 months leave.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

#### **Resolution 13/09**

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2009 as a true record.

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

#### **3.1 Indigenous Education Review**

Members noted that the Review Panel had met on Monday and Tuesday to finalise the report and recommendations. The report would be referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Vice-Chancellor and would be circulated to members as soon as possible.

#### **3.2 Indigenous student accommodation**

At the last meeting, the Committee recommended that an Indigenous students accommodation workshop be held to bring together representatives from CIS, the Accommodation Service, and the IEAC to discuss the current housing situation and develop strategies for the future.

Members were advised that a number of Colleges had expressed interest and work was underway to arrange the workshop and it was suggested that representatives Yannadah at Cumberland and accommodation at Camden be included.

The meeting was advised that the Aboriginal Housing Company was developing a proposal to build accommodation possibly using the old Railway View Hotel site and discussions would take place with the University.

Committee members noted that there had also been some discussion about The Settlement making available one of three houses it owned in Chippendale to be used as a pilot project. One house was currently used for social work students who undertook field placements working in The Settlement.

#### **3.3 Indigenous restaurant in Victoria Park**

At the last meeting, the Committee was advised on possible developments in the Gardner's Lodge in Victoria Park.

Members noted that work was progressing on attracting Expressions of Interest and that the University would be asked to what degree they would support proposed plans.

Suggestions of how to use the site included possible café or restaurant, eucalyptus sauna bath, and possible museum or gallery space. It was suggested that a gallery space could include a pictorial history of Indigenous education at the University of Sydney.

#### **4. Report from the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group**

Recommendations from the Indigenous Scholarships Working Group had been circulated to members for consideration and comment prior to the meeting.

Following further consideration the Working Group noted the following in relation to the issues raised in the report:

Issue 5 – this issue dealt with the timing of the approval of funds and the resultant reduction in marketing opportunities. The aim was to achieve certainty in funding from one year to the next. The Committee agreed to a slight wording change to better reflect this.

Issue 6 – this issue had also been raised at previous Committee meetings. This needed to be clarified to reflect that there would be a maximum of 10 scholarships to be awarded to students who gained a UAI of 85 or greater. It was acknowledged that this was a special category for high achievers.

The Committee was reminded that there would be changes to the UAI in 2010 and that whilst it would be unlikely that the criteria would need to be changed significantly, it should be reviewed once the changes were in place.

Issue 9 – the Director of the Koori Centre noted that funding had been earmarked for an indigenous awards night later in the year and that this recommendation was also supported by recommendations arising from the Academic Board review.

Issue 10 – it appeared that changes in the federal budget to students from 2010 would increase the “income bank” to \$12,000 before it impacted on assessable income.

The Committee agreed that there also needed to be a general review process incorporated into the recommendations.

It was agreed to include a recommendation to investigate the need for scholarships to support practicum and placements. Suggestions for models included the Aboriginal Education Council Margaret Ida Howie awards for their conditions and also the Brown and Thompson fellowships.

The recommendations in the report would then be re-ordered to better align with the issues.

It was agreed that the proposed changes would be circulated for comment and agreement before being referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).

#### **Resolution 14/09**

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

- (i) endorse the recommendations in the Indigenous Scholarship Working Group report, subject to proposed changes being circulated and agreed; and
- (ii) recommend to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(Education) that he forward the proposal to SEG Education Committee for consultation.

## 5. Indigenous Support Allocation Funding

The proposed Indigenous Support Allocation Funding was circulated to members for consideration and comment prior to the meeting.

During discussion it was noted:

- advertising for applications could be similar to that used for TIES grants and also through the Koori Centre and Yooroang Garang and possibly the Research webpage;
- an all staff email would also promote the scheme, and a launch could be provide positive encouragement for the new initiative; and
- it could be clarified that proposal could cover more than one year to encourage sustained research.

The Committee agreed that the grants should be reviewed in three years. This should include ensure that the grants are helping the University fulfil its AEP goals. It was also agreed to include provisions for successful grant holders to provide regular reports through the process, particularly where grants were longer than one year. It could be appropriate to follow-up at the three and six month marks to check on progress in the initial stages.

Members were concerned about the management of the process and would encourage some funding be directed towards this to ensure the scheme is well supported. There was some concern that applicants could require assistance with the applications and a mechanism for this could be considered to ensure equity of processes.

Committee members agreed that the membership of the selection committee needed to more explicitly provide for equitable representation and particularly encouraged indigenous representation and the inclusion of an indigenous student representative.

The Committee also sought confirmation that the Indigenous student scholarships fund would be maintained and that the proposed grants would not reduce the funding available to scholarships.

### **Resolution 15/09**

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee:

- (i) endorse the proposal to fund programs that promote Indigenous education and encourage and support Indigenous students, subject to the changes discussed; and
- (ii) recommend to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(Education) that he forward the proposal to SEG Education Committee for consultation.

## 6. Indigenous Education Statement 2008

Ms Janet Money (Director, Koori Centre) was working with the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) to provide the annual Indigenous Education Statement DEEWR which was by 30 June.

### **Resolution 16/09**

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee note the report.

## 7. Cadigal Special Entry Program

It was suggested that the Committee recommend that the Cadigal Program criteria be reviewed at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

This was particularly timely with increased moves towards graduate entry, particularly in Health Sciences. It was also noted that at the undergraduate level, other institutions were making preliminary offers whilst students were still at school based on a Principal's report.

It was agreed to ask Michelle Blanchard (Deputy Director, Koori Centre), Sally Farrington (Head, Yooroang Garang) and Tanya Griffiths (Cadigal Officer) to examine the criteria and report back to the Committee on possible amendments.

**Resolution 17/09**

That the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee request that proposed changes to the Cadigal Special Entry Program be considered and recommended to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

**8. Any other business**

**8.1 Indigenous staff numbers**

The Committee was advised that the University now had a total of 66 Indigenous staff members, the highest number to date.

**9. Next meeting**

Members noted that the meeting of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee would be held on Wednesday 19 August 2009 at 2pm in the Western Tower Board Room A14.