



Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group

2.00p.m. – 3.00p.m. Wednesday 13th September 2006
Western Tower Room

Membership:

Professor Judyth Sachs (Chair), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching)
Ms Michelle Blanchard, Deputy Director Koori Centre
Ms Sally Farrington, Deputy Head, Yooroang Garang
Mr Colin L. James, Director I.B. Fell Housing Research Centre
Dr Nerida Jarkey, Director of First Year Teaching and Learning, Faculty of Arts
Ms Shona Kennedy, Indigenous Employment Policy Officer
Lynnette Riley-Mundine, Academic Coordinator, Koori Centre

Corresponding Members:

Assoc. Professor Diana Day, Principal Research Fellow, Koori Centre
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

Apologies:

Professor Barbara Fawcett, Head of School, Faculty of Education & Social Work
Mr Shane Hearn, Lecturer, Grad Dip Indigenous Health Promotion
Ms Jeni Lee, student representative
Ms Janet Mooney, Director Koori Centre
Ms Sue Page, Coordinator for U/G Programs, Yooroang Garang
Dr Michael Paton, Teaching Quality Fellow, Faculty of Economics and Business
Ms Anne Scahill, Director Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit
Assoc. Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair Academic Board

In Attendance (Item 1.)

Mr Jack Manning-Bancroft

Minutes

The Chair welcomed Ms Michelle Blanchard, Ms Lynnette Riley-Mundine and Mr Jack Manning-Bancroft to their first meeting of the Working Group. The Chair also congratulated Mr Col James on his recent University of Sydney Alumni Award for work with disadvantaged and Aboriginal groups and their housing needs.

1. Minutes of 8th June 2006

Adopted

Business Arising

- **Indigenous Marketing Strategic Plan 2006-2010**
An Indigenous Marketing Sub-Committee will be convened with membership from the Koori Centre, Yooroang Garang and other stakeholders. It will be this group that will become responsible for actioning the Plan
- **Klub Koori Mentoring Program DVD**
The DVD was screened and Mr Manning-Bancroft responded to questions. The Mentoring Program was piloted in 2005 with a 16 week program for Year 9 students at Alexandria

Park Community School. In addition to sessions on goal setting, resume writing and a racism workshop, the program included practical sessions in creative writing, art, music, sport and animal handling at the Zoo. In 2006 the program was extended to Leichhardt High School; while original mentees still at school are undertaking a project of their own choice. It is intended that the program will continue for mentees in Years 11 and 12 as a one-on-one tutor program.

There has not been a problem in getting mentors. Mentors are trained and catch-up each fortnight, to ensure they are not left unsupported. The Aboriginal Education Council has funded the 2006 program, which will complete with a Press Night on Oct 27th, where 2006 Projects will be showcased.

It was recommended that the Chair contact the University Media Manager to suggest this good news story is appropriately communicated. **Adopted**

- **Cessation of compulsory student unionism – implications for funding**

Ms Blanchard informed the Working Group that the University has contributed \$13m to student groups. It was recommended that Ms Blanchard write to the Provost with a cc to the CFO to check whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week, Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day are included in this funding. **Adopted**

2. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

It was agreed that the Indigenous Education Strategic Development Working Group had fulfilled its purpose and that there was a need for a more strategic body.

- **Terms of Reference**

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| TOR 1 | | Adopted |
| TOR 2 | Add 'by facilitating' to main statement
Add a 3 rd dot point 'Monitor and direct research to support Indigenous community capacity building' | Adopted |
| TOR 3 | Delete 'the role of' and insert 'University of Sydney' | Adopted |
| TOR 4 | Delete 'conditions of employment' | Adopted |
| TOR 5 | Insert 'core Indigenous content' and replace the list of discipline areas with 'all appropriate courses' | Adopted |
| TOR 6 | | Adopted |
| TOR 7 | Insert new TOR to read 'Develop strategies which promote Indigenous culture across all areas within the University' | Adopted |

- **Membership**

Include a representative of Student Services, and an Indigenous undergraduate and postgraduate student **Adopted**

- **Priorities for 2007-2010**

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|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Priority 1 | Insert 'and their organisations' to the main statement
Remove 'local' from dot point one
Add 'and other relevant VET colleges' after Eora | Adopted |
| Priority 2 | Amend to read 'Implement and monitor strategies to increase the number of Indigenous undergraduate enrolments with targets and key responsibilities allocated' | Adopted |
| Priority 3 | | Adopted |
| Priority 4 | | Adopted |
| Priority 5 | Amend to read 'Identify and increase Indigenous content in curricula across the University' | Adopted |
| Priority 6 | Insert 'with targets' after strategy | Adopted |
| Priority 7 | Insert 'Develop a strategy with targets to improve...' | Adopted |

Priority 8 Additional dot point 'Reporting and accountability processes and procedures'
Additional dot point 'University policies, plans and strategic directions'

Adopted

Lynette Riley-Mundine tabled a paper on the Implications for the University of Sydney of the Report to the Minister for Education, Science and Training *Improving Indigenous outcomes and enhancing Indigenous culture*, March 2006.

This paper and potential sources of resources will be placed on the Agenda of the first meeting of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.

In addition Lynette Riley-Mundine will look at universities such as University of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Massey, Auckland and relevant Australian universities to search for an appropriate model for an entity that would include the roles of the Koori Centre, Yooroang Garang, Public Health and Rural Medicine.

As part of this process Sydney could host a reciprocal visit for relevant members of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equal Opportunities from the University of Auckland.

3. Any Other Business

Col James tabled his concept for an Indigenous Meeting Place, as part of the landscape design for USyd Central. The idea is to 'grow a building' through closely planting Spotted Gums with an intertwining vine with solar lighting – to be called Gadigal Grove. The earth floor would be set with Spotted Gum blocks and there would be log seating for 27 around a central space - this would become a performance space and barbecue area.

IESDWG endorsed the concept. This concept has been sent to the Vice-Chancellor.

4. Next meeting:

Thursday 16th November 2006, 10.00-11.00 a.m. Western Tower Meeting Room