2005 Preliminary Annual Report to University Council

Academic Senate is the peak body for advising the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on academic matters and broad issues which affect the academic excellence of the University.

In each of the previous three years, I have presented to the University Council at its final meeting of the year a report on the activities of Academic Senate for the year. As foreshadowed in my 2004 Annual Report, the University’s improved strategic planning processes and the new reporting of performance against plans by the three key subcommittees of Academic Senate (the University Education, International and Research Committees) necessitate a change in format and timing of my Annual Report to Council.

The 2005 report will be presented in 2006, after Senate receives reports from these subcommittees.

In this transition year, it will be useful to provide a brief preliminary report at the ‘usual’ time on some highlights of the year’s activity for Academic Senate.

Self Review
The self-review process begun in 2004 is ongoing, but most of the perceived desirable changes have been set in train, and, in many cases, already implemented. Implementation followed the report of a working party formed to recommend change after the receipt and discussion of the survey report commissioned from IRIS in 2004, and formally presented to the first Senate meeting of 2005.

Other significant Senate business during the year is also summarised below.

Policy Development
Key areas of policy development and implementation during the year were:

- Information Literacy Integration Policy
- University Use of the Turnitin Text Matching System
- HDR Student Academic Grievance Policies – Amendments
- Appeals Policy for HDR Thesis Examination Outcomes
- HDR Course Rules – Amendments
- Award Rules – Amendments
- Student Misconduct and Discipline Rules – Amendments
- Code of Practice-Research – Amendments
- Schedule for the Retention of Assessment Records
- Code of Practice – Teaching & Assessment – Amendments
- Assessment Committee Guidelines – Amendments
Other Initiatives

- Development of Committee Induction Manual for new committee members
- UOW Strategic Planning Reviews – Core Function Plans
- Amendments to Electoral Procedures for Senate and Faculties, and membership on Academic Senate

Overview of New Degrees, Programs and Subjects

During the course of 2005, Senate approved the introduction of seven new courses/programs, major amendments to seven and minor amendments to 20. Further, one course was deleted.

The courses that are new or have had major amendments are:

- Bachelor of Business (Tourism Management)
- Bachelor of Business (Event Management)
- Bachelor of Laws and combined Bachelor of Laws programs
- Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology
- Bachelor of Engineering (Computer, Electrical and Telecommunication Technology)
- Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies (Honours)
- International Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- Graduate Certificate in Commerce
- Graduate Certificate in Physical & Health Education
- Graduate Certificate in International Business
- Master of International Business
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science (Population Health)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)

Further matters of significance will be included in the final 2005 Report.

Following the resignation of Di Kelly, Damien Considine was elected to the position of Deputy Chair. I have been lucky to have the support of both in my role as Chair, and they have served Senate and the University admirably in the role of Deputy. Administrative support for Senate and most of its committees continues to be provided by the Secretariat. During the year, Tori McLaughlin replaced Angelina Panetta as Executive Officer of Senate. I thank them both for their continued outstanding support, along with David Christie, Academic Registrar, and Theresa Hoynes, Secretariat Manager, as well as the many other staff of the Secretariat and Academic Registrar’s Division who assist in the smooth running of Senate and its subcommittees. I also thank all members of Senate and the many other members of the academic community with whom I have worked during the year.

David Griffiths
November 2005