UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALISATION COMMITTEE


Present: Mr J Langridge (Chair)
Ms F McGregor
Mr P O'Halloran
Mr P Day
A/Prof G Hampton
Prof R Whelan
Mr M Ngui
Mr D Blackall
Prof J Bern
Ms P McFarlane
Dr D Christie
Ms R Buckham
Prof G Williams
Prof D Griffiths
A/Prof J McQuilton
Dr K Cruickshank (representing Dr B Derewianka)

In Attendance: Ms H Sainsbury (Quality Project Coordinator)
Ms L Wright (Strategic Planning Unit)
Mr N Webster (Quality Project Officer)
Ms J Hutchinson (Committee Executive Officer)
Ms C Evans (Acting Executive Officer)

Unable to attend: Prof M Sheil, Prof R Castle, Prof J Morrison, A/Prof T Chandra,
Ms M Bell, Mr O Spake, Ms N Peters, Dr J Curtis, Prof J Glynn

PART A – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Prof Rob Castle, Prof Margaret Sheil, Prof John
Morrison, Ms Maureen Bell, Dr Janette Curtis, and Mr Oliver Spake.

The Chair welcomed Professor Rob Whelan, the new Chair of ISAAC, Professor
Nick van der Walt, the new CEO of UOW Dubai, and Dr Ken Cruickshank,
representing Dr Bev Derewianka, to the Committee. The Chair also welcomed
the new Secretary to the Committee, Ms Julia Hutchinson.
Ms Lynn Woodley and Ms Heather Sainsbury were welcomed to talk to items C11 and C12, respectively.

The Chair also wished to note his thanks to Associate Professor Di Kelly for her efforts in the area of Internationalisation. Professor Kelly has resigned from her role as Chair of ISAAC.

A2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved 01/05

That, subject to minor corrections to Item C11, the minutes of the UIC meeting of 25 November 2004 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Resolved 02/05

That the last sentence in paragraph 2 of Item C11 be amended to read “Current attendance requirements other than for higher education are severe...”

PART B – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None arising

PART C – GENERAL BUSINESS

C1 Chair’s Report

The Chair advised that he now sits on the Audit Risk Assessment Panel of IDP, which will meet on 6 April 2005. The Chair will also be attending a meeting of DVCs/PVCs International - Standing Committee on Internationalisation, where the issue of International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is likely to arise, with the USA raising Department of Immigration and Migrant Affair’s requirement for the mandatory use of IELTS rather than the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as a restrictive trade issue under the Free Trade Agreement.

A continuing issue in the USA market will be the changes to study abroad practices. The Lincoln Scholarships Funding Bill has not yet passed Senate, however it is predicted that a move to certification through Forum EA will become mandatory, and will require institutional change from the University of Wollongong.

The Chair advised that at the University Planning Conference, the Vice Chancellor flagged the possibility of joining the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). At present there are no Australian university members of WUN, unlike the Pacific Rim group which includes the University of Sydney and the Australian National University as members. The University of Wollongong has strong links with United Kingdom universities with WUN membership, being the University of Sheffield and the University of Southampton.
C2 Government Policy including DIMIA issues

Mr Paul O'Halloran tabled and spoke to a report. Mr O'Halloran advised that there is a complete review of the ESOS Act currently underway. A series of working parties will be examining the issues in the "one size fits all" legislation. Mr O'Halloran noted the general decline in the number of Chinese students studying overseas, and noted that the wash on effect might not hurt the Australian market as harshly as the US or UK markets, as visa applications tend to be more predictable for Australia.

Mr O'Halloran also raised a DIMIA concern over a Department of Employment and Workplace Relations paper which points to issues in employment risk management programs (such as Occupational Health and Safety) which could impact upon international student intern placements, as well as domestic student placements. This issue will be discussed at a number of forums, and Mr O'Halloran will provide feedback on any outcomes at the next meeting of UIC.

C3 Report from UniAdvice

Mr Peter Day, Manager International Student Recruitment, spoke to the report. Mr Day advised the Committee that:

- There has been a general decline in the number of Chinese students studying overseas. The 5% increase in student numbers for the University of Wollongong is due to the rise in Study Abroad numbers, as the number of international undergraduates has dropped. A drop in commencing international numbers has been reflected across a number of Universities.

- The decline in student numbers is country specific, with drops in numbers from Singapore and Malaysia. These markets are in decline due to the affordability of Australia being eroded by the rising Australian dollar. As such, fee setting will be much more conservative, and a critical process in UniAdvice is pushing the idea of courses which provide a "3 subjects a semester for 2 full years" format with the faculties.

- India is Australia’s 3rd largest immigration source country and as a potential market has been limited by Federal Government policy which encourages students to study in ‘regional areas’, which are low growth areas such as Adelaide and Toowoomba. UOW is excluded from this definition due to the population growth rate.

- The role of internationalisation in faculties is getting a boost with the appointment of three Faculty International Managers
  - The Faculty of Commerce with Ms Kate Hutchison
  - Faculties of Informatics and Engineering with Dr Bill Demarchis
  - Faculties of Arts and Education with Mr Warren Mahoney.

- The Accommodation Services allocation system is a critical issue flagged by UniAdvice. Adverse experiences in this critical area will erode the “UOW Experience” as a whole and needs to be addressed.
C4 Reports from Senior Executive members

No reports were made as Senior Executive members were unable to attend the meeting.

C5 Report from UOW Dubai

The Chair reported that:
- Professor Nick van der Walt has been appointed as the new CEO for UOW Dubai
- The recent opening of the UOW Dubai Library was attended by the Chair and the University Librarian, Ms Felicity McGregor
- The Board of Trustees have approved the set up of a College of Engineering
- The issue of competition is high on the agenda of the Board of Trustees, with many new competitors entering the market and operating outside of the national ministry strictures, to the detriment of UOW Dubai, which is operating within those restrictions
- Further discussion of UOW Dubai will occur with Item C12.

C6 Sub-Committee Report – International Studies and Alliances

Professor Rob Whelan, Chair of the International Studies and Alliance Committee (ISAAC) reported that ISAAC will be meeting 8 April 2004.

C7 Sub-Committee Report – Language and International Student Support

A/Prof Greg Hampton, Chair of the Language and International Student Support Committee (LISSC), reported that the initial focus of activity for the Committee in 2005 will be to analyse the English language mark requirements. A Cognos cube has been constructed to explore English language entrance scores. LISSC will also examine the “International Experience”. A/Prof Hampton also noted the need to determine how International Week will be conducted this year, and the Chair advised that the issue is currently under consideration by the PVC (Operations) and Vice Principal (International) and that UIC will be advised of the outcome of those discussions.

It was also noted that the Offshore Library CD-Rom will have user testing over next fortnight, and should be ready to launch in late April.

C8 Sub-Committee Report – Marketing and Recruitment

Ms Robin Buckham reported on behalf of Professor John Glynn, Chair of the Marketing and Recruitment Committee (MARC). MARC undertook a review of the scholarship allocation system, and a paper was tabled (Item D1) for the information of members of UIC. At this point Item D1 was brought forward for discussion. This item is recorded in the order in which it appeared in the Agenda.

The Chair thanked each of the Committee Chairs and their committees for their work during 2004.
C9 Draft Improvement Plan

A draft Improvement Plan, based on the six recommendations in the UIC self-evaluation report, was developed for implementation. The Chair noted the importance of Recommendation 3 in particular, and requested the Chairs of the subcommittees consider their membership in light of cross representation between UIC, UEC and URC. It was also noted that greater alignment between internationalisation and research could occur with the Targeted International Links Grants giving greater attention to research themes.

RESOLVED 03/05

That the Committee agree to undertake tasks outlined in the draft improvement plan in order to improve functioning of UIC and its sub-committees.

C10 Review of progress against Strategic Plan

Ms Lynn Woodley spoke to this item, and noted that this was the first time the Core Function Plans were being utilised in this fashion by the three core committees of Senate, being UIC, UEC and URC, and as such, the reporting process should proceed with greater ease once the initial reports are developed. The correct template was tabled at the meeting. The committee discussed at length the need to develop Key Performance Indicators which will allow meaningful data to be captured and analysed. It was noted that the current KPI's should be reviewed, and the Chair advised that a working party will be formed to review the KPI's and the data required to demonstrate the progress against those KPI's.

RESOLVED 04/05

That the draft report of progress against the Internationalisation Strategic Plan 2005-2007 be approved as a true representation of UIC progress against Plan objectives.

RESOLVED 05/05

That a review of the KPI's be introduced to the UIC 2005 Work Plan, and be forwarded to Academic Senate and Council once complete.

C11 Work Plan

The Committee noted the new template, as tabled by Ms Lynn Woodley.

RESOLVED 06/05

That the UIC and subcommittee Work Plans for 2005 be developed using the review report template as tabled.
C12 Quality Assurance

Ms Heather Sainsbury, Quality Project Coordinator, reported to the Committee on the upcoming May quality audit preparations. The Performance Portfolio was substantially rewritten in light of the feedback from the trial audit panel and other comment received from within the University.

The audit panel met on 21 March to discuss the audit, and will be advising the university in the next week of people they specifically wish to include in the audit interviews. A hardcopy and CD of the Performance Portfolio will be distributed to faculties and units by 1 April, and a Quality Forum open to all staff members will be held on 12 April 2005.

The Chair gave a brief presentation on UOW Dubai, in light of the Dubai campus being included in the AUQA audit visit.

C13 Committee Induction Manual

RESOLVED 07/05

That UIC note the Committee Induction Manual and approve it for distribution to future, new members of UIC and its subcommittees.

PART D – OTHER BUSINESS FOR NOTING

D1 Scholarship allocation

Ms Robin Buckham reported on the MARC review of the current scholarship allocation strategy. It was noted in the review that South America was disproportionately represented in the allocation of scholarships in relation to the number of students this attracted to the University of Wollongong. As such, the strategy was adjusted to cover 32 countries to replace the concentration on South America. UniAdvice is also working closely with each faculty to develop strategies that will look at focusing on driving particular courses to particular institutions. The Chair noted that this change in strategy was a significant shift in policy and would be reflected in the outcomes from the scholarship allocation in 2005. It was noted that a scholarship allocation review will now be undertaken by MARC annually.

D2 University of British Columbia Workshop

Professor John Bern tabled a document outlining a workshop to be held on 27 April 2005, which aims to build upon the existing relationships between the University of British Columbia and the University of Wollongong. An invitation to the workshop was sent to 35 targeted individuals on 27 April 2005 in an attempt to build up not only student exchange, but also staff exchange, curriculum sharing, and sharing of supervision. A 50% response rate has been received to date. The Chair commended the initiative, and recognised the efforts of those involved in co-ordinating the workshop.
D3 2005 Meeting Dates

The remaining UIC meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2005, with the venue as 67.202:

Thursday 23 June (9.30am)
Thursday 24 November (3.00pm)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.40pm.

Carly Evans
Acting Executive Officer
University Internationalisation Committee