UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALISATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the (3/2006) meeting of the University Internationalisation Committee held at 9:30am on Thursday 19 October in the Belmore Room

Present:
Prof R Castle (Chair)
Ms R Buckham
Dr D Christie
Prof J Chicharo
Ms N Conyer
Mr B Damachis
Mr P Day
A/Prof B Derewianka
A/Prof S Dolnicar
Prof D Griffiths
A/Prof G Hampton
Ms S Hughes
Prof J Morrison
Mr M Ngui
Mr P O'Halloran
Dr E Thomson
Prof R Whelan
A/Prof E Wilson

In Attendance:
Mr J Langridge (Vice-Chancellor’s Unit), Helen Mandl (Library),
Dr M Nelson (Faculty of Informatics), Dr L Oades (Faculty of
H&BS), Ms J Payne (Policy and Governance Unit), Ms C Perry-Beltrame (A/g Executive Officer).

Unable to attend:
Prof L Astheimer, Ms M Bell, Prof J Bremner, A/Prof T Chandra,
A/Prof J Curtis, Ms E Ens, Prof S Leitch, Mr D MacKinnon, Ms F McGregor, Dr N Perera, Mr M Rowney, Prof M Sheil, A/Prof S Tanner, A/Prof Song-Ping Zhu.

PART A – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Prof L Astheimer, Prof J Bremner, A/Prof J Curtis,
Prof S Leitch, Ms F McGregor, Dr N Perera, Prof M Sheil, A/Prof S Tanner,
A/Prof Song-Ping Zhu.
The Chair welcomed Mr B Damachis, Director Transnational Programs, appointed by Mr J Langridge; Dr E Thompson, academic representative elected by Senate; and A/Prof E Wilson, academic representative elected by Senate.

A2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved 11/06

That the minutes of UIC’s meeting on 22 June 2006 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

PART B – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee noted that the reviewed Terms of Reference for UIC and its subcommittees were approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting on 9 August 2006.

The LISSC Chair would be pleased to have a student representative on the Language and International Student Support Committee. Suggestion was made for Mr Martin Rowney to be the student representative on LISSC.

PART C – GENERAL BUSINESS

C1 Chair’s Report

Outgoing Chair, Mr James Langridge, attended the meeting for the first 15 minutes to thank the Committee Members for their support during his term in office. He stated that he is moving into a new role, which would focus on WUC, Dubai and expansion into Madavi.

The new Chair of UIC, Prof Rob Castle, formally recognised Mr Langridge as the longest serving member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Unit. The Chair and the Committee acknowledged Mr Langridge for his contributions to UIC and the university’s international activities.

The Chair stated that the changes in UIC did not affect current business proceedings. He elaborated on the new executives’ responsibilities for internationalisation at the university. Prof John Patterson will manage international and domestic marketing and recruitment and Prof Rob Castle will manage study abroad and exchange, Alumni and community development.

The Chair reported that UoW, as the only Australian University, has been involved in the Standards Pilot Program, a self-study on the delivery of the study abroad experience. In the week of 6 November, two delegates from Forum Education Abroad will be visiting UoW to review the work undertaken by the university. If the review is favourable, UoW could have an advantage in the market. It is expected that more students from the USA market could study in Australia, due to a bill on study abroad scholarships being passed.
in the USA Senate. The Chair will contact the relevant stakeholders about the Standards Pilot Program review to request assistance.

C2 Government Policy and Issues Impacting on International Education

The Government Industry Stakeholders Consultations (GISC) meeting will be held on 25 October 2006. Outcomes of this will be reported at the next UIC meeting.

Further to the information provided in the report, Mr Paul O’Halloran elaborated on the impact the changes to the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program will have on international students planning to migrate to Australia. He discussed that finding relevant professional employment to gain the necessary MODL points (Migration on Demand List) will be a major issue for international students. It is expected that the implementation of GSM will influence student’s study decision. The changes should be viewed as an opportunity for the University of Wollongong to provide programs which support MODL points.

Mr O’Halloran reported that the National Code Review is almost complete. The new code is expected to have stronger consumer rights and put greater responsibility on institutions. It will be circulated to the Committee soon.

Mr O’Halloran commented on the Australian International Education Trends noting that NSW was behind the national trends for commencing students, while South Australia and Victoria were increasing.

Resolved 12/06

That UIC note the report on current issues in Government policy affecting the international education sector.

C3 Report from UniAdvice

Mr Peter Day tabled the report at the meeting and provided additional information.

Mr Day reported on the trends in the market for spring 2006. He stated that there are some positive trends in newer markets. He pointed out that there was a downturn for Study Abroad, Hong Kong and China. Some negative trends were due to the termination of offshore teaching courses. The current offshore programs in Hong Kong were operating in a very competitive market and UoW is maintaining its relationship with Hong Kong institutes.

The Faculty of Commerce and the Graduate School of Business experienced the largest intake of students for spring session and Intake C, with the Master of Professional Accounting enrolling the most international students. Mr Day commented that this degree was used for migration points and that with the GSM changes the trend could move away from Commerce studies to other courses supporting MODL points.

A survey of 18 competitor universities was undertaken. Mr Day referred to the survey results, in particular making a reference to the Australian International Education Trends
reported by Mr O’Halloran, stating that Victoria’s growth trends were due to Victorian universities implementing postgraduate programs tailored to the GSM Program.

The Vice-Chancellor has instituted a formal planning process for the Faculty Internationalisation Plans. From late October, Prof Patterson will hold meetings with Deans. The planning process is expected to address i) how to achieve international student numbers by course, and ii) what to do to enhance the course for international students.

Some discussion was arising from the report on the decline of international student enrolments. It was suggested that it would be useful to have data from the Australian International Education Trends, to find out where students are going in Australia. This would aid the evaluation of newer markets such as Vietnam. Mr Day and Mr O’Halloran commented that some markets required market presence in the country. A possible new market was South Korea, as the government policy was to encourage students to come to Australia on a short term program.

C4 Reports from Senior Executive members

There were no Senior Executive reports presented.

C5 Report from UOW Dubai

The Chair reported that Dubai met its target in student enrolment for autumn 2006 (Dubai Autumn) with 660 students noting however, that the targets for re-enrolling students were not met. One reason for this was the high number (320) of students graduating.

Over the past 12 months Dubai has positioned itself as the major research institution in Dubai, which will set the Campus apart from its competition.

C6 International Studies and Alliances Subcommittee Report

Prof Robert Whelan, Chair of ISaAC, spoke about the selection criteria and other information used to collate the list of the top 30 institutes to become the Strategic International Partners for research collaboration. He explained the selection criteria approved at the UIC meeting on 30 March 2006 and the information used to collate the list. Additionally, Senior Executives considered the regional spread of the chosen institutes. Currently the list contained 26 universities and the Chair of ISaAC invited suggestions for one Korean and three European universities, particularly in France and Germany.

The Committee requested that the list be circulated once completed. It was commented that a customer relationship management system (CRM) is currently under development at UniAdvice and that the Strategic International Partners Lists will be maintained through this system.
Resolved 13/06

That UIC note the report; the Targeted International Links List; and the Visiting Research and Practicum Students Procedure from the International Studies and Alliances Committee

Prof Whelan tabled the Draft report of the International Studies Minor Working Party for consideration at the University Education Committee. Proposed changes to the Minor are aimed at improving the existing Minor and increasing student uptake of international study options. Discussion evolved around understanding the extent of the proposed International Studies Minor program. Additionally the suggestion was made that an onshore cultural experience, for students unlikely to study offshore, could include the International House, where approximately 30 nationalities were merging during session.

The Committee agreed that the overall composition of the Minor would need to be constructed by the faculties.

Resolved 14/06

That the University Internationalisation Committee (UIC) accept the review of the International Studies Minor and forward it to the University Education Committee (UEC), emphasising the following key recommendations (summarised in section 9 of the report) that:

1. The UEC define and approve a set of guiding objectives for this Minor (see section 11 of report);

2. The UEC define a generic structure for this Minor, including a core (at least 12 cp) and electives (at least 12 cp) (see section 12 of report);

3. The International Studies Minor be renamed as "International Minor in XXX", where XXX refers to a particular discipline area (see section 10 of report);

4. Proposals for approval of an International Minor to come from a Faculty, through the normal course approval process, and be assessed against the objectives for the Minor (see 1, above, and sections 12 & 14 of report);

5. Satisfactory completion of the Minor to include the 24 credit points as approved in 4, above AND either an overseas experience (exchange or study tour) or a language subject. In particular circumstances, the Dean may approve an onshore international or cross-cultural activity as satisfying the 'overseas experience' (see section 13 of report);

6. The University put a process in place for students to register their intention to take the International Minor and for this to be recorded, so that course advisors can help students plan the Minor into their programs (see section 6 of report).
C7 Language and International Student Support Sub-Committee Report

Associate Prof Greg Hampton reported on International Week and the intention to shorten the program to three days to improve attendance.

Discussion highlighted that some faculty events conflicted with International Week highlighting the need for early communications in planning the event. Ms Buckham commented that the Office of Community and Relationships has established an Events Calendar, an online calendar designed as a guide for those planning campus events (so as to avoid event clashes) and as a means of connecting people to the UOW community quickly and easily. Staff involved in event planning are encouraged to use the calendar.

The area of responsibility between International Student Advisors and Faculty Liaison Officers were discussed, with International Student Advisors being responsible for international student equity and general welfare, and the Faculty Liaison Officer providing support to students in language, welfare and belonging. International Student Advisors may be able to assist with International Week in 2007.

Associate Prof Hampton also reported that the Committee is working with the Office of Community and Partnerships to establish cross-cultural interest in businesses in the region and raise the awareness of cross-cultural issues in High Schools.

Discussion identified that ARD’s recent focus group studies examined the student experience and could be useful to LISSC. Associate Prof Hampton requested feedback at the Steering Committee when results are available. The Chair stressed the importance of the international student experience for the university and the wider community.

Resolved 15/06

That UIC note the report and the draft work plan from the Language and International Student Support Committee.

C8 Marketing and Recruitment Committee

Due to the absence of Prof Shirley Leitch, Ms Robin Buckham reported on MaRC. She thanked Prof Joe Chicharo for his contribution to the Committee as the Chair, and welcomed Prof Leitch as the new Chair.

MaRC will be working with Mr Day and the faculties on the Faculty Internationalisation Plans. Particular areas of interest could be Korea, Canada and Vietnam.

There was also discussion on the course amendments and approval process. It was noted that it is important to included UniAdvice in this process so that marketing and recruitment strategy is considered. Currently UniAdvice is unaware of course amendments or new courses until they were approved by the Academic Senate. A new Course Management Lifecycle is being developed by ARD and should aid this process.

Resolved 16/06

That UIC note the latest work plan from the Marketing and Recruitment Committee.
C9 Faculty briefs

It was agreed that it was very useful to have faculty briefs to understand the university’s linkages. A list of academic staff undertaking international activities could aid the linkages process and potential development of strategic partners.

Resolved 16/06

That UIC note the report from the Faculty of Health Behavioural Science; the Graduate Business School; the Faculty of Commerce and the Faculty of Creative Arts.

C10 Transnational Programs Unit

Mr Bill Damachis provided a report and tabled presentation slides about the functions of the recently established Transnational Programs Unit.

The Transnational Programs Unit will be focusing on key international alliances. The Unit is expecting to have two full time staff and the team would work with the faculties and other stakeholders providing support on international issues, establishing linkages and agreements and budget formulation. His unit will also aid cross-communications between faculties in connecting existing linkages and setting up programs.

Some discussion was held on formal agreement endorsements. Prof Whelan stated that the International Linkages Policy is under review and that the Transnational Programs Unit should endorse these agreements instead of ISaAC.

PART D – OTHER BUSINESS FOR NOTING

D1 Other Business

Dr Elizabeth Thomson stated that discussion at the Academic Senate meeting from 4 October 2006 requested for UIC to discuss the small number of students learning languages or studying abroad. Some issues had been addressed in this meeting. Dr Thomson raised the question why there were so few students interested in an international perspective and if students could be surveyed on these issues. The Chair referred these questions to Dr David Christie for consideration in student surveys.

D2 Current list of UIC members

The membership list updated on 14 September 2006 needs revising due the most recent changes in the Committee. A new list will be circulated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.18am.

Claudia Perry-Beltrame
Acting Executive Officer
University Internationalisation Committee