UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALISATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the (2/2006) meeting of the University Internationalisation Committee held at 9.30am on Thursday 22 June 2006 in the Belmore Room.

Present: Mr J Langridge (Chair)
Prof R Whelan
Prof J Morrison
A/Prof G Williams
Prof J Bern
A/Prof S Tanner
Prof J Bremner
Mr P O’Halloran
Mr P Day
Ms R Buckham
Dr D Christie
Mr M Ngui
A/Prof S Dolnicar
Mr M Rowney
Ms E Ens
A/Prof J Curtis
Ms Natalie Conyer
Ms Felicity McGregor
A/Prof B Derewianka
Prof P Kitley
Ms Sharon Hughes
Prof L Astheimer

In Attendance: Ms C Taylor (Executive Officer), Ms Rebecca Micale and Ms Emma Luskan (work experience students in UniAdvice)

Unable to attend: Prof R Castle, Prof D Griffiths, Prof J Chicharo, A/Prof G Hampton, A/Prof T Chandra, Dr Lenore Armour, Mr D MacKinnon

PART A – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from A/Prof Greg Hampton, Prof Joe Chicharo, Prof Rob Castle and Prof D Griffiths

The Chair welcomed to the Committee Ms Natalie Conyer, Director of WUC and Ms Emilie-Jane Ens, a new student representative on UIC elected by and from Academic Senate.
A2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved 04/06

That, subject to minor amendments, the minutes of the UIC meeting on 30 March 2006 are confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

PART B – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PART C – GENERAL BUSINESS

C1 Chair’s Report

The Chair reported that the AVCC International Committee has met almost daily by phone to discuss the reviews underway by DEST and AEI. While there was nothing additional to the information in the agenda papers at this stage, there will be a range of matters for the Chair to report on at the next meeting.

C2 Government Policy and Issues Impacting on International Education

Additional papers were tabled by Paul O’Halloran containing further tables and data on commencing student numbers by sector, country and fields of study.

Further to the information in his report, Mr O’Halloran advised the Committee that the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs will consider the draft revised National Protocols at its July 2006 meeting. It is likely that the Transnational Quality Strategy, developed to promote the quality of Australian education delivered overseas, will be endorsed at that meeting.

The Minister for Education, Science and Training has announced an extension of time for consultation on the National Code review, and has foreshadowed possibly backing down on the requirement for international student attendance to be recorded. With regard to skilled migration, the Government has indicated that it will take up the proposal for students to do an equivalent of one year’s work experience in Australia to gain skilled migration points.

Mr O’Halloran also advised the Committee that the UK and USA are becoming more active in promoting their institutions in China, with the UK recently opening new processing offices there.

In response to questions, Mr O’Halloran explained that:

- the ‘norm’ referred to in his tabled papers was the norm taken across all countries
- UOW meets the national standards foundation programs for international students
- UOW does not offer any shorter accelerated programs.

Mr O’Halloran will circulate further data and explanatory notes after the meeting.

**Resolved 05/06**

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

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**C3 Report from UniAdvice**

Mr Peter Day informed the Committee that there has been a shift in demand for disciplines other than business and technology, such as the demand from India for places in public health courses. Further to Mr O’Halloran’s statement about competition for the China market, Mr Day commented that small supply agents in China have recently been directing students to the Group of Eight universities, which are beginning to have a stronger presence there.

Mr Day explained that a drop in Study Abroad numbers can be attributed to the stronger exchange rate and the demand for shorter study tours. Study Abroad payments are processed in batches, so an audit date four to six weeks before the start of session gives the most reliable data for year to year comparisons. Outgoing exchange numbers are at a record high, most likely because of the relocation of the Study Abroad office to Student Central where information about exchange has been prominently displayed.

Faculties are welcome to make use of the UniAdvice Customer Relationship Management system (which can be used to email particular cohorts of students and potential students) to send information such as newsletters, student stories or conference notices to targeted groups.

With regard to students going on exchange, Ms Robin Buckham told the Committee that there has been some interest from Korean institutions in sending one student to Australia for six months, and accepting six Australian students for one month. This would be one way of addressing the problem of domestic students wanting shorter overseas study experiences. There are some Korean universities that are particularly strong in IT and science. This exchange model could be more widely applicable, and UniAdvice will start talking to faculties about whether such a model could be embedded in the third or fourth year of courses.

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**C5 Report from UOW Dubai**

In addition to the information in Professor Nick Van Der Walt’s report, the Chair commented that enrolments at UOW Dubai are well ahead for autumn session, which begins in September. UOWD, one of 17 private universities in Dubai, currently has 60% of the market.
C6  **International Studies and Alliances Subcommittee Report**

In response to questions about the ISAAC report and attachments, Professor Rob Whelan advised the Committee that the proposal for a revised International Studies Minor will be referred to the University Education Committee as it is at a stage where discussion of its academic implications is needed. Faculties will need to propose their own structures for the Minor.

The Chair commended ISAAC and the IS Minor Working Party on their good work.

**Resolved 06/06**

> That UIC notes the report from the International Studies and Alliances Committee; the appended draft report from the International Studies Minor Working Party; the appended discussion document on the proposed Targeted International Links criteria; and ISAAC’s current work plan.

C7  **Language and International Student Support Sub-Committee Report**

With regard to the report from LISSC, the Committee noted that the Momentum program was an initiative of the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association, which also ran the program.

**Resolved 07/06**

> That UIC notes the report and the 2 May 2006 meeting minutes of the Language and International Student Support Committee.

C8  **Marketing and Recruitment Committee**

Ms Robin Buckham, Manager of UniAdvice, informed that the Committee that, in collaboration with the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, UniAdvice has developed new templates for letters of offer for research students. The templates have been redesigned to capture the data needed by faculties.

Ms Buckham advised the Committee that Lynette Harris from WUC has provided data on testing and performance comparisons of students who had studied at WUC then progressed to first year University study. Aden Steinke from the Strategic Planning Unit has developed cumulative enrolment reports on the international load and predictions for future loads. The data from both Lynette Harris and Aden Steinke is available to faculties.

**Resolved 08/06**

> That UIC notes the latest work plan from the Marketing and Recruitment Committee.
C9 Faculty Brief - Informatics

Associate Professor Graham Williams referred members to the report from the Faculty of Informatics, and advised them that the strategies the Faculty had put in place to address the downturn in enrolments had been successful. The Faculty’s offshore activities have been going particularly well. Associate Professor Williams informed the Committee that SIM is also interested in sending students onshore to study in other UOW programs, such as Maths.

Resolved 09/06

That UIC note the report from the Faculty of Informatics.

C10 Review of the terms of reference for UIC and its subcommittees

Resolved 10/06

That UIC endorses the attached revised terms of reference for UIC and its subcommittees and the revised membership structure for UIC, and refers them to Academic Senate for approval.

PART D – OTHER BUSINESS FOR NOTING

D1 Other Business

Ms Emilie-Jane Ens, a student member of the Committee, suggested that it would be useful for the Language and International Student Support Committee to have student representation. Professor John Bern, a member of LISSC, will take the matter up with the Chair of that committee, Associate Professor Greg Hampton, when he returns from leave.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30am.

Catriona Taylor
Executive Officer
University Internationalisation Committee