UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALISATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the (1/2007) meeting of the University Internationalisation Committee held at 10:00am on Thursday 5 July 2007 Room 36.305

Present:
Prof R Castle (Chair)
Dr D Christie (arrived 10:10am)
Mr B Damachis
A/Prof G Hampton
Mr P O'Halloran
Mr Stephen Lowe (delegate of Ms R Buckham)
Prof R Whelan

In Attendance:
Ms L Simmons (National Code Project Officer) Ms C Perry-Beltrame (Executive Officer).

Apologies:
Ms R Buckham, Prof M Sheil

Not in attendance:
Prof P Kitley, Ms J Zhang

PART A – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Ms Robin Buckham who was overseas at the time.

The Chair welcomed the Committee members of the restructured UIC.

A2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved 01/2007

That the minutes of the University Internationalisation Committee meeting on 19 October 2006 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

A3 Business Arising from the previous Minutes

There was no business discussed

A4 Arrangement of the Agenda

i) All items were starred for discussion
A5 Chair’s Report

The Chair reported that the restructured UIC will be modelled on the University Education Committee (UEC). He spoke to the Terms of Reference and stated that future internationalisation activities would have a strong focus on benchmarking and International curricula.

Additionally the Chair announced that he has been elected to be a peer reviewer on The Forum on Education Abroad, Quality Improvement Program (QUIP) in Philadelphia, USA. The Forum on Education Abroad is an accreditation body for institutions providing Study Abroad programs.

The Chair also reported that Mr Yu, the Education Attaché from the Chinese Consulate in Sydney was pleased with the security strategies the University implemented for international students. The good relationship with the Chinese Consulate resulted in the University receiving an Award in China which could potentially lead to scholarships whose recipients would be studying in China. Additionally, The Education Attaché requested that the University organise another Study Tour to China.

PART B – BUSINESS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES

B1 International Alliances Committee

The Chair of the International Alliances Committee, Professor Rob Whelan, reported on the transition of the former International Studies and Alliances Committee (ISAAC) to the current International Alliances Committee (IAC). He stated that the transition will provide the committee with broader faculty representation, which will be better for information collation and dissemination. He states that the first meeting with the new Committee Members will be held on 6 July 2007.

Professor Whelan spoke to the report and provided an overview of the Sub-committees plans and current activities linking these to the new IAC Terms of Reference. He tabled a list of institutions mission and vision statement, which are currently on the Strategic International Partners list, to show how UOW could choose its future alliances for compatibility in direction and priorities.

The resolution was not moved.

B2 International Student Experience Committee

Associate Professor Greg Hampton, the Chair of the International Student Experience Committee (ISEC) reported that there were positive responses from members for being on the new ISEC.

The Committee considered changes in the service provision for international students. Changes reported were:

- 52 weeks of services and activities on student development
• Consolidation and integration of activities into one operation by assigning one Coordinator
• Establishing a consultative group of student members

The Chair agreed that this would be a major project for the remainder of 2007.

PART C – GENERAL BUSINESS

C1 UIC Terms of Reference

The Chair of IAC reports on the changes for IAC and requests the following amendments additionally to the amendments stated in the agenda paper:

• Addition of a footnote to state that the Chair may also be the Faculty Representative
• Change of the word ‘stakeholder’ in the terms of reference point 3 to state Associate and Sub Deans, the Academic Registrar’s Division and UniAdvice.

The Chair if ISEC outlined the changes requested in the membership.

Resolved 02/2007:

That the University Internationalisation Committee approve the revised Terms of Reference for its sub-committees as outlined in the agenda papers, for immediate introduction.

Additionally, it was stated that the Academic Senate membership for Prof P Kitley expired and that a new Academic Senate member would need to be elected at the next Academic Senate meeting.

C2 Government Policy and Issues Impacting on International Education

Mr Paul O’Halloran, Regulatory Affairs Manager, provided a verbal report to the agenda paper on government policy issues. He stated that with the implementation of the National Code on 1 July there should be less changes coming from the government on ESOS legislation.

He highlighted that the speed of processing visa applications were continuing to be an issue for Australia and that there is a need for constant monitoring of visa application costs, trends and resources.

Resolved 03/2007:

That University Internationalisation Committee note the report on government policy and issues impacting on international education.
C3 Report from UniAdvice

Mr Stephen Lowe spoke to the tabled report on 'International Offer Acceptances in comparison to the same period in 2006' and highlighted the upward and downward trends at a country and faculty level.

Mr Lowe stated that UniAdvice would follow up with faculties who experienced a downward trend in international student applications and assist them with reassessing the majors or product branding. There also seemed to be a need to package products differently and combine current subjects into new courses rather than introducing new subject offerings. Mr Lowe explained the benefits of courses which could be completed with 3 subjects per session. These courses seem were attractive to international students due to the decreased study load requirements.

It was discussed that the broadening of degrees acceptable under the new General Skilled Migration (GSM) Policy may see a continued downward trend for the Master of Professional Accounting and other accounting courses. The Wollongong College Australia was considering how to integrate its offerings with the GSM changes.

The draft resolution was not moved.

C4 The National Code

Ms Lisa Simmons provided an update on the National Code and its implementation at the University. Ms Simmons stated that the University Community was very supportive of the changes and that currently Policy drafting was one of the major activities. Staff training was held and staff were receptive to the new ideas and international services on offer. The implementation of the National Code already improved the assistance to students who failed subjects and would assist in retaining students.

Questions were raised and answered in regards to the extension of course durations from three to four years for international Higher Degree Research students and the possibility of visa extensions under compelling circumstances. Additionally, the guardianship of under-aged students was discussed and the Chair requested that finding solutions to this issue receive a higher priority.

PART D – OTHER BUSINESS FOR NOTING

No other business was raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:30am.

Claudia Perry-Beltrame Signed:
Executive Officer Chair, UIC
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