City Campus Forum: 30th August 2011

Question 1:
Can you please expand on Dr Ziggy Switkowski’s statement that there is no Innovation in Industry?

Answer:
The heart of this statement was to reflect that businesses are now looking to universities to drive innovation for industry through research in the higher education sector. A number of businesses have begun to outsource their research and this is a great opportunity for university-based researchers to drive research agendas and form connections with industry. Such connections leave RMIT in a strong position for Linkage grants which can provide better results for industry and research growth within the University.

Bundoora Campus Forum: 2nd September 2011

Question 1:
Can you please give some more detail about the outcomes from the College Executive Planning Day, particularly regarding strategic changes to programs?

Answer:
The College has been working closely with International and Development in reflecting on the University’s strategic plan to become global in attitude, action and presence, as the potential for onshore growth is limited, particularly in the City. If the College is to grow internationally, it must look for opportunities to expand in an organised way.

Regions that have been identified as opportunities for growth are currently Vietnam, Singapore and Hong Kong. There are several different models available when considering program development, some with better dollar margins than others according to current infrastructure and staff presence. These need to be considered when looking at how to expand. We have not agreed any specific recommendations yet, however consensus is that an increase in the number of double-degree programs has the possibility to attract greater numbers of high quality students, without cost to infrastructure or need for further course development. Nested postgraduate programs that have been developed with multiple exit points are costing the College through use of administrative resources and CRICOS registration fees therefore the number of graduate certificates that are nested within masters programs needs to be decreased.

Question 2:
Compared to some other universities, RMIT has particular transparency with its budget and profile, which is greatly appreciated. Can you please give details on the progress of plans for Building 201, Level 9 and Building 202, Level 3?

Answer:
Work on building 201, level 9 is high on the College’s priority list and is due to be finished by next year, though not likely in time for semester one. The importance of its completion has been highlighted to the Vice Chancellor. Discussions with designers have centred on the need for a high quality space that is as flexible as possible in functionality.

Building 202, level 3 has been proposed as area dedicated for use by graduate students. Property Services have advised that this area is currently not suitable to cater for more than 100 students so there has been some continuing discussion regarding this. Also, there has previously been some debate about whether this space is the best place for graduate students to be situated, therefore progress on the project has been slower than otherwise expected. There has also been a suggestion that perhaps this area could be managed by the Library. If anyone wishes to discuss it further, they are welcome to provide their input.

Question 3:
Can you provide an update on outcomes from the recent survey of students on Teaching and Learning practices?

Answer:
There is no update available as yet, however if there are one or two people who are keen to come together with proposals for change, the College would be happy to consider pursuing required actions.