College of Science, Engineering and Technology

PVC Staff Forum
15 and 17 April 2009

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The Changing Environment

The tertiary education environment is changing due to:

- Skills Victoria - TAFE contestability
- Bradley Report – Review of HE
- Cutler Report – Focus on innovation
- Federal Government’s response to the above
- RMIT University’s response
- Global financial crisis
Skills Victoria Reform

Overview

• Training guarantee for students
  – < 20 years of age
  – > 20 years of age for foundation skills (i.e. literacy & numeracy) and higher qualifications than already awarded

• Expanded choice of provider

• Accreditation of providers using AQTF

• Skills for growth
  – Support for small/medium business to up-skill workforce

• Government funding initiatives to TAFE institutes
  – Broadband access
  – Workforce – broadening skills and encouraging industry experts
  – Facilities
Bradley Report – Review of HE

Overview

• Criteria for title of university and for right to offer research degrees will be tightened
• Funding will follow students
• Proportion of funds allocated will be based on performance
• Increased funding for teaching recommended – Budget dependant
• Research funding increased to reflect costs and increased RTS places
• Tertiary entitlements progressively extended to the VET sector
Cutler Report – Focus on Innovation

Overview

• Accelerated pathways to address skill shortages
• Full funding of research activities
• Funding distributed through Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and RTS and APA scheme funded on ERA rankings
• Build concentrations of excellence and encourage collaboration within and outside Australia
• Incentives for industry research and research around national challenges e.g. water, climate change, carbon emissions
• Facilitation of favourable conditions for development and use of new and emerging technologies
Government’s Response

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard has announced that:

• 40% of Australian 25-34 year olds will have a bachelor level or above qualification by 2025

• Universities will be funded on the basis of student demand from 2012

• From 2010, the current cap on over enrolment will be raised from 5 to 10% and removed completely in 2012

• Establishment of a national regulatory and quality agency for higher education

• Australian Qualifications Framework Council to improve articulation and connectivity between the university and VET sectors

• Formation of a single tertiary education sector ministerial council, with representatives from the Commonwealth, states and territories

• By 2020, 20% of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level should be from low socio-economic backgrounds

• Improve higher education access and outcomes for Indigenous Australians
Impact on RMIT learning and teaching and research

These changes to the tertiary education environment will mean that it is:

• Important for RMIT to know:
  – Who we are
  – What it is we offer
  – What it is we are good at

• Becoming more ‘focussed’ on:
  – High impact programs (high quality and high viability – or niche programs)
  – Program platforms (underpinning high impact programs)

• Opportunities for growth in our ‘high impact’ programs and reduced profile for poor performing programs

• Focus resources in areas of strength
Hence the importance of Quality Assurance:

Internal Reviews
- Program Annual Reviews
- Organisational Reviews

External Reviews
- AUQA
- AQTF
College Response

Executive Retreat (24 March)

If students are going to have more choice in where they are educated what do we need to focus on:

• Clients – improved customer service to our students
  – International and local students are attracted to flagship programs and select degrees aligned to careers

• Offerings – quality, efficient, flagship
  – Attractive program structures
  – Practical orientation
  – Aligned pathways
  – A structure that enables supplementary qualifications e.g. environmental
  – Opportunities for more multi-disciplinary degrees

• Industry - servicing needs, demonstrated links

• Research – reputation, ERA funding model, students

• Pathways
2008 College Performance

The College performed well in:

- **Budget**
  - College operating result was favourable to budget
  - College has invested strategically in staff renewal/refresh, program restructuring and strategies to improve student engagement

- **Profile**
  - Sound performance against all load targets across HE and TAFE except AFP UGRD which was approx. 85 EFTSL under-delivered
  - Stronger than expected INTON
2008 College Performance

• Student satisfaction
  – Improved SET College HE course experience survey GTS and OSI results between 2007 and 2008, 3.3% and 1.5% respectively
  – Improved SET College TAFE course experience survey GTS and OSI results between 2007 and 2008, 9.6% and 15% respectively
  – PREQ showed strong improvement of almost 4%
  – Graduate employment in SET TAFE improved by 2% and in HE by 4% between 2007 and 2008

• Research performance
  – Overall increase of 8.6% in research income
  – Increase in successful NCG grant applications from 11 to 32
  – Awarded a number of new competitive research grants that will significantly boost research income over the next few years
Identified areas for improvement are:

- Continue to improve student learning experience results against relevant targets
- Improve quantity of courses with WIL component and quality of the student WIL experience
- Develop SET research strengths and focus in order to capitalise on funding based on ERA
- Improve student mobility and international accreditation of programs
- Continue the focus on work-planning and performance management through work with School Managers, Heads of School and Discipline Heads
2008 Achievements

- $3.6 million invested in refurbishing the School of Computer Science and Information Technology laboratories
- $3.4 million dollars invested to improve facilities for the School of Applied Sciences’ biotechnology and food science laboratories
- The College consolidated in 12 areas of research strength
- SET was awarded 8 Australian Research Council, Linkage Project grants
- RMIT’s automotive technologies launched Australia’s first hydrogen-powered racing car
- The Division of Chinese Medicine became one of the first institutions in the world to receive the Wang Ding Yi Award for International Contribution to Chinese Medicine
- The School of Life and Physical Sciences proactively secured a number of strategic partnerships to provide specialised training to contribute to skills development across Australia
2009 College Targets

• Budget
  – Will deliver $132.3m back to the University. This is 11.4% greater than the actual result delivered in 2008
  – The College has set aside $800k to be used strategically to support key high profile learning and teaching activities and to support research growth, aid Schools in undertaking staff refresh/renewals and enable strategic purchases of equipment

• Profile
  – Overall increase in HE profile between 2008 and 2009 by 1.6%
  – Overall increase in TAFE profile by 3.6%
  – Expected to meet or exceed total targets for CSP, AFP and INTON
  – Some concern about softness of apprenticeship market
  – Some concerns about softening of the INTON market
2009 College Targets

2009 initiatives

– Excellent Student Experience

– High Impact, Influential Research

– Industry Engagement
Infrastructure Plan update

• Bundoora East
  – 2013 - relocation of SAMME to BW on hold for 3 - 5 years
  – Strategic document being developed to consolidate aviation at Bundoora East

• Bundoora West
  – Lecture theatre - final design stages underway, construction to begin 3rd quarter
  – New artificial surface playing field - final design stages
  – Upgrade to infrastructure - building 201 - final design stages underway
  – Student services building project redevelopment – construction of building 204 underway
Infrastructure Plan update

• City Campus - College Projects
  – Revamping of building 10 level 9 for SECE
  – Building 56 Level 4 - computer labs completed for start of HE semester 1
  – SECE building 7 project - design work proceeding
  – Applied Sciences building 14 project - out to construction tender for start of works by mid year

• City Campus - University Projects
  – Swanston A'becket - design work continuing
  – Design Hub - design work continuing, has EIF funding
  – Center for Advanced Manufacturing - design work continuing has state funding
Questions

This presentation and a summary of the question and answer session will be available on the SET Intranet at: www.rmit.edu.au/set/pvc-forums