

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting 10 August 2005

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT Recent developments

ACHIEVEMENTS

Research commercialisation agreement featured in BRW

The million-dollar agreement of UWS, Food Science Australia and Dairy Australia with French separation technology company Applexion was featured as a case study in *Business Review Weekly* in June (Attachment 1). Under the agreement, which was reported to the Board in the Vice-Chancellor's April 2005 report, Applexion will design, build and sell a new dairy processing technology converting the dairy by-product, whey, into a range of high-value products for use in medicines and health supplements. The technology was developed by a team led by Associate Professor Jim Hourigan who recently retired from UWS after 35 years service.

Cooperative Programs a partner in student competition

UWS and NSW TAFE have signed an agreement with Bayer Australia to run a competition to select four university or TAFE students to represent Australia at a high profile international "Eco-Minds youth forum" to be held in Manila in October. The forum is being organised by Bayer in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, and students from the Philippines, New Zealand, India, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Korea and Australia will participate. The forum will provide students with the opportunity to learn from world-renowned speakers and share ideas about sustainable global development. Ms Freny Tayebjee of UWS Cooperative Programs was approached by Bayer to run the competition and negotiated with them for a paid assistant, and that one of the four students would be from UWS. The NSW Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC, announced the forum in a media release in June in which the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tong Wu, was also quoted (Attachment 2).

UWS student wins best singer/songwriter title for second year

UWS music student Kellie Stiffle, performing as "Kellie Marie", recently won the title of best singer/songwriter in the McDonalds Performing Arts Challenge for the second consecutive year. The Challenge is the largest competitive performing arts festival of its kind in the world. Kellie, from Macquarie Fields, is hoping to pursue a career in the music industry. One of the Challenge adjudicators, Ms Diana Torossian of BMG Music Publishing, said "Kellie was a great performer. She has a lovely lilt in her voice and a gorgeous melody as well and definitely has commercial potential"¹.

UWS academic appointed to International Criminal Court

Mr Steven Freeland, senior lecturer in international law at UWS, has taken up a temporary appointment with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. Mr Freeland is one of a small number of 'Visiting Professionals' so far appointed to the Appeals Chamber of the ICC. The ICC was established in 2002 under a treaty called the Rome Statute, which so far has been ratified by 99 countries. It hears cases against those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the so far undefined crime of "aggression". Mr Freeland's appointment will inform his research on how supranational regulatory bodies like the ICC can deal with global issues of concern and help maintain justice for all, and will add an extra dimension to his teaching in the International Law Program at UWS.

¹ "Musical career hits yet another positive note", Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser, 20 July 2005, p.3.
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RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

Grants, Scholarships, and Research Funding

- UWS again achieved good results in the latest round of Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grants, which focus on projects that provide practical, applicable knowledge and are carried out in partnership with industry and/or government organisations. The University secured over \$1.2M in grants, comprising nine grants and including funding to support six new Australian Postgraduate Research Awards (Industry). This represents a 60 per cent success rate for UWS, which compares very favourably with the sector wide rate of 42.9 per cent. Funded projects include a study of Australian contemporary dance; cochlear implants in children; promoting ethical and non-violent relationships of young men and women; nutrient generation from rural land in the Sydney drinking water catchments; and success at school for Indigenous students. Partner organisations include the NSW Rape Crisis Centre, Nepean Hospital, Wentworth Area Health Service, the NSW Department of Education and Training, Cochlear Limited and the Sydney Catchment Authority.
- An international research group formed by Associate Professor Roy Tasker and involving collaboration between UWS, the University of Northern Colorado, Stanford University and Drake University, has been awarded \$US1.09M over three years by the USA National Science Foundation to assess the educational value of animations within the disciplines of chemistry, biology, education and cognitive science. Associate Professor Tasker has produced commercial interactive web/CD resources to complement chemistry and biochemistry textbooks, including unique molecular animations which enable students to imagine a range of chemical structures and processes at the molecular level. The research group wants to develop principles for enabling all students to perceive the key features in the animations – not just the visual learners.
- Dr Prem Samaranayake of the School of Management has received funding of \$US45,371 from SAP America, one of the largest software companies in the world, to develop a process-based integrated solution for the planning, control and execution of aircraft assembly and maintenance.
- A team headed by Professor Catherine Best of the MARCS Auditory Research Laboratories has been awarded \$US154,267 by the US National Institute of Health to investigate how infants become native speakers of the adult language around them. By investigating normal phonological development the team hopes to gain insights into developmental reading disabilities and add to the sum of knowledge about learning a second language.

Events

- UWS hosted the ARC Chief Executive Officer, Professor Peter Hoj and other members of the ARC Executive on 10 June. An open forum was well attended by academic staff who have applied for grants or who are interested in doing so. The discussion proved valuable in clarifying the processes involved in ARC grant funding. The ARC Executive was impressed with the breadth and depth of research currently undertaken at UWS. The visit included a meeting with members of the UWS Executive to discuss research policy and grant management. UWS also received a satisfactory report following the ARC audit of compliance with Human Research Ethics Committee requirements for ARC-funded projects.

Research Centres

- The Vice-Chancellor has designated the *Centre for Plant and Food Science* as the seventh University Research Centre. The new centre has been formed by joining together the former Centre for Advanced Food Research (CAFR) and Centre for Horticulture and Plant Sciences (CHAPS). It will continue to support the existing strengths of horticulture and food research, and will also develop new research strands. This follows the recommendation of the 2004 Research

Review and completes implementation of its recommendations. The process of recruiting an additional senior researcher to the Centre is currently underway.

- The Vice-Chancellor has continued her program of visits to UWS Research Centres, meeting with staff at Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre on 23 June and the Self-Concept Enhancement and Learning Facilitation (SELF) Research Centre on 26 July.

PLANNING AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Quality, Professor Geoff Scott, will lead a team of four Australian Pro Vice-Chancellors in a project to address quality issues in South African universities. The South African Higher Education Quality Council has received AusAID funding for the project, which will have four key focus areas – mergers, community engagement, tracking and improving learning and teaching, and development of university networks.
- UWS recently joined the Canadian Quality Network of Universities (CQNU). As part of its work, Professor Scott has also been invited to lead a quality improvement project with the Executive of four western Canadian member universities in September. This will be funded by CQNU. The invitations to UWS to be the lead organisation in both this and the South African project will be cited in the University's Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) self-assessment portfolio.
- Several UWS staff attended the 2005 Australian University Quality Forum (AUQF) which is the peak meeting for senior staff responsible for quality in Australian universities. Professor Scott and Dr Julie Jackson of La Trobe University gave a presentation entitled "A Proposed Framework for Effective Quality Management of Community Engagement". The quality framework for university engagement being used in our current review of that area was reviewed by forum participants, with a considerable number of enhancements suggested.
- The inaugural UWS staff services survey was conducted in June. Nearly 1000 staff participated in the survey and the outcomes, including identification of areas where improvements can be achieved, will be available later in August. The UWS Research Student Satisfaction Survey was also conducted in June and the outcomes of this will be available by the end of August.
- Mr Ivan Skaines was recently appointed Manager, Strategic Planning and Review. Mr Skaines was responsible for managing the AUQA audit of the University of Newcastle in 2002. In 2003 and 2004 he conducted national workshops in Sydney and Melbourne on Preparing a Performance Portfolio on behalf of AUQA. He will work with Professor Scott to prepare for the AUQA audit of UWS scheduled for 2006.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

European delegation

The Vice-Chancellor participated in an Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee delegation to Europe in early July to be briefed on developments in higher education in the European Union (EU) and assess opportunities for national and institutional collaboration. The delegation had a busy schedule including meetings with Ambassadors, Ministers, University Presidents, European-based Federal Department of Education, Science and Training personnel, and peak sector bodies. Key issues included expansion of the EU and rapid alignment of degree structures, student mobility opportunities and university governance and conventions across EU member states, the structure and funding of universities, the funding for collaborative research available under EU programs and the progressive and preferential opening up of EU university teaching and research among member states and with third country partners, such as Australia. UWS already has modest but promising research links, student exchanges and full-fee paying students from EU countries. The Vice-Chancellor has conveyed the insights and

information gained from the visits and meetings to relevant UWS staff for incorporation into strategies for European marketing and research partnerships.

Meetings with politicians

The Vice-Chancellor attended a reception for the NSW State Cabinet hosted by the MP for Penrith, Mrs Karyn Paluzzano, on 28 June. The Vice-Chancellor and the other Executive members met with the Mayor and senior staff of Parramatta City Council on 29 June.

Sir Ian Turbott lecture

The annual Sir Ian Turbott lecture, honouring the UWS Emeritus Chancellor, was delivered on 11 July by Professor Greg Clark, an urban regeneration and regional economic development practitioner, who is currently Advisor on City and Regional Development to the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK, Global Practice Advisor for the London Development Agency, and Chairman of the OECD Forum of Cities and Regions. The Sir Ian Turbott lecture is a joint initiative of UWS and Penrith City Council and was presented to a large audience of community and business leaders, politicians, local council staff and officials, and UWS students and staff. The Mayor introduced the lecture and the Chancellor formally thanked Professor Clark afterwards. Professor Clark also visited UWS and gave a presentation to staff entitled "The role of London's universities in its regional development", followed by questions and discussion.

AUCEA conference

The 2005 Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) conference "Universities and Communities: Learning and Engaging through Sustainable Partnership" was held at Victoria University in Melbourne from 20-22 July. The International Keynote address was delivered by the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA, Dr Nancy Belck. The conference was very successful and was attended by the Mayor and a Councillor from Parramatta City Council and a representative of Penrith City Council. UWS provided seed funding to establish AUCEA and initiated and hosted the first two National Community Engagement Forums in 2002 and 2003. Early in 2005, AUCEA was granted funding through the Australian Government's Higher Education Innovation Program.

Judith Butler lecture

Eminent international scholar Judith Butler, Professor of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and described by the Dean of the College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Wayne McKenna, as “one of the best known American intellectuals of her generation”, recently visited UWS to participate in a School of Education workshop at the Female Orphan School. The School arranged for Professor Butler to present a lecture at the City Recital Hall which was attended by up to a thousand people, many of whom travelled from far afield, for example from New Zealand, Tasmania and Brisbane.

Art exhibitions

The work of three artists who are also staff of the School of Communication, Design and Media is currently being exhibited at the Community and Administration Building (AD) on Werrington North campus. “Collections” includes work from Kendal Murray, Juliana Swatko and Robyn Stacey. It opened on 12 July and will continue until September. The theme of collecting and collections is the common thread in the artworks and the exhibition will be used as an element in UWS teaching programs in Spring semester.

“From Liberties to Parramatta: contemporary prints from Ireland” is an exhibition of artworks from the collection of the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) in Dublin which is currently being shown at the Female Orphan School. Liberties is one of the oldest parts of Dublin, and Parramatta is one of the oldest parts of Sydney. The concept for the exhibition was developed by the Head of Fine Print at NCAD, Mr Mike Birtchnell, who until 2000 was head of the printmaking program at UWS, and the UWS art curator Ms Monica McMahon. A NCAD academic who is also one of the artists and who helped to coordinate the exhibition, Ms Diana Copperwhite, will be visiting Australia for two weeks and will give a lecture to our Fine Arts students. The exhibition will move to the AD gallery space in September.

The Professional Development Unit organised an exhibition of artworks by staff from across the University at Frogmore House, and the Vice-Chancellor opened this on 20 July. The artworks will be shown for a number of months, and some of them are for sale. Visitors are welcome.

UWS Foundation planning day

The UWS Foundation held its annual planning workshop on 2 August. The guest speaker was specialist fund-raiser Dr Daniel McDiarmid who recently undertook the Medical School Fund-raising Feasibility Study. Dr McDiarmid spoke on “The role of Foundation Boards in University fundraising in particular on campaigns”.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- On 5 August the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development and International), Professor Tong Wu, and the Director and other staff of the International Office will meet with the new Sydney Consul-General of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Shaofang Qui, and the Sydney Consul and Head of the Education Office of the Chinese Consulate-General, Mr Jianmin Li. The new Consul-General will be briefed on the range of academic links UWS is developing in China.
- As reported at the last Board meeting, ten years of the highly successful UWS Cooperative Programs scheme will be celebrated at an event on the evening of the Board meeting (10 August). Both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will attend.
- Graduation ceremonies will be held in Hong Kong on 14 August. On the evening of 13 August, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will attend a dinner for UWS alumni based in Hong Kong.

- The Vice-Chancellor will meet with the federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson MP in Canberra on 17 August to discuss a range of matters.
- As also reported at the last Board meeting, UWS's Open Day 2005 will be held at the Parramatta campus on 21 August. A promotional campaign targeting the Greater Western Sydney Region will use the local press, radio, high schools, a letterbox drop to over 800,000 households and direct mail to encourage attendance at Open Day and interest in UWS courses. The aquatic theme used in the 2006 Undergraduate Prospectus will be continued in the printed materials. There will be one centralised course information area in large marquees opposite the auditorium with demonstrations and displays on surrounding sites. Academic staff will present innovative and interesting information lectures in their areas of expertise.
- The second "What Matters" writing competition for NSW and ACT year 5-12 school students, organised by the Whitlam Institute and sponsored by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sun-Herald*, is underway. The Hon. E.G. Whitlam AC, QC and well-known social researcher Dr Hugh Mackay will present the prizes on 31 August, and Dr Mackay will deliver the inaugural "What Matters" lecture. This competition, wherein students write 400-600 feature or opinion piece on what matters to them and why, was very successful last year and many thoughtful essays have already been entered in 2005.
- The annual UWS Senior Management Conference will be held on 8-9 September.
- An opening will be held on 23 September when the art exhibition "From Liberties to Parramatta" (mentioned above) moves to the AD gallery space. The event will also be used to officially open the AD gallery space and launch the second UWS Sculpture Exhibition planned for 2006.
- Spring graduations will be held at the Hills Centre from 26-30 September.