

**MONASH UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**EQUITY & ACCESS COMMITTEE**

Meeting No. 1/2004 of the Equity & Access Committee of the Faculty of Education held on Wednesday 10 March, 2004 at 11.00am, in Room 317, Clayton.

Marie Robinson

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

**1.1. Present**

Jill Brown, Sue Webb, Evan Kritikatos, Ed Irons, Anne Kennedy, Marie-Terese Jensen, Rui Yang

*Monique Osborn and Velleda Bradford (student rep) were present at the Gippsland campus awaiting telephone voicepoint link-up, which did not go ahead due to technical problems at the Clayton campus.*

*Their dissatisfaction is noted in these minutes as they both had to reschedule activities to accommodate this meeting. The committee apologises for the inconvenience.*

**1.2. In Attendance**

Marie Robinson

**1.3. Apologies**

R. Smith, B. Clarke, Rosemary Viète, C. Skicko, M Mayne

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of Meeting 4/2003 of the Equity and Access Committee held on Wednesday 12 November, 2003 were confirmed as an accurate record.

**3. GUEST SPEAKERS ON TARGETTED ISSUES**

**3.1. Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies – Support for Indigenous Students**

Ms Jacinta Fletcher-Walsh, Office Coordinator - Student Recruitment, Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS) spoke to the meeting. She congratulated the Faculty of Education on the excellent work done by the scholarship working party in 2003. Jacinta distributed two documents (1/2004/1 and 1/2004/2 attached). She also addressed the issue of support for Indigenous students.

There are also issues in terms of curriculum. Mainstream curriculum tends to exclude Indigenous Australian contributions and experiences in Australia's past, present and future. A large number of students are unable to adapt to the new environment without a great deal of support.

Jacinta suggested that Indigenous students in the Faculty of Education need to be able to link informally with a staff member at each campus. Anne Kennedy has been asked by the Committee to act as academic contact for Indigenous students at the Peninsula campus. Anne will also invite a general staff member at Peninsula campus to help support Indigenous students.

Monique Osborn has agreed to act as contact at Gippsland. Jill Brown and Zane Ma Rhea are Clayton contacts

- CAIS will organize workshops for staff at Peninsula and Gippsland to discuss some of the issues facing Indigenous students in mainstream educational environments. CAIS to contact Anne and Monique to organize this.
- CAIS is also happy to set up a meeting to discuss these issues with the Koori pre-school Field Officers.
- CAIS to coordinate a get-together lunch for new Indigenous students and contact people at each campus.
- Fees for field trips for Indigenous students (especially at the Gippsland campus is also of concern. The Chair of the committee will approach the Dean to discuss this issue.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

##### **4.1. Location of meetings**

Jill Brown (Chair) suggested the next meeting of the Equity & Access Committee be held at the Gippsland campus and the following meeting at the Peninsula campus with the final meeting for 2004 at Clayton with phone link-up to Gippsland. The Committee agreed.

##### **4.2. Student Representatives**

Student representatives to join the committee for 2004 from Clayton and Peninsula need to be appointed. Anne Kennedy (Peninsula) will approach a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student from that campus and Jill Brown (Chair) will contact the President of the EFSA for a student representative for the Clayton campus. Gippsland already have a student representative (Velleda Bradford).

##### **4.3. Equity & Diversity Training Workshops**

The Equity and Diversity Centre provide workshops to inform staff and students of their rights and responsibilities and provide them with information about university policies and procedures to help equip them with skills to respond appropriately when concerns relating to discrimination and sexual harassment arise.

Some members of the committee expressed interest in attending a workshop – S Webb, A Kennedy and M-T Jensen will coordinate a suitable date to attend the program and report back to the Committee useful information about the workshops. (Gippsland staff also to be asked if they would like to attend a workshop).

#### **4.4. Scholarships for Indigenous Students**

All 5 scholarships (full fees for 5 years) for Indigenous Students in the Faculty have been filled. 2 at Gippsland in the Bachelor of Sport & Outdoor Recreation, 3 at Peninsula, (2 Bachelor of Primary Education and 1 Bachelor of Early Childhood). There are also 2 Indigenous students enrolled in the Diploma of Education at Clayton. The committee agreed that liaison with other Faculties was necessary in order to be able to offer double degrees. Sue Webb to be asked to explore the administrative implications of this.

### **5. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Committee members invited to submit other items of business**

Sue Webb raised the issue of student attendance due to religious beliefs – especially at the Peninsula campus where a number of students are strict Greek Orthodox.

- Committee members agreed that staff need clarification about this matter.
- The Cultural Calendar – on the University Equity & Diversity website maybe helpful
- Jill Brown (Chair) to contact Equity and Diversity for clarification about the attendance policy in regard to certain religious beliefs.

#### **5.2 Gender Equity in Primary & Early Childhood Education**

This was raised as an issue. See attached article which Ed Irons drew to the attention of the Committee (Doc 1/2004/3)

### **6. GUEST SPEAKERS ON TARGETTED ISSUES**

#### **6.1 CAIS – Support for Indigenous students**

As there were no matters arising from the previous meeting (2003) item 6.1 was moved forward to 3.1.

#### **6.2 Tanya Kantanis – Supporting students in transition**

As Tanya was not in attendance this item will be on the Agenda for the next Equity & Access Committee meeting.

Rosemary Viète will also be invited to speak about the needs of International students at the next meeting.

Equity issues for staff will also be an agenda item.

Meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

Meeting 2/2004 of the Equity and Access Committee will be held on Wednesday, 12 May at the Gippsland campus 11 am – 1 pm. Room TBC.