



MONASH University

Education

EQUITY & ACCESS COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 2/2004 Equity & Access Committee, Faculty of Education held Wednesday 12 May, 2004, 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., Link Meeting Room, Gippsland.

Marie Robinson
Executive Officer

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present

Tanya Kantanis (acting Chair), Barbara Clarke, Monique Osborn, Velleda Bradford, Rui Yang

1.2. In Attendance

Ros Smith (telephone link-up)

1.3. Apologies

Jill Brown, Sue Webb, Maree Mayne, Ed Irons, Rosemary Viète, M-T Jensen, Evan Kritikakos, Isabella Lablache (Peninsula student rep).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting 1/2004 of the Equity and Access Committee held on Wednesday 10 March 2004 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: R. Yang

Seconded: M Robinson

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1. Location of meetings

- T. Kantanis suggested a new meeting venue for the Committee to consider would be Berwick (as this is not the home campus of any committee members, and traveling would be involved for everyone).
- B. Clarke mentioned the meetings could be scheduled around relevant functions to observe or appointments to be made at the campus that was the meeting venue.
- R. Smith agreed that rotational meeting venues provided opportunity to make the most of visiting each campus, e.g., scheduling other appointments is a good use of time.
- T. Kantanis suggested that perhaps the campus hosting the meeting could focus on featuring a key aspect of the respective campus.

3.2. Student Representatives

The Committee welcomed the new student representative from Peninsula campus, Isabella Lablache who unfortunately was unable to attend this meeting due to classes scheduled (as an International student, class non-attendance could affect her Visa).

The Clayton campus is still without a student representative – the Committee discussed the possibility of approaching a student doing Secondary or Post Graduate studies, as we already have one student rep. in Primary studies (Gippsland) and one student rep. in Early Childhood studies (Peninsula).

The Chair to contact the Education Faculty Student Association (EFSA) President to discuss the nomination of an appropriate student rep. from Clayton.

3.3. Equity & Diversity Training Workshops

- Marie-Terese Jensen to be invited to speak at the next E & A Committee meeting about the Sexual Harassment Workshop that some Committee members will be attending on 24 June, run by the Equity & Diversity Centre.

4. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4.1 Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS) invited to the staff meeting (Peninsula)

- Anne Kennedy has arranged for a speaker from the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS) to attend the next staff meeting at Peninsula and discuss issues/support for Indigenous students at that campus.
- Clayton campus could also invite a speaker from CAIS to attend a staff meeting in future.

4.2 Student Representative Involvement

- Student representatives will try to become more involved in promoting the role of the Equity & Access Committee by communicating with other students and student bodies of their home campuses and reporting back to the Committee.
- V. Bradford reported that presently there were no student issues at the Gippsland campus, essentially because she has very limited contact with other students. As student rep., however, she acknowledged that she would need to be more proactive. She will be writing an article to appear in EMIT (the student newspaper at Gippsland) drawing attention to ways in which the Equity & Access Committee can assist and support students.

4.3 Student Contact

"How do students make contact with other students from different campuses?" was discussed at the meeting and the following points made:

- Noticeboards could be used more actively – eye-catching posters that may be of interest to students to be displayed and renewed regularly.
- The website could be expanded – perhaps with a feedback link, and the contact details of committee members for students to contact if necessary.
- The TV screens at the Gippsland campus could be used to promote the Equity & Access Committee
- T Kantanis offered to produce suitable posters for noticeboards of the other 2 campuses.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS ON TARGETTED ISSUES

5.1 Tanya Kantanis – Supporting Students in Transition

The guest speaker for this meeting was Tanya Kantanis, Coordinator, Monash Transition Program.

- Tanya spoke about the major review which occurred at the end of 2002 resulting in a re-structure and amalgamation of Orientation & Transition into one program – Tanya is now responsible for both areas. As a consequence of this review, Tanya has been provided with a part-time staff to help with the extra workload.
- Tanya also briefly explained a new initiative she is involved in at present – a collaborative venture with the Inner Eastern Local Employment Network (LLEN). Transition was asked to undertake the project to address student attrition, especially that in the first year of study. The project involves 7 schools. About 50 students are involved in the project that offers pastoral support through a Project Officer and a research component via survey completion and focus group participation. A report on this project will be given at the First Year in Higher Education Conference.
- The Monash Transition Program amongst its other activities conducts outreach visits to schools, conducts Summits, Forums, Seminars and Conferences, as well as conducting research. Tanya will be representing the Monash Transition Program at the First-Year Experience and European Access Network Conferences.
- Tanya also produces information for dissemination via the Program's award-winning web site. The web site is currently being reviewed as a consequence of the new branding guidelines.
- Monique enquired as to how the transition visits are structured and funded. Tanya explained that the visits are structured (with the involvement of student participants) and funded via the Monash Transition Program.

- A group of Gippsland students is to be initiated into the program for local visits.
- A stronger manner of communication liaison – perhaps with the assistance of Transition is needed for Gippsland to connect with local schools. Tanya happy to speak to the Gippsland students about the program.

5.2 The Needs of International Students – Rosemary Viète

Rosemary was unable to attend this meeting and will be asked to provide a written report (before the next Equity & Access Committee meeting) – on the Needs of International Students.

6. NEXT MEETING

Meeting 3/2004 of the Equity and Access Committee will be held on Wednesday, 25 August, 2004 at Peninsula.