

EQUITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No.1/2005 of the Equity and Access Committee held on Wednesday, 1 June 2005, 9.00 am-11.00 am in Room 423, Education Building, Clayton Campus.

Heather Phillips
Acting Executive Officer

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

(Marie-Therese Jensen agreed to chair the meeting as Anne Kennedy, Acting Chair, was away at a conference. Heather Phillips was Acting Executive Officer in Marie Robinson's absence.)

Marie-Therese welcomed Clayton members to the meeting and introduced Monique Osborn and Steve Burns on voicepoint from Gippsland.

1.1 Present

Marie-Therese Jensen (Acting Chair), Barbara Clarke, Miriam Faine, Ed Irons, Evan Kritikakos, Isabella Lablache, Monique Osborn, Rui Yang

1.2 In Attendance

Heather Phillips, Steve Burn (on behalf of Valleda Bradford)

1.2 Apologies

Jill Brown, Tanya Katanis, Anne Kennedy, Velleda Bradford, Marie Robinson, Rosemary Viete, Sue Webb

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting 4/2004 of the Equity and Access Committee held on Wednesday, 10 November 2004 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Ed Irons

Seconded: Monique Osborn

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 HEEP funded Information brochures: current status

Information brochures are available on the Clayton and Gippsland campuses. Anne Kennedy to follow up on brochures at Peninsula. Monique Osborn requested information posters and Marie-Therese Jensen will ask Jamie McDonald if they are available.

3.2 Indigenous bursaries: possible new strategies for widening publicity

No report.

3.3 Fieldwork placements: no action taken, plan action

No report.

3.4 Equity bursaries application (Sue Webb)

No report.

4. New Items

4.1 Location of next meeting

Discussion arose about the time and place of Equity and Access committee meetings. It was agreed that 9.00 a.m. is a difficult time for people from three campuses to meet and that the meeting location should be rotated.

The committee discussed possible timetabling and it was agreed that the next meeting time will remain at 9.00 am and that, as the meeting has been organized to take place at Clayton, webcam facilities should be used. (H Phillips to organize)

4.2 Student representation: Clayton and International Student Representatives

Isabella Lablache (present) has agreed to be Peninsula student representative on the committee.

Velleda Bradford and Steve Burns have agreed to be Gippsland student representatives.

Clayton and international student representatives have not been nominated and Marie-Therese will look into this matter.

4.3 Report from the May Meeting of the Inclusive Practices Workplace Equity Committee (formerly the University Advisory Committee on Equity and Access) (Ed Irons)

At very short notice, Ed Irons agreed to attend the Inclusive Practices Workplace Equity Committee in Anne Kennedy's absence. Ed reported included:

- Information on women in academe - positions/promotion of women improving generally except in upper academic levels;

- 2005 will focus on indigenous issues (retention of indigenous staff, job readiness, university policy – indigenous candidates referred to Faculty for consideration before advertising);
- Council decision to change the name of the University Advisory Committee on Equity and Access to Inclusive Practices Workplace Equity Committee (WEC). It is suggested that faculties may wish to consider changing the committee name;
- Work strategy – reduction in hours should reduce all aspects of the job equally;
- Equal Opportunities for Women Report – possibility to waive government body reporting if practices are good; difficulties in reporting on women who are casual and contract, current project: “When Research Works for Women” following 25 female staff in reaching upper academic positions.

The committee thanked Ed for attending the meeting and for his report.

4.4 Renaming of Faculty Committee recommendation from EA office (to Education Faculty Equity & Diversity Committee)

Marie-Therese suggested Anne Kennedy may wish to follow up on the change of name for the committee.

4.5 Faculty response to the University Inclusive Practices Advisory Committee

Anne Kennedy to follow up and report to Jill Brown on this matter.

4.6 Equity issue for part time PhD students seeking extensions (Miriam Faine)

Miriam Faine (part-time PhD student) has raised the issue of pro rata extension time for part time students (3 months) compared to full time students’ extension time (6 months).

Since first raising this issue Miriam has taken the matter to the Monash Research Graduate School and has had success in that part time students are now given up to 12 months extension time, with 3 monthly reviews.

Miriam would like to see the university policy changed to include Masters’ students’ intermission times increased accordingly. She also felt the 3 monthly review should be minimal.

The committee agreed to follow through on the policy changes and congratulated Miriam on making a difference.

4.7 Guest speaker for next meeting

It was agreed that Lynda Nicholson, the University Indigenous Employment Officer, would be a good choice of speaker for the next meeting. Marie-Therese will ask Anne Kennedy to extend an invitation.

5. Campus Reports

5.1 Clayton

As the committee has had difficulty meeting this year there was no report for this meeting.

5.2 Peninsula

As noted in the Agenda:

- A parenting room has been provided on the ground floor of A building
- Eleanor Peeler is providing one day a week additional language and learning support for Peninsula education students
- Cathy Arena has taken on the responsibility for the maintenance of the E&A Noticeboard on the 4th level of A Building
- Ms Isabella LaBlanche has agreed to rejoin the Committee as the Peninsula campus student representative.

5.3 Gippsland

- Monique was pleased to report that Steve Burns has joined the EA committee
- Gippsland campus is looking at reviewing its Off Campus Learning (OCL) program. Data concerning strengths and weaknesses is currently being collected from students and it is hoped that the report will lead to strengthening OCL programs.

6. Any Other Business

Nil.

7. Next Meeting

Meeting No.2/2005 of the Equity and Access Committee for 2005 is to be held on Wednesday, 17 August 2005 starting at 9.00 a.m.

As an equity and priority issue, the committee strongly requests all committee members to be present and available for meetings. In order for all members to participate at the meeting it has been suggested that the next Clayton-based meeting have webcam facilities and that future meeting locations be rotated with Gippsland and Peninsula campuses.

Confirmation of Meeting No.2/2005 location will be advised.