

AGENDA

MEETING **CECS RAP Sub-Committee**

MEET No. 1/2011
VENUE Board Room, RSISE Building
DATE/TIME 25 May 2011, commencing at 4 pm
CONTACT Margaret Wigney, x58188

1. **Progress Report on Action Items**

- Development of database of organisations and public and private sector bodies
- Development of database of initiatives for engagement and relationship-building
- CECS Progress Report: attached

2. **CECS RAP Update**

- current status
- areas where action required:
 - dissemination
 - developing strategies
 - external expertise

3. **Other Committee Updates**

- CPMS
- ANU
 - traditional acknowledgement
 - establishing Indigenous status

4. **Opportunities**

- research
- outreach
- students
- recruitment (staff)

5. **Engineers Australia RAP**

6. **Any Other Business**

MINUTES

MEETING **CECS RAP Sub-Committee**

MEET No. 1/2011

PRESENT Mr Jeremy Smith (Chair), Dr Baniassad, Dr Kalyanasundaram, Professor Lister, Ms McEwen and Assoc Professor Rendell

ATTENDING Ms Wigney

APOLOGIES Mr Devow and Mr Martin

VENUE Board Room, RSISE Building

DATE/TIME 25 May 2011

Part 1. Procedural Items

1. Acknowledgement of Country, Announcements and Apologies

- The Chair acknowledged country and traditional owners, past and present.
- The Chair announced that Mr Dion Devow from the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre had accepted an invitation to be a member of the CECS RAP Sub-Committee.
- Apologies were received from Mr D. Devow and Mr I. Martin, Indigenous Employment, Human Resources Division.

2. Minutes from previous meeting and reports on actions

The Chair reported as follows:

- *development of database of organisations and public and private sector bodies:* the College's industry database has been expanded to include contacts of peak state, territory and national indigenous bodies in areas relevant to the College
- *identification of key stakeholders, partners and opportunities for CECS to engage in reconciliation activities:* few opportunities have been identified apart from the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) *Engage Forum* which was aimed at the sharing of ideas and experiences to create opportunities for indigenous people.
- *CECS Progress Report:* The Committee noted and discussed the Progress Report. Specific comments were made as follows:
 - the Committee discussed the appointment of at least one Indigenous community expert appointee to the CECS RAP Sub-Committee. It expressed a first preference for an Indigenous person working in the local community while remaining cognisant of the small selection pool in the ACT. It noted there was some latitude in the definition of "expert" and that expanding the definition would broaden the pool of appointees. The Chair's advice that he would pursue the matter with contacts in the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) was noted.
 - as several Indigenous artworks were publicly on display in the College this action item could be recorded as "Completed".

- the difficulty of increasing the academic and general Indigenous staff profile by 2.5% was highlighted, nevertheless the Committee was strongly supportive of actively pursuing all goals rather in the Plan than simply giving it tacit approval without implementing any decisive action.
- participation by the Student Services and Marketing areas in school outreach support programs such as the Regional Partnership Program and NAIDOC week was noted.
- active engagement through an ongoing partnership with organisations promoting reconciliation and Indigenous initiatives was being addressed through the College's engagement with EWB via participation in its workshops and projects.

Part 2. Reports

3. CECS RAP Update

The Chair reported that the CECS RAP had been added to the CECS website (see: http://cecs.anu.edu.au/about_us) as a publicly-available document. The website contained links to the ANU Reconciliation webpage as well as Reconciliation Australia webpage.

The Committee discussed additional mechanisms to disseminate the RAP within the College, emphasising the importance of engaging stakeholders in the development of specific strategies and priorities. It recommended that the RAP be:

- i) referred to the forthcoming meeting of Dean/School Directors for discussion;
- ii) placed on the agenda for the College forum to be held in July; and
- iii) referred to Schools for on-going discussion at School meetings.

4. Other Committee Updates

- **CPMS:** the Chair had attended a meeting of the CPMS as the CECS representative.
- **ANU RAP:** there were two main items arising from the recent ANU RAP:
 - the generic versions of Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners are to be used until further notice. Wording for the generic Acknowledgement protocol, as approved by Council, is:

"I acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional land we meet, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history".

The Welcome to Country text is in dispute; once resolved, acknowledgement cards, including the protocols and text of Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners will be printed and made available to Colleges.
 - a draft policy on *Establishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status* is under consideration by the ANU RAP Committee. The principle contained in the policy is that applicants will be required to provide evidence of their Australian and/or Torres Strait Islander status, i.e.
 - i) that they are of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;
 - ii) that they identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and

iii) that they are accepted as such by the community in which they live or have lived.

Part 3. Planning and Implementation Items

5. Opportunities

- Professor Lister informed the Committee of possible opportunities for attracting undergraduate students through Yalari, a foundation that offers Indigenous students boarding/residential school scholarships. Under this scheme, The Canberra Girls' Grammar School has sponsored four students and plans to grow this enrolment to at least 12. Scholarships are open to students from Year 7; applicants must have achieved in science and mathematics. Opportunities are available for the College to provide a scholarship from Year 10; the cost would be in the vicinity of \$15K-\$20K per annum, with the possibility of leveraging matching funds from Yalari or the Federal government. The Committee discussed the issue and gave its in-principle support, noting the requirement to foster and nurture the relationships between the students and ANU/CECS during the scholarship period. It was noted that in-principle support to the initiative has also been given by CMBE and CPMS.
- The Chair reported that he has provided input into the development of Engineers Australia's RAP. He is also involved in EA's *Engage Forum* and it is likely that opportunities may arise from this.
- Dr Baniassad reported she is working on a joint project with the School of Music, carrying out requirement analysis for a project based in Arnhem Land. It is anticipated that this may form the basis for an ARC Linkage Grant application in the next round. As the project will require a lot of research assistance there is the potential for students from the local indigenous communities to be involved.

Part 4. Other Business

6. Other business

There was no other business.