

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

REPORT TO COUNCIL

3 APRIL 2006

Progress Report on University of Melbourne and Victorian College of the Arts Integration

A. PURPOSE

To provide a progress report on the implementation of integration of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) with the University of Melbourne (UoM) for the VCA to become a faculty of the University effective from 1 January 2007.

B. BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 14 November 2005, the University Council authorised the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor to sign, on behalf of the University of Melbourne, a *Heads of Agreement* for the VCA to become a faculty of the University subject to any amendments approved by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. Subsequently at a special meeting of Council held on 18 February 2006, it was reported that the Department of Education and Training had advised that legislation should provide that, notwithstanding any other provision in the University of Melbourne Act, from the date of legislation there should be a faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts. The Heads of Agreement were therefore subsequently amended by both the University Council and the VCA Council to delete Section 23 and confirm the parties intention to proceed with the integration.

The Heads of Agreement was accompanied by an Implementation Plan which summarised the indicative actions to be undertaken during 2006, and the responsible officers, to ensure the integration is completed by 1 January 2007.

C. IMPLEMENTATION

An Integration Implementation Planning Committee (IIPC) has been established to oversee the overall integration with membership comprising Ian Marshman, Senior Vice-Principal as Chair, Associate Professor Su Baker, Head, School of Art, VCA, Anthony Grigg, VCA Academic Registrar and Janet Beard, UoM Director (Integrated Administration). A monthly schedule of meetings for 2006 has been established with the first occurring on 13 March 2006.

To assist the integration, the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) has awarded a grant of \$1 million from Collaboration and Structural Reform Funding (CASR) which is to be spent to support the following actions:

Learning Resources Upgrade	\$300,000
System and IT configuration (learning, research systems and administrative systems aligned)	\$500,000

Project management and implementation
administrative and academic operating models,
policies and processes are aligned \$200,000

Working parties established in 23 integration implementation areas provided scoping and project plans including funding submissions to the IIPC meeting in March. Allocations have been determined totalling \$0.8 million at this stage and consideration will be given at the next meeting of the IIPC in April to allocating the remainder of the funds.

The allocations to date fit broadly with the categories identified in the terms of the grant and the University has received informal advice from DEST that small variations from the terms of the Grant are acceptable without seeking formal approval to vary the terms of the grant. A responsible officer has been identified to manage the expenditure of the allocated funds in each implementation area.

Working parties are to provide monthly reports to the IIPC on progress with implementation, including expenditure of funds where applicable, including how the funds are achieving the identified aims for expenditure of the funds and contributing to an effective integration.

Drafting Instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel were finalised and agreed by the University and the VCA with the Department of Education and Training in late February and forwarded to the Minister of Education to present to Cabinet. These were considered by Cabinet on 27 March. The outcome was not known at the time of writing, but our understanding is that if approved, Parliamentary Counsel will be briefed within the next two weeks and the draft Bill can then be discussed with the University and VCA.

The VCA Council will consider draft University legislation to establish the faculty and associated structures and operations at its meeting on 12 April 2006, after which these will be forwarded to the University for consideration through its legislative processes.

D. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the further progress made in planning and preparing for the integration of the Victorian College of the Arts as a faculty of the University of Melbourne effective from 1 January 2007.

Ian Marshman
Senior Vice-Principal
March 2005