

Professor Field W Rickards
Dean

MEMORANDUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

TO: Professor Glyn Davis
Vice Chancellor
Chair, Planning & Budget Committee

FROM: Professor Field Rickards
Dean, Faculty of Education

DATE: 3 October 2005

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Reorganisation of the Faculty of Education

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement from Planning and Budget Committee to recommend to Council a reorganisation of the Faculty of Education to a single department faculty, and the establishment of the Melbourne Education Research Institute (MERI), with effect from 1 January 2006.

BACKGROUND

In February 2005, members at the Faculty's planning conference identified the immediate need for a renewed strategy that emphasised the following key priorities:

- The creation of a research-led faculty;
- A review of teaching programs;
- The development of new income sources; and
- The consideration of structures and processes.

A faculty forum was held in May 2005 to further advance the ideas from the planning conference and all members of staff were invited to make written responses to an initial discussion paper *Positioning the Faculty of Education for 2012*. Subsequently, four cross-faculty working groups were established representing academic and general staff from all departments and Faculty Office to explore issues further and identify options for a way forward. Findings from the working groups were presented to a second faculty forum before final reports were submitted to Faculty Executive in early August.

Principal recommendations arising from the working groups included:

The establishment of a dedicated research institute providing support for specified research activities of genuine international significance, with an expanded Research Services Unit to support faculty research.

The strengthening of faculty-wide initiatives through a structure of three major functional units with senior academic leadership: Melbourne Education Research Institute, Office of Learning and Teaching and the Office of Innovation, Development and Internationalisation.

The development of priority research themes within the Research Institute. The Research Institute would provide the leadership structure and support for collaborative research activities across the Faculty.

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The implementation of a program driven structure within the Office of Learning and Teaching, encompassing all faculty coursework programs, with the Associate Dean/Director and Program Leaders responsible for staffing, resource allocation, curriculum development and course coordination.

The development of strengthened administration services, through the transfer of existing administrative staff from departments to a central, integrated faculty administration.

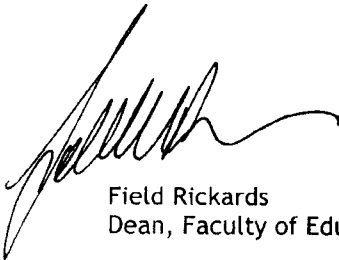
The creation of a cohesive senior leadership group comprising of: the Dean, four associate deans/directors and the General Manager.

The attached proposal *Transforming the Faculty of Education* (Attachment 1) draws primarily on the recommendations from these working groups and is the result of a wide consultation process. The proposal was subsequently endorsed by Faculty Board on 21 September and is submitted to Planning and Budget Committee for submission to University Council in November.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Planning & Budget Committee endorses the following recommendations for Council approval:

1. The disestablishment of the current department structure within the Faculty of Education and the reorganisation to a single department faculty.
2. The reclassification of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE) from a department to a centre in accordance with revised regulation 6.1R7 (draft attached).
3. The establishment of the Melbourne Education Research Institute (MERI) within the faculty for specified research activities.
4. The creation of four new senior leadership positions in the Faculty:
 - Director and Associate Dean, Melbourne Education Research Institute;
 - Director and Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching;
 - Associate Dean, Innovation and Development;
 - Associate Dean, Internationalisation.
5. Changes to regulations 5.1 R1 and 6.1 R7. (Attachments 2 and 3).
6. The changes outlined above to be effective from 1 January 2006.



Field Rickards
Dean, Faculty of Education

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