

To: Planning and Budget Committee 11/2006

Proposal for the formation of an Indigenous Scholarships and Awards Committee

Proposal

The administration of all non-Faculty specific scholarships available to Australian indigenous students should be coordinated and rationalised to promote a more strategic, efficient, consistent and equitable allocation of awards. To this end it is proposed that an Indigenous Scholarships and Awards Committee be established to coordinate administration of scholarships and trusts in a strategic manner consistent with the University's aim to increase the access of Indigenous people to this University, to provide advice [for example to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)] on issues relating to financial support for Indigenous students and to coordinate the operation of University Indigenous scholarships with scholarship management in other institutions (eg University colleges and secondary schools).

Background

The report of the CIE review of August 2005 noted that:

"The University has established a large number of Indigenous scholarships, some in conjunction with Trinity College. A significant number of these scholarships, which range from secondary school scholarships and TAFE bursaries to PhD fieldwork scholarships, are coordinated by the CIE. The criteria, timing and selection processes for these scholarships vary greatly, reflecting the time and circumstances in which they were established. The panel heard and read evidence that there has been a marked improvement in recent years in the publicity of these scholarships and the transparency of their allocation. Nevertheless, there remains a bewildering complexity in their terms and conditions which may limit their effective use."

The report recommended (Recommendation 12):

"That the Melbourne Scholarships Office review the Indigenous Scholarships program with a view to rationalising timing, criteria and selection processes."

The Truganini Scholarships Committee was originally established under the provisions of Regulation R6.144 to administer the Truganini Scholarships that are provided for by that Regulation. The Truganini Scholarships Committee has since been given responsibility for the awarding of additional scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and in the case of the Arno Herpe Foundation Scholarship, descendants of people indigenous to the South Pacific area.

The Indigenous Studies Sub-Committee (min ref: 1/06; 3.1.4) and the Truganini Scholarships Committee (min ref: 2/06, 5), the two committees currently charged with making and administering scholarships and awards for indigenous students, have recommended the establishment a new committee.

Indigenous Scholarships and Awards Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Subject to the terms of any trust, to allocate the scholarships and other awards in a strategic manner consistent with the University's aim to increase the access of Indigenous people to this University
2. To discharge the responsibilities set out in the various trust regulations for which it makes recommendations to Council for expenditure
3. Subject to the terms of any trust, to establish procedures and practices for the proper, effective and efficient administration of the scholarships and awards for which it has responsibility
4. Subject to the terms of any trust, to allocate scholarships and awards to Indigenous students in accordance with principles established by the Melbourne Scholarships Office and with advice from the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Education
5. To provide advice to Council and to the Vice-Chancellor on issues relating to financial support for Indigenous students
6. To report annually to Council on the scholarships and awards for which it makes recommendations for expenditure

Membership

To be determined from time to time by Council on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal and Academic Registrar, but initially to comprise:

1. Chair, Indigenous Studies Subcommittee (Chair)
2. Pro Vice-Chancellor Teaching, Learning and Equity, *or nominee*
3. Dean, Faculty of Education *or nominee*
4. Director, Centre for Indigenous Education
5. A professional staff member from the CIE
6. The Director, Melbourne Experience Support Programs
7. A representative of the Melbourne Scholarships Office
8. Up to three persons co-opted, at least two of whom are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander members of academic staff

provided that indigenous staff shall comprise at least 50% of the membership.

Delegations

The Committee may appoint a panel of its members, comprising the Chair, the Director, CIE and two members of the Committee to act if required between meetings of the Committee and to report the action to the next meeting of the Committee.

Scholarship Responsibilities

Subject to any amendments made by Council to any relevant Regulation concerning the machinery for the award of the scholarships or other awards, the Indigenous Scholarships and Awards Committee will award:

1. The Arno Herpe Memorial Foundation Scholarships(R6.205)
2. The Isabella Ina Oldham Scholarships (R6.208)
3. The (1990) Rotary District 980 [now known as District 9800] Aboriginal Vocational Fund (R7.75.(23))
4. The Northcote Trust Bursaries
5. The Edward J Darbyshire Trust Scholarship¹
6. The Lois Woodward Scholarship¹
7. The University of Melbourne 150th Anniversary Indigenous Scholarships, namely
 - Fieldwork Scholarships
 - Secondary Education and TAFE Bursaries
 - Community Access Program Scholarships
 - Undergraduate Housing Bursaries
 - Undergraduate Community Participation Scholarships
8. Such other awards as determined from time to time by Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a) The Indigenous Scholarships and Awards Committee be established
- b) Amendment to relevant regulations be made
- c) The Indigenous Partnership Scholarships Sub-committee be disestablished upon finalising current business.

¹ The awarding of these scholarships by the ISAC is subject to gaining the appropriate consent for amendment to the relevant regulations.