Report
Emeritus Faculty
The Australian National University

Report of an exploratory meeting held on 10 February 2000 at 4.00 pm in the Fellows Room, University House

Present: Professor Allan Barton, Dr Rafe de Crespigny, Professor Bob Gollan, Professor Anthony Low, Professor John Molony, Mr Giles Pickford, Professor Beryl Rawson, Professor Gerard Ward.

Apologies: Professor Heinz Arndt, Professor Maev O'Collins.

1. Background

Professor Molony outlined the origins of the idea of the Emeritus Faculty, which had formed during the funeral for Professor Eugene Kamenka. It had reached an impasse over premises in 1995. He said that The Master of University House had generously offered to make facilities available to the Faculty should it achieve formation. With such a partnership, the Faculty should be able to become an active force for the good in the life of the University.

2. Aims and Objectives

The following were proposed and the meeting agreed that they should be worked up by Professor Beryl Rawson for consideration at the next meeting.

To join in the academic and cultural life of the University and make a positive contribution to the ANU through the following means.

- Advice on curricula when called for by Departments
- Advisory roles in cooperative research ventures
- An occasional lecture series at University House
- Assistance with industry liaison
- Assistance with Lectures and Tutorials when called upon by Departments
- Assistance with seeking private funding and supporting the ANU Endowment for Excellence
- Being well informed ambassadors for the University
- Collaboration with other bodies such as the University of The Third Age.
- Co-operation in the Laboratory work of Departments
- Participation in consultancies
- Participation in Convocation activities
- Participation in University outreach programs and public relations

- Supervision and examination of postgraduate students when called upon by Departments
- To allow individual voices to be heard on policy formulation in the public sector
- To allow individual voices to be heard on the development of the Higher Education sector

In approaching all of the above aims, the Faculty would take great care not to threaten the security of staff members by giving a pretext to diminish or freeze staff numbers.

3. Membership

The meeting saw its membership base as being derived from Convocation, but it believed that it should be able to coopt members from outside this broad church when such membership was sought by people who wished to take an active role in the Faculty.

Essentially membership would consist of those members of Convocation, and others, who wished to sign on to the aims and objectives displayed above and play an active part in furthering them.

The meeting requested Dr de Crespigny to discuss these ideas, and the need for a web site, with the Director of ANU Public Affairs and the Alumni Office.

4. Modus Operandi

Professor Anthony Low was asked by the meeting to present the above ideas to the Vice-Chancellor and to seek the assistance of the University in the following matters:

- The creation of a site within the ANU Web Site in which the Faculty could publish its aims and objects, membership list, annual publications list, research activities and social activities.
- The allocation of a page or two in the Annual Report of the University.
- The establishment of a series of briefings for interested members which would help them to be better ambassadors for the University. Initially such briefings might focus on: The Library; The ANU Art Collection; The projected building and grounds program; search programs for the new Vice-Chancellor and other senior posts as they occur; the national and international student recruitment program; the University's industrial relations policy; the role of the AVCC; and other topics that arise from time to time.

5. Closure

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm, and thanked The Master of University House for giving much needed support to the concept of the Emeritus Faculty.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 1 March in the Fellows' Room, University House.

GP 16/2/00