Minutes
Emeritus Faculty
The Australian National University

Minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Committee of the Emeritus Faculty held on Wednesday 6 November 2002 at 4.00 pm in the Matisse Room, Cellar Bar, University House.

PRESENT: John Molony (Chair), Adrian Gibbs, Judy Slee, Chris Bryant (Deputy Chair), Beryl Rawson, Peter Stewart, Stewart Turner, Russell Doust (Events Officer), Peter Scardoni (Treasurer), Giles Pickford (Secretary). By invitation: Peter McCullagh.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Gavin Byrne. The Chair also drew the Committee's attention to the death of our member Bernhard Neumann, and regretted that we had not had sufficient time to place a notice in *The Canberra Times*, which is our normal practice.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 31st meeting were confirmed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Summer School for Science Teachers 2003

Peter Stewart reported that numbers of applications from teachers were well short of target for the 2003 Summer School. A report on this was being prepared for the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Science, who provide the core funding for the School. Cancellation of the 2003 School is a possible option. For the longer term, the organisers are contemplating an approach to ANU Marketing and the ACT Tourism Commission concerning new strategies and alternative avenues of support. Feedback from the Australian Science Teachers' Association and individual science teachers would also be sought.

3.2 Summer School for Humanities Teachers 2003

The Chair could not report on progress as the organisers were meeting at the same time as the ANUEF Committee. The Committee noted that all background material on the Summer School had been distributed to members.

3.3 Visit to DVC (Education)

The Chair reported on this visit which was held on 30 October 2002. The Committee was pleased to see that action on two out of three of its main concerns had already begun. Confirmation of future accommodation in the Innovations Building had been given by Warwick Williams. The accommodation would become available in May 2003. A partial response had also been given on the question of travel and insurance support and a follow up is expected. The question of a Vice-Chancellorial Reception designed to

increase membership was still under consideration. The Committee was reassured by Professor Gillies's offer to be the ANUEF's main link to the Chancelry until such time as a firm appointment is made by the Vice-Chancellor.

3.4 Nelson Enquiry
Chair reported that there had been no follow-up invitation to meet the Minister. This matter is now closed.

3.5 Publicity
Chris Bryant reported that he had recently spoken to Julian Lee about publicity. It was agreed that the optimum time for publicity for ANUEF would be around the time of the Reception mentioned in item 3.3 above.

3.6 New Members
The Committee was pleased to confirm membership for Peter and Mary McCullagh, Jack Smart, John Sandeman and Peter Firth.

3.7 Members' Forum – Annual General Meeting
The Committee noted the agenda for the 3rd AGM. Some changes were made to the discussion paper for the Members' Forum which will be included in the Notice of the AGM due to be posted on 7 November 2002.

4. Invitation to Emeritus Professors
The Committee noted that the Secretary would like addresses for any names on the following web site which members might suggest
http://www.anu.edu.au/cabs/general/emeritus.html

5. Lecture Series

5.1 2002 Series.
October 16: Dr David Jenkins, renowned parasitologist, was to speak on "Human behaviour and parasite transmission". Unfortunately he arrived exactly one hour late having misread his diary. The Lecture will be re-scheduled for 2003.

November 20: Giles Pickford, will speak on "The Principle of Subsidiarity, and Love, as Manifest in the Birth of An Organisation": the organisation in question being the Association for Tertiary Education Management Inc.

5.2 2003 Series
Chris Bryant reported that he was building the 2003 Series and already had three possibilities, including the following:

David Jenkins	"Human Behaviour and Parasite Transmission"
John Molony	"The Many Faces of Ned: with some references to Peter Carey"
Peter Stewart	"Canoeing the Murray Darling: a visual presentation"

6 Treasurer's Report

Peter Scardoni's report on Finances was received.

7. Other business

7.1 AGM

This matter was dealt with in item 3.7 above.

7.2 Peter McCullagh

The Chair welcomed Peter McCullagh and congratulated him on his election to the ANU Council. Peter presented some ideas for discussion which are contained in the attached paper. As the paper is to be published in *National Graduate* it is confidential until then.

The Committee expressed interest in, and support for, the ideas contained in the paper.

7.3 Database

Adrian Gibbs presented the results of his investigations into the software needed for the ANUEF database and search engine. The cost would fall somewhere between $1,000 and $3,000. The Committee agreed that such a facility is essential for the future development of ANUEF and recommended that Adrian Gibbs collaborate with Gavin Byrne, Web Site Officer, on taking the matter forward.

7.4 Leadership Training

The Chair reported on an approach to ANUEF to assist in a Leadership Training program which is being organised by the HR Unit for senior ANU Managers. The Committee agreed that ANUEF should be involved in the project.

8. Next Meeting

The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2002 follows:

November 27
December 4 AGM

GP 7/11/02

Peter McCullagh's Paper. CONFIDENTIAL until published in *National Graduate*.

As the member of the ANU Council newly elected by Convocation, may I use this occasion to express my thanks for providing me with the opportunity to contribute to the future of the University. Whilst I commence my term on Council with specific goals, some of which are indicated below, the value of my contribution will ultimately be dependent on the willingness of members of Convocation to provide an input. This can be made either by email (pjdmccullagh@bigpond.com) or by phone (02 62303219).

I emphasized two points when standing for election. The first was that, whilst it is essential for a university to remain solvent, this must not become its primary goal. Secondly, it is imperative for any Australian university which seriously aims to remain worthy of that description to break out of the mob.

To expand a little on the first of these points, I believe that when Australian tertiary education eventually emerges from its present trough, institutional excellence will guarantee financial viability. In the interim, financial viability alone will never guarantee excellence. It is evident, albeit politically incorrect, to recognize that Australia lacks staff and students (never mind the finance) of the calibre required to maintain almost forty tertiary institutions which can seriously qualify as "universities".

When it comes to breaking out of he mob, in the words of Howard Florey, it is not sufficient for ANU to be good – it must be *superlatively* good. As a former Vice-Chancellor of The University of Sydney commented when the Institute of Advanced Studies was under concerted attack in the early 1990s, Australia will never have an *International* university if it does not have a *National* one.

Convocation comprises three groups – graduates and former and current members of staff. I believe that the participation of each of these groups will be required if ANU is to live up to its name. A proposal that I intend to place before Council will build upon one attribute in relation to which ANU was historically a leader and another in which it is currently unique.

Historically, ANU led in the introduction of a wide range of combined course options. It is currently unique in possession of an Emeritus Faculty. My hope is that it will become possible to offer interested undergraduates enrolled in combined courses the chance to explore linkages between their two disciplines during their time at ANU rather than allowing these to remain as discretely compartmentalized pursuits effectively quarantined from each. The Emeritus Faculty offers a resource that is unmatched elsewhere to underpin this initiative. Membership of the Faculty is open to any former member of general or academic staff and details are available from the Chairman of the Emeritus Faculty, John Molony (John.Molony@anu.edu.au).

I would be interested to receive comments from graduates who undertook combined courses on whether an option to undertake a synthesis of their two disciplines would have been of interest to them, either during their time at ANU or, with hindsight, at a later date.

Peter McCullagh.