ANU Emeritus Faculty

Minutes

Minutes of the 70th meeting of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Committee held on Wednesday 1 February 2006 at 3.30 pm in the Molony Room, Fellows Lane Cottage.

1. Apologies

John Grant, Barry Ninham, Ian Mathews

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December are attached (page 3). For confirmation

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Cooption of two New Members

The Committee agreed to invite two members to fill the current vacancies. The Secretary will send the invitations.

2.2 Portfolios

The Committee noted that it needs to examine which portfolios it needs in 2006 and allocate them to a member. The Committee noted that the Secretary had requested the Events portfolio and that Di Riddell was prepared to take on the Membership Officer role. Other portfolio allocations were deferred until the two vacancies had been filled.

4. Reports

4.1 2005 Colloquium on Energy – E4

John Sandeman reported that the Colloquium would be a full day program in the National Museum of Australia Lecture Theatre, followed by a Public Forum at night in the Convention Centre. Some of the speakers were mentioned and others are still to be approached. It was agreed that Peter Scardoni be co-opted to the Colloquium Committee to assist with preparation of a budget.

4.2 Proposed ANUEF/CSIRO Conference on Commercialisation of Research

Deferred until Barry Ninham can be present.

4.3 The Honours Elective

It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda as the University appeared to no longer need this service.

4.4 ACT Govt. & Industry

4.4.1 Security Specialists Course

Nik Fominas tabled a detailed report on this course.

4.4.2 Solar Energy Project

John Sandeman reported that the ACT Government had abandoned its mandatory greenhouse targets, which was against the trend in other countries. John was informing the Government of mandatory targets being taken up in California.

4.5 ANU Civic Interface

The Committee noted that John Grant had reported that his group had obtained the permission of the Pryor family to for the proposed Lindsay Pryor Lecture initiative and is canvassing options for a speaker.

The Committee agreed to allocate Wednesday 20 September for this event and suggested that other possible speakers could be Eric Bachelard, David Griffin and Doug Paton.

4.6 Media

Deferred in the absence on Ian Mathews.

4.7 Membership Officer

The Secretary tabled an application from Paul Coker for membership under category 5.
It was agreed to grant the membership.

4.8 External Outreach

4.8.1 Feedback from a Member

The Committee noted the following comment from Beryl Rawson.

"I note that in discussion about broadening the base of the ANUEF, and developing a national body, there has been a tendency to refer to the ANUEF's 'isolation' and to its being 'inward-looking'. I believe that these terms were used at the AGM, and are reported in the recent Newsletter (which is excellent, going from strength to strength). One of our original aims, expressed in the Constitution, was to support the ANU, and that has been a worthy aim. Our members have overwhelmingly had a long association with the ANU and had developed expertise and experience which we wanted to put at the disposal of the ANU. We have interpreted that mission broadly and have interacted also with the ACT community and the surrounding region. The ANU has recognised our allegiance and has put resources at our disposal.

Thinking has now evolved towards a more national role, and John Molony has pointed out that this fits the national charter of the ANU. But we need not lose our desire to foster the interests of our 'home' university, and I urge that these interests remain one focus of our activities and efforts, and that we do not discount what we have already done in that sphere. In moving forward, there is no need to denigrate the past."

4.8.2 Federation of Emeritus Faculties Inc.

The Committee noted the first draft of a Constitution for the proposed Federation of Emeritus Faculties Inc. It agreed to the following steps:

- Drafting Committee (Molony, Ninham, Stewart and Pickford) to look at draft
- Constitution to go back to Committee
- Constitution to be forwarded to Vice-Chancellor for transmission to other Vice-Chancellors for dissemination to suitable senior staff approaching retirement
- Annual General Meeting of all interested people to be held in October to adopt Constitution and elect Officers
- Incorporation with the ACT Registrar of Incorporated Societies

4.9 Ideas for the Future

Peter Stewart outlined the activities which had arisen out of his work in 2005 and indicated how the portfolio might develop this year. One of them will be the development of the affiliation arrangements with U3A.

4.10 Events

The Committee noted that the proposed excursion to the Adelaide Festival has not attracted sufficient support for the project to go ahead. It agreed that there be no further attempts to arrange Excursions unless a member suggested one in the future.

Giles Pickford reported that the Lecture series slots for February, March and September were filled, but all others were vacant.

4.11 Affiliations

The Committee noted the following affiliation arrangements:
(a) CHASS - Existing
(b) RAPlink - Existing
(c) U3A - Peter Stewart and Alan Bellett to develop further
(d) Country Education Foundation of Australia – Nik Fominas to develop further.

4.12 Treasurer's Report

The Committee adopted the Treasurer's report, noting that members' equity stood at $1,954.65. It agreed to payment of the expenses scheduled.

5. Web Site Requirements

Nik Fominas outlined what equipment is needed for 2006. Basically the Faculty needs to either hire space on a server to house the ANUEF web site, or to be given space on an ANU server. Currently the home page is the only part of the web site housed by the ANU with all the functionality of the site being house on Nik Fominas' own server in Melbourne.

It was agreed that Nik should speak to IT Officers at ANU initially to see if the ANU could house the entire web site on campus.

6. Policy on Finance

The Committee had a discussion about its finance policy. The lack of any reserves makes it difficult to seed fund ambitious projects such as Conferences where money has to be paid out in advance before income is generated. The Committee agreed that the ANUEF is a non-profit organisation and that it would remain as such. However, it did agree that it should try to create an "Education Fund" into which any surpluses could accumulate. Peter Scardoni was asked to report to the next meeting on this concept.

GP 3/2/06