ANU Emeritus Faculty

MINUTES

Minutes of the 77th meeting of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Committee held on Wednesday 6 September 2006 at 3.30 pm in the Molony Room, Fellows' Lane Cottage.

PRESENT: John Molony (Chair), John Sandeman, John Grant, Barry Ninham, Nik Fominas, Di Riddell, Peter Scardoni (Treasurer), and Giles Pickford (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Stewart, Angela Giblin, Adrian Brooks, and Ian Mathews.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2006 were confirmed.

3. Reports

3.1 2006 Colloquium and Forum on Energy

John Sandeman reported that the Colloquium had gone well with an attendance of 296 calculated by the take-up of Programs. The Public Forum at the National Convention Centre had also been a full house. There had been much glowing feedback from speakers and public. He was following up on copyright issues for the publication of the CD and two speakers had raised issues: Warren Overton and Andy Rigg.

The Committee congratulated John Sandeman and his colleagues on the project. It resolved:
(a) that the CD when ready should be given away free to Speakers, Sponsors and the two attending Schools, and sold to others at a price to be determined by John Sandeman, Nik Fominas and Giles Pickford, who would manage the CD project.
(b) That Barry Ninham, Alistair Watson, and Giles Pickford create a concept for a Colloquium on Water and submit it to the Australian Science Festival for seed funding.

3.2 ANU Civic Interface

John Grant reported that almost everything was in place for the Lindsay Pryor Lecture on 22 September in the Coombs Theatre. Two final actions need to take place:

(a) The publicity program is awaiting the Chancellor's abstract, but it will go ahead with a substitute drafted by John Grant and Ken Taylor if the abstract is not ready by 14 September. The publicity program would include assistance for Marketing and Communications.

(b) John Grant and Giles Pickford need to visit Tony Jones at the Coombs Theatre to brief him on what is needed. Drinks and nibbles are scheduled at 5.00 for 5.30 pm.

The Committee agreed that the Vice-Chancellor should be invited to introduce the Chancellor and that John Molony would Chair the Lecture and handle question time and move the vote of thanks.

3.6 Membership Officer

Di Riddell reported on membership renewal.

3.7 External Outreach

(a) The Committee noted that invitations continue to go out to selected members. Invitations had gone out to Ante Dabro, Robin Poke, Rod Williams, Craig Rugless, and Andrew Johnson. Recent new members include David Williams and Jenny Goldie.

(b) The Chair and John Grant reported on a successful meeting with the Chancellor of the University of Canberra who is very interested in the concept of an Emeritus Faculty for her University, either as a separate organisation at UC or as part of ANUEF. The Secretary tabled a reply from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong who is happy with that University's present arrangements for retired staff.

3.8 Ideas for the Future

The Committee discussed a paper on issues (encompassing Water; the Gap Year and the needs of altruistic students; and the rift between Science and the Humanities) which had been raised by Barry Ninham. He stated that the ANUEF ought to start a discussion going amongst the membership on these issues and that one way to do that would be to create an ANUEF Blog. If the discussions took on, then it might be possible to include them in the Kioloa Seminar and arrive at a course of action that the ANUEF could take. The idea of the Blog is taken up in the next item.

3.9 Web Site Officer's Report

Nik Fominas reported that the RSPhysSE server was Linux-based and unsuitable for the ANUEF programs. He suggested that the Faculty should buy a suitable computer and create its own server for its web site. Another alternative would be to use spare capacity on the ATEM server at Wizard. He also suggested that the ANUEF may need to create its own domain name, such as www.emeritus.edu.au

The Committee favoured the option of buying its own server and creating its own domain name. The financial success of the Colloquium on Energy has made it possible to undertake these purchases. Nik was authorized to go ahead on this basis.

3.10 Events

The Committee noted that the 2nd circular about the Kioloa Seminar and BBQ has been sent to members via the 10th edition of *News*. It noted that numbers had reached 10 and might go as high as fifteen. It agreed that this size for such and event is good.

The Committee also noted that Nik Fominas would be buying a Neck Microphone and that it would be ready and working for Beryl Rawson's Lecture on 18 October.

3.12 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer tabled the Accounts for the Faculty and the Accounts for the Colloquium.

The Committee noted that the Members' Equity stood at $3,733.41 and that the Colloquium accounts at this stage showed a surplus of $4,807.

The Committee noted that the Colloquium surplus would be set aside in an Education Fund, invested in a term deposit with a good return.

All payments made were approved.

4. General Business

4.1 Number of meetings

The Secretary raised the question of the number of Committee meetings, and whether the Faculty had reached a stage where a six weekly meeting cycle might be introduced.

The Committee felt that there was a lot happening at the moment. It decided to let the idea of a six weekly meeting cycle lie on the table for the time being.

GP 8/9/06