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## Academic Board

### Report of the Vice-Chancellor

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#### 1. Enrolment Update

I will invite the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Future Students) (DVC (I&FS)) to provide a verbal update on domestic and international enrolments.

In terms of international enrolments, the DVC (I&FS) and La Trobe International (LTI) have instituted a number of measures to try to reassure all of our stakeholders in India, including prospective students, agents, partner institutions and alumni. Among these measures are the following:

- the DVC (I&FS) led a delegation including Professor Brian McGaw, Dean of Science, Technology and Engineering to New Delhi and Bangalore and met with leading agents, partners and alumni to provide additional information and reassurance about safety in Melbourne and at La Trobe;
- the DVC (I&FS) convened a meeting of his colleagues from all Victorian universities to develop recommendations to address the effects on Indian students and the universities for consideration by the Victorian Vice-Chancellors' Committee;
- since 4 January 2010, all prospective students from India have received a phone call and asked if they have any concerns or questions;
- I have written to all prospective and current students from India with safety information and contacts and acknowledgement of the impact of the attacks and the University's responses to those.

#### 2. Faculty Deans

##### 2.1 Faculty of Law and Management

As many members will be aware, Professor Raymond Harbridge has recently tendered his resignation as Dean of the Faculty of Law and Management with effect from 11 July 2010 following a period of sabbatical leave.

Processes are currently in place to seek a successor to Professor Harbridge.

In the meantime, I should like to record formally my appreciation of the major contributions which Raymond made to the Faculty and to the University during his six years in this role. During his time as Dean, the Faculty has experienced major growth and renewal, contributing significantly to the University's financial health and academic reputation.

I am sure that all members would wish to join me in thanking Raymond for his contributions and in wishing him success and happiness in the next phase of his career.

I should also like to record my appreciation to Professor Carol Adams for agreeing to take on the role of Acting Dean while the selection and appointment processes are underway.

## 2.2 Science, Technology and Engineering

I am very pleased to welcome formally Professor Brian McGaw to his first meeting since taking up his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering. An analytical chemist, Brian comes to us with a distinguished record as Dean of Science and Technology at Deakin University and Dean of Health and Life Sciences at Lincoln University in the United Kingdom.

## 3. Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support for Students) Bill 2009

At the time of writing, this Bill is still before the Senate and is unlikely to be put to a further vote until mid-February. The uncertainty regarding the fate of this legislation is creating anxiety for many students in terms of accepting offers for 2010 or deferring their studies.

## 4. DEEWR Discussion Papers

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has recently issued the following discussion papers for comment.

### 4.1 An Indicator Framework for Higher Education Performance Funding

The University has supported the approach of institutional targets against sector-wide measures and indicators, noting that targets should be set to encourage continuous improved in relation to current institutional performance rather than against sector benchmarks. Institutions must have the opportunity to negotiate targets that take into account their strategic ambitions and operating context.

### 4.2 Review of Regional Loading: Issues for Regional Provision

The paper is narrowly focused on the regional loading, costs, participation and definitions. There is some superficial discussion of delivery models, but little discussion of the broader role of regional campuses or Higher Education (eg. knowledge transfer and exchange, economic value, etc), and a number of funding options are proposed.

### 4.3 Measuring the Socio-Economic Status of Higher Education Students

In its submission, La Trobe University highlighted support for the continuing use of community measures of socio-economic status (SES). In addition to the use of Census Collection Districts (CD), the University supports the newly introduced data elements related to parental education levels as a measure of educational disadvantage as well as the development of a direct measure of individual income and encourages the development of a school-based measure for school leaver applicants.

The University noted that a measure of SES alone, however sensitive, is not sufficient to identify the complex social factors which can affect participation in higher education, including gender, disability, rurality and non-English speaking background. La Trobe strongly encourages the continued collection and use of statistics on these student demographics as well as SES.

## 5. **Accolade – Professor Ainslie Dewe**

I am delighted to report formally to Academic Board that the University Librarian, Professor Ainslie Dewe, has been appointed head of the internationally renowned International Association of Scientific and Technological University Libraries [IATUL] which is a forum for the exchange of ideas relevant to university libraries of institutions which offer masters or doctoral degrees in engineering, science or technology.

## 6. **Strategic and Operational Planning**

### 6.1 **Strategic Plan 2010-2014**

A facilitated half-day workshop was held on 27 November 2009 involving those who have direct responsibility for implementing the University's strategic direction: the Deputy and Pro Vice-Chancellors, Planning and Resources Committee (including Faculty Deans) and Heads of School. The forum provided an opportunity for reporting back from the working groups which prepared proposals covering research, community engagement, equity and pathways, as well as the Compacts discussion with DEEWR and DIISR held on 12 October 2009.

I will be taking the outline of a draft Strategic Plan 2010-2014 to the Senior Academic Retreat on 18-19 February 2010 prior to submission of the final document to Council for approval at its meeting on 22 March 2010.

### 6.2 **University Operational Plan 2010**

At its meeting on 14 December 2009, Council approved the University Operational Plan 2010.

Faculties, Divisions and Regional Campuses (as part of a Regional Operational Plan) were subsequently provided with guidelines and templates to produce annual operational plan documents, aligned with and informed by the University Operational Plan 2010, outlining high-level goals for each area. The submission date for these annual operational plans, which are an integral part of the University's new Planning and Review Cycle, was 29 January 2010: they will be reviewed by the Planning and Resources Committee at its next meeting.

### 6.3 **Compacts Project Development Group**

The University is developing a framework through Project Development Groups (PDGs) for an integrated project cycle management approach to the identification, development and implementation of major projects (strategies, planning and/or programs) that drive strategic change and attain large-scale revenue generation.

A Compacts PDG chaired by Professor John Rosenberg, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Future Students) was formally established by the Planning and Resources Committee at its meeting on 18 December 2009 to develop a detailed growth and retention plan for the University which has clear targets per program/unit to achieve the aims which are detailed in the Strategic Options Paper. This will lead the development of the Mission-Based Compact Agreement between the University and the Australian Government for the period commencing 1 January 2011, and will include:

- Strategies, programs and workplans that will increase participation in the University's higher education programs by low SES students. This will include a strategic approach to pathways, curriculum design and modes of delivery, regional networks, schools partnerships, delivery partnerships and scholarships, and will also consider issues of staging, costs of growth and required infrastructure.
- Strategies, programs and workplans that will increase retention at the University. This will include a strategic approach to curriculum design and modes of delivery, delivery partnerships and scholarships.
- Strategies, programs and workplans that will support the University's research strategy in the context of the Mission-Based Compacts process.
- Strategies, programs and workplans that will support the University's international engagement.
- Quality Government funding proposals as required to support these strategies.

## **7. AUQA Audit**

As members will be aware, the report of the 2009 AUQA Audit was released on 20 January 2010.

The University will prepare an Action Plan in response to the nineteen affirmations and recommendations over the next few months, and strategies in the Action Plan will be incorporated into relevant Operational Plans.

**Professor Paul Johnson**  
Vice-Chancellor

12 February 2010