



ED NEWS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
LATROBE UNIVERSITY

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We welcome to the Faculty **Professor Frank Hardman** who has now taken up his appointment as Chair within the School of Educational Studies. Frank comes to us from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the UK and we greatly look forward to working with him and sharing his knowledge and experience within the School and across the Faculty and University as a whole.

Another piece of good news received today is that **Dr Ramon Lewis** was successful in gaining an ARC linkage grant in this current round. We congratulate Ramon and know how fiercely competitive this grant funding situation is, so it is a significant achievement to have succeeded.

As you are aware the **Regional Review** is about to begin in terms of consultations with various parties and groups that have made submissions. Not all those who made submissions will be called to meet with the panel as there have been two hundred submissions made. It is expected that the report of the review will be presented at the December meeting of the University Council. Thank you to all staff who contributed to the review from this Faculty. You will also know that there is to be a review of the Academic Skills Unit of the University and submissions are also called for that. The Terms of Reference are now available and any staff members, either in groups or as individuals, are welcome to make a submission. I have been asked to make a personal submission which I have done as I will not be in Australia when the actual site visits are held early in November. Professor Denise Kirkpatrick is chairing that review.

Senior staff within the Faculty have been engaged in preparing the **2007 budget** in light of the University budget. Given the number of strategic initiatives which the University must fund in order to remain competitive in an aggressively competitive market place, the funding is extremely tight for 2007. We are being called upon to find ways to use resources as smartly as possible and to cut costs as much as we can whilst still providing quality experiences for students and staff. We know there are challenges ahead in this regard and already some staff have been working creatively to provide blended

learning and flexible delivery options for students as an adjunct to face to face teaching. We hope to be able to employ an instructional designer in 2007 whose task it will be to work alongside staff across the Faculty and campuses in designing their units to have an online component and to get teaching materials online. There are also initiatives in train for **multi-campus teaching** and again, some staff within the Faculty have already been involved in these initiatives. Course reviews which are currently underway are part of the movement within the Faculty to find new and creative ways to use limited resources effectively and efficiently.

Alongside all of this, the drive to boost research incomes and outputs is also strong with the upcoming **RQF** exercise in 2008. As you are aware there is to be an **all-academic staff retreat at Beechworth on November 20 and 21**. This is where the work of the newly formed clusters for research and scholarship of learning and teaching will begin. These clusters provide a space for all staff to engage with their selected topic areas whether it be in the research or scholarship of learning and teaching arena. Groupings of staff for these purposes are seen to be essential in the current climate where peer mentoring and support networks are critical and are the way that the strategic plan of the Faculty and the University will potentially be achieved.

We farewell **Barbara Tadich** on October 20 and in congratulating her on her new and exciting appointment we also thank her most sincerely for the immense dedication and commitment she has shown towards the work of the School and the Faculty over the past few years.

I will be at the Association of Teacher Educators in Europe (ATEE) Conference in Slovenia from October 21 to 27 and will then be taking some recreation leave and returning to work on November 13. **During my absence Prof Vaughan Prain will be Acting Dean.**

Lorraine M. Ling