



ED NEWS



FACULTY OF EDUCATION
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

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As you will now know we have been successful in gaining recognition in the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund for 2007. This is based on 2005 CEQ data and of course as this was the first year we were a Faculty in this form, it is extremely gratifying. We are grouped in the same discipline area as Humanities and Social Science so congratulations are also due to that Faculty. When we have had a chance to interrogate the data closely we will be able to strategically plan for further review and development based upon those data for each course at each of the campuses. Congratulations to all staff for their contribution to this positive result and special thanks to Jennifer Sheed for her work and commitment as Associate Dean (Academic).

Congratulations are also due to Noel Gough. At the recent Annual Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education (Adelaide 27-30 November) he was elected to the AARE Executive Committee in the position of President-elect. and will therefore be President of AARE during 2008. AARE plays a central role in the Australian educational research scene and it is an honor to be elected to this position and we wish Noel well as he gears up for the presidency.

Congratulations also go to the Graduate Diploma in Education (P-12) Teaching Team, located at Albury Wodonga, for having been awarded a 2006 Faculty of Education Award for University Teaching for the category of a *Program that Enhances Learning*. The team consists of Mark Selkrig and Christine Bottrell (Course Convenors), Kim Keamy, Laura Fildes, Carole O'Neill and Jenny Ryder.

As you are aware the Regional Review initial draft report has been provided to University Council with the full report due in February but it is clear that regional campuses will be supported and that programs on regional campuses will continue. The feasibility study into the prospect of establishing a Water Institute across regional campuses will take place in the New Year and that may provide this Faculty with some creative opportunities for new courses and directions for teaching and research. As you are aware the Executive of the Faculty has been discussing ways to plan for a positive and sustainable future in light of reduced resources, changes in student demographics and internal University reviews which set a new course for the University as a whole. I have had initial discussions with the incoming Vice Chancellor and am to meet him again on two occasions in January/February next year whilst he is visiting. I will be discussing then some possibilities for the Faculty in light of his vision for the University. The various other internal University reviews

which have been conducted during this year are being progressively acted upon next year and we are aware that 2007 will be a major year of change across the University. The increasingly competitive context in which Universities operate makes it inevitable that major reforms will occur and we will all be part of this change process.

The Faculty has maintained its 11% over-enrolment for 2006 and has thus made a large contribution to the University in terms of absorbing Commonwealth Supported Places. I am most grateful to all staff who have worked so tirelessly with the additional numbers of students over the past two years as I know that it has brought challenges. We are working very closely with Buildings and Grounds in terms of space and facilities on all of our campuses and hope to be able to address some of the issues regarding rooms and space that have created difficulties for us over the past two years. In order to provide some support for staff in putting units or parts of units online, we have budgeted for the services of an instructional designer who will work with staff across all campuses in 2007. It is clear that the University is adopting a focus on blended learning and cross campus delivery and that we will be expected to make significant advances in this direction within our Faculty. This will be one of the major areas of focus for us next year.

As this will be the final Newsletter for this year, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your loyalty and support throughout this year. I wish those staff who are leaving us at the end of this year, all the best in the future and thank you for what you have contributed to the Faculty during your time with us. I especially thank all Heads of School and Associate Deans for their encouragement and dedication throughout the year. Every staff member has contributed to the Faculty team and thus the Faculty has reached several important milestones throughout the year and many people have achieved success in various ways. I trust that you all have a very safe and relaxing holiday season and wish everyone a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

Lorraine M. Ling.