

Ed News

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Thank you to all staff members who have worked so tirelessly since January to undertake the selection and offer/enrolment processes for students for 2006. I am delighted to report that at this point we are on or slightly above 105% enrolment with the prospect of this increasing still further before the teaching begins. Also with the prospect of enrolments mid-year I am optimistic that we will meet our promised 110% enrolment for 2006. This is a great effort in times when University enrolments across the nation are down and when there is difficulty in many areas to meet targets.

Thank you also to all staff who returned the data for the mock RQF audit. The data have now been collated and preliminarily analysed to ascertain some basic facts and figures about our research outputs as a Faculty. It has been an extremely important data gathering activity and now provides for us a solid and comprehensive evidence base from which to proceed to identify an area of research strength for the Faculty into the foreseeable future. The Associate Dean (Research) and I will be putting together an overview discussion paper following our preliminary analysis of the data and hopefully will be able to distribute that to all staff within the next week. Some big decisions will then need to be made at Faculty and School levels regarding our research directions. It is also rumoured that the final details and guidelines for the 2007 RQF audit will be released within the next week so then we will have a better idea of what the rules are and how we stand in relation to them.

There are to be strategic planning staff workshops held in February and March and I have been invited to nominate 4 staff members (3 academic and 1 administrative) to attend these workshops. The staff nominated are to be near the beginning of careers in the University and intending to build those careers into the future. I have asked Simon Gibson, Pamela Wright, Glyn Thomas and Mark Selkrig to attend and this gives representation to 3 campuses. These people will then be able to lead some discussion within the Faculty so that all staff will have input into the review

of the University Strategic Plan in light of the major changes which have and are occurring within the University. A senior staff retreat on this is to be held at Beechworth on March 28 and 29 and at that I will be able to present the ideas of the staff within this Faculty. More details of this process will be circulated as they become available.

On Monday February 20 the 2 short listed candidates for the professorial position in the School of Outdoor Education and Environment will present staff seminars. These will be video linked to other campuses and all staff are urged to attend and provide input to me following these seminars.

1. *Prof Barbara Humberstone - 10am (McKay Lecture Theatre-Bendigo, Western Lecture Theatre 3-Bundoora, Room 3116-Albury Wodonga and the Mildura Lecture Theatre)*
2. *Prof Noel Gough - 3pm (McKay Lecture Theatre-Bendigo, Western Lecture Theatre 3-Bundoora, Room 3116-Albury Wodonga and the Mildura Lecture Theatre)*

The interviews will be held on Tuesday February 21 at Bendigo and will be chaired by the Vice Chancellor.

The graduations on the various campuses are coming up over the next few months and I would ask staff to attend these if at all possible as this will be a chance to profile the Faculty as a strong academic entity in the local communities in which the ceremonies are held. In addition there is to be a Dean's Medal awarded to the highest achieving undergraduate and postgraduate student graduating on each campus. A Dean's Lecture Series is also being planned for each campus this year and currently ideas and suggestions about potential high profile speakers who would be appropriate, are welcome.

Thank you again for all your effort towards getting 2006 off to such a positive beginning.

Lorraine

