

Ed News

Vol 2, Issue 5

31 March 2006

Congratulations go to 2 students from the Faculty of Education who are in the School of Education and the School of Educational Studies. These two students, Ashley Steel and Stacey Abbott are the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Targeted Travelling Scholarships for 2006. Ashley is to travel to James Madison University for study and Stacey is to go to Leicester University. We wish both of them well and again congratulate them on this award which is made through the International Network of Universities (INU).

As from April 3 Marion Sargeant, who has been appointed as the Faculty PR/Marketing Manager will take up full-time duties in that role. The delay has been due to the time required to find a replacement for Marion within her School Executive Officer role in the SES. We look forward to having Marion on board in this new role and she will be travelling to all campuses on a regular basis to talk with staff and the wider community about Marketing and Public Relations possibilities.

You will probably have noted that we have been given some further details regarding the upcoming RQF. Some of the main features are that Universities will self-nominate research groupings and staff who are eligible to be part of a research group will be from level B and above who are employed 0.4 or above. Level A staff in postdoctoral positions who have a significant output of research will also be able to be put forward. Panels will assess research groupings as a whole in terms of outputs rather than individuals who constitute the group. Staff eligible will be research only, research and teaching staff but not teaching only staff. Each researcher who is put forward in a research strength group will be required to have produced 4 eligible research outputs over the production period which is 2000 – 2005. For assessment purposes, an academic will be considered an early career researchers if they are in their first four years of academic employment. There are to be 12 expert panels based on RFCD codes. Education is part of a group with Social Sciences and Politics. Research quality will be assessed on the basis of it being judged by the panel as:

- 5 = outstanding and in the top 10% and is world leading and nationally significant
- 4 = Excellent and in top 20% but not within top 10 - meets world standards of excellence and also meets excellence standards nationally
- 3 = High quality – top 40% but not within top 25% - recognised as higher than average quality worldwide and in Australia
- 2 = Moderate – top 60% but not within top 25% - recognised as moderate quality worldwide and nationally
- 1 = Other – bottom 40% in its field.

Research impact is judged on whether it has “High”, “Moderate” or “Low” impact in terms of social, cultural,

economic and/or environmental outcome regionally within Australia, nationally or internationally. As evidence portfolios will accompany each submission to support the claims for this research output being worthy of assessment. There is much more about this but these are the main points as I see them. There is discussion about how far down the ratings of 5 to 1 funding will go and whilst it is thought there may be funding from 2 to 5 there will be a very steep curve from 2 to 5 which means 2 will receive very little at all. There appears to be no third stream funding available.

For the first three days of this week I attended a Senior Staff Workshop at the Beechworth campus. There were many issues addressed at this, especially a review of the University Strategic Plan. Some staff have already been involved in workshops leading to this. I will make a separate report of the outcomes of the workshop and send to all staff within the next week.

You will be aware that I have been asked to become the Campus Director at Bendigo when Professor Sullivan leaves in May to take up his new appointment at Monash. With the alignment of the Bendigo campus fully into the University wide structures (both academically and administratively) this means that it is of course the Deans who are responsible for all of the programs and processes that occur within their Faculties and thus are responsible for all Faculty matters at Bendigo campus. As Director it is my role to act in direct collaboration with Deans to assist and support them in matters concerning the provision of their programs at the campus, to inform them of possible community linkages for their programs, to assist them to build their programs and courses within the region and to ensure that the kinds of resources and facilities that they require for their programs, are, as far as is reasonable and possible, available and are of good quality. In order for me to do this I will be assisted by 2 Deputy Directors. A Deputy Director (Resources) and a Deputy Director (Academic) will assist me to work across the campus and all of the Faculties and units, to maintain and further develop programs and resources and services at campus level. These positions will be senior academic positions.

Cheers,

Lorraine

