

# Ed News

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Today we welcome to the Faculty Dr Margaret Robertson who joins the School of Educational Studies as an Associate Professor. Margaret comes to us from the University of Tasmania and brings with her a wealth of experience as a researcher, teacher and administrator. Margaret is taking over the role of Associate Dean (Research) from Dr Ramon Lewis, and thus she will work with staff across all Schools and campuses in the Faculty. Sincere appreciation is expressed here to Dr Lewis who has undertaken the Associate Dean (Research) role so successfully and competently.

We congratulate Dr Jennifer Sheed on being granted a Quality Initiatives Funding Grant Award. Jennifer, as Associate Dean (Academic) is working closely with her counterparts in other Faculties, and with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to raise the Learning and Teaching quality profile. In line with this, there is to be an All-Staff seminar day on 15 May at the Institute for Advanced Study, at the Bundoora campus. Dr Geoff Scott who is an expert in the area of the Course Experience Questionnaire which forms the basic data for allocation of Learning and Teaching Performance Funds to Universities, will work with staff to assist us to better understand the CEQ. This is crucial for the Faculty and the University as a whole and all staff, both academic and administrative, are required to attend this seminar.

The draft of the new Strategic Plan of the University will be posted on the website next Monday, following discussions across all Faculties, with Mr Bob Goddard, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Development). Bob will meet with Faculty staff at Bendigo on Thursday 11 May in Education Room 323/325 at 3pm and at Bundoora on Friday 12 May in the Council Chambers, John Scott Meeting House at 12pm. This is another vital meeting for staff to attend as it sets the direction of the University to 2010.

This week I am meeting with Bob Goddard to agree on the target student numbers for each School and campus for 2007. This is in anticipation of the setting of the DEST profiles for the University for 2007 in the next few weeks. Whilst the Faculty grew 25% in 2005 and has grown an additional 11+% in 2006, Heads of Schools and Faculty Executive sees a time for consolidation ahead. Thus we should not fall below our set targets, and may still exceed them in some areas, however a consolidation of the growth of the last two years, and a setting in place of senior staffing across the Faculty is seen as the immediate priority for 2007. Budget discussions and processes are well underway for 2007 and senior Faculty staff are currently finalising the budget submission.

Thank you to all staff who attended the various graduation ceremonies across our five campuses. Congratulations to all Faculty staff who graduated and also to all staff who have contributed to the success of the graduates from this Faculty.

Our challenges within the Faculty surround attracting and maintaining more high quality postgraduate students (both coursework and research), increasing our research income and output, and attracting more international students, especially at the regional campuses. With our PR/Marketing manager Marion Sargeant now fully devoted to that role, moves are already afoot to significantly increase the profile of the Faculty locally and internationally.

Congratulations again to all staff who have gained awards or published work recently. Thank you to all staff for your continued commitment and hard work.

