



# ED NEWS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
LATROBE UNIVERSITY

Volume 3: Issue 3

23 February 2007

As you now know, the Regional Review Report has passed through University Council and will be implemented progressively. Some major points made pertain to the need for an overarching regional strategy, stronger alliances between the TAFE and University sector, increased international student numbers especially on regional campuses, demand driven courses and programs, special provision for regional marketing, elearning and teaching to be a major funding priority, increased focus on research on regional campuses, improved approaches to community engagement, investigation into the establishment of a Water Research Institute, and revised Terms of Reference for Regional Advisory Boards. It is clear that the University is committed to a strong and vibrant regional presence and that pressure is to be put on the government at a national level, to increase funding for regional campuses in particular.

I met twice at the end of January with Professor Paul Johnson, the incoming Vice Chancellor. During those discussions, I presented to him a proposed model for the restructure of the Faculty of Education and canvassed with him, whether this was in line with the directions he saw as necessary. The model, which proposes academic and administrative restructure, addresses many of the problems Professor Johnson alluded to in the current structure of this Faculty, such as three relatively small, separate Schools with the attendant infrastructure, budget separation and administrative replication needed to support them. It also proposes a cross campus team approach at both academic and administrative levels, thus potentially creating greater flexibility and collaboration. Professor Johnson stressed that we cannot expect the future to be "business as usual" as significant and radical change is needed generally in the University. The major areas which must change to meet Professor Johnson's criteria include the need for all courses to have mid year

entry, the Faculties must see themselves as there to serve the University and not vice versa, research institutes need to be set up which cross Faculty boundaries. There will also be an emphasis on demand driven course development with niche degrees to address specific and identified community and professional needs. Professor Johnson joins the University officially on 16 April 2007.

I expect that next week, a discussion paper and the proposed model for the restructure of the Faculty of Education will be available for all staff to peruse prior to meetings being held and comments and suggestions being provided to me by groups or individuals. Following this any appropriate revisions will be made and the Organisational Change process will formally begin as outlined in the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. It is not expected that there will be any redundancies as a direct result of the restructure. This model involves a more sustainable and streamlined organizational structure to support both academic and administrative staff.

Thank you to Vaughan in his role as Acting Dean for the past two weeks while I have been on leave. Thanks also to others who have deputized for me at various meetings. The graduation round begins in March and staff is required to register online for inclusion in academic processions. I hope that as many staff as possible will attend the relevant graduation celebration in the life of the Faculty and of our students.

To all staff who have assisted with Orientation Week activities, I extend sincere thanks on behalf of the Faculty.

*Lorraine M. Ling*