

(ACEDD June 2016 Darwin MINUTES)

## **MINUTES, MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEANS AND DIRECTORS**

**Charles Darwin University, June 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

### **In attendance:**

Andrew Campbell (CDU, President), Jane Chambers (Murdoch), Jo-Anne Chuck (WSU), Ian Clark (Executive Officer), Delma Clifton (CQU), Grant Daggard (USQ), Jenny Davis (CDU), Chris Frid (Griffith), Guang Shi (Deakin), Dianne Gleeson (Canberra), Marc Hockings (UQ), Pierre Horwitz (ECU), Gunnar Keppel (UniSA), Janette Lindesay (ANU), Michael Lockwood (U Tas), Andrew Millington (Flinders, Immediate Past President), Stuart Parsons (QUT), Nigel Tapper (Monash), Kathryn Williams (Melbourne), Grant Wardell-Johnson (Curtin), Jonathan Webb, (UTS), Ben Wilson (Charles Sturt)

### **Apologies**

Jonathan Aitchison (UQ), John Bartlett (Sunshine Coast), Rebekah Brown (Monash), Andy Ball (RMIT), Mike Clarke (Latrobe), Steve Dovers (ANU), Zenobia Jacobs (Wollongong), Greg Kolt (WSU), Neil Loneragan (Murdoch), Bruce Milthorpe (UTS), Tony O'Donnell (UWA), Enzo Palombo (Swinburne), Neil Saintilan (Macquarie), Scott Smithers (JCU), Jerry Vanclay (SCU), Karl Vernes (UNE, Treasurer),

### **Wednesday 8th June**

Travelled from Darwin to Litchfield NP  
Evening presentations and discussion related to Northern Australia Development.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June Education campground Litchfield National Park**

The group enjoyed presentations from CDU researchers on top end mammal decline; carbon physiology of tropical savannas; and ecosystem services, indigenous livelihoods & the carbon economy.

The afternoon returned to Darwin via termite mounds and presentations on aquatic ecology, water resources management and fisheries at Charles Darwin National Park.

The evening session began with the Charles Darwin Scholars Public Lecture by Emeritus Professors Peter and Rosemary Grant of Princeton University on their 43 years of fieldwork on evolutionary aspects of Galapagos finches. This was followed by the Council Dinner in the Indonesian Garden at CDU, at which ACEDD delegates were joined by CDU Vice-Chancellor Prof Simon Maddocks, the Grants and Prof Sue Carthew, Pro Vice Chancellor of CDU's Faculty of Engineering, Health, Science and the Environment (and former ACEDD member).

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Council Room, Charles Darwin University**

**Chair: Professor Andrew Campbell**

**9.00-9.10: Welcome**

Delegates were welcomed to the CDU by Professor Simon Maddocks, Vice Chancellor of CDU.

President, Professor Andrew Campbell welcomed ACEDD delegates noting the large group and the members who were attending for the first time.

**9.15-10.40**

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held 29-30 October 2015 at ANU were confirmed.

**Matters arising/President's report**

**(i) President's Report**

Professor Campbell announced his appointment as CEO of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) commencing 31 July. As ACIAR is a research funding body he felt it necessary to resign as President of ACEDD.

Council agreed that President-elect Associate Professor Grant Wardell-Johnson should begin his term as President and that Professor Andrew Millington should continue in the role of Immediate Past President.

Election of a new President-elect will be held at the next Council meeting in Canberra in November. Expressions of interest will be sought closer to the meeting.

**Action: EO**

**(ii) Curriculum Mapping**

EO advised that an online curriculum mapping tool developed for an OLT project at the University of Tasmania is able to be hosted on the new ACEDD website. Agreed that it will be trialled on one or two programs and further considered at the next meeting.

**(iii) ACEDD Scholars**

Eight students have been nominated for 2016. Certificates and \$200 awards have been sent to each nominee. Swinburne is yet to name their winner but the money has been forwarded for presentation at their award ceremony.

Agreed that the prize should be raised to \$250 for 2016 and that nominations can be made at anytime during the year.

**(iv) Science meets Parliament**

Dr Tom Raimondo (UniSA) and Dr Carly Cook (university?) were chosen to represent ACEDD. Six strong nominations were received.

## **Finance Report**

A summary of income and expenses was tabled. Balance at May 30 is \$150 483.70. Most Universities have paid including outstanding fees.

After a discussion of the role(s) of the Council confirming its core functions of advocacy for — and sharing knowledge about — environmental science education and higher education, it was agreed that an ACEDD Strategic Plan should be developed. A facilitated half-day discussion will be held at the Council meeting in Canberra in November. Council members were asked to nominate potential facilitators.

**Action Exec**

## **Delegate's reports**

Each member briefly described the current activities related to environmental programs in their institution.

- Most programs were undergoing or had just undergone restructure as a result of wider University restructure, new VCs, reduction in number of degrees, or small boutique degrees being closed;
- Several institutions are advertising or in the process of appointing Level E positions as well as B and C level appointments
- Some concern expressed about the number of casual staff being used to support teaching, but also efforts at several universities to better support and build capacity among the casual academic workforce
- Appointment of senior academics (DVC and VC) with science backgrounds at some institutions is encouraging
- Encouragement for work integrated learning but finding placements is an issue for some;
- Masters programs are popular, especially with International students but supervision load associated with Masters research projects is a common issue.

## **11.00-11.30: Future Employment working party**

Workshop (Canberra 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016) with external experts in the field raised many questions.

Agreed that Andrew Campbell should work with Professor Steve Dovers to identify a consultant to undertake a two-part study and report to the November 2016 meeting. Terms of reference will be developed and circulated by email. Budget up to \$30 000.

**Action Exec**

## **11.30-12.30: Honours Programs**

Similarity in the various models described and general consensus about the on-going relevance and value of the traditional Honours year. All contained course work including research methods as well as a thesis. Level of Honours was based on overall GPA with weighting for the thesis mark.

### **1.30-2.30: Field intensive courses**

A wide range of ideas was canvassed in the discussion. Agreement that field-based and intensive courses made available for cross-institutional enrolment will benefit students and institutions:

- low enrolment courses could be filled by allowing access to students from other institutions;
- wide range of physical environments across the country;
- reduce impact of repeated contact of small groups to sites (eg. Indigenous sites);
- attractive to foreign students.

Some challenges

- need for pre-requisites
- ensure rigour and applicability
- cost to students and institutions
- sharing income

Professor Jenny Davis (CDU) agreed to coordinate the development of a database of existing offerings, and to investigate potential models for cross-institutional enrolments.

### **2.30-3.00: ACEDD Website**

The unavailability of Hello Developers to continue to host the website has provided the opportunity for a review of content and layout. An Adelaide based company *EDYNAM* will undertake the redevelopment. Council suggested the following guidelines:

- Needs to be easy to keep up-to-date
- Search engine optimisation
- Include member list
- Separate parts for Council and public easy to navigate.

**Action EO**

### **15.00 Future meetings**

The next meeting will be hosted by the University of Canberra (assisted by CSU) November 3-4, 2016

The autumn 2017 meeting will be hosted by the University of Tasmania.

### **15.15 Meeting closed.**

Professor Andrew Campbell was thanked for his work as President and along with CDU colleagues for arranging an enjoyable and informative meeting program.