MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS/SUB-DEANS’ GROUP

A meeting of the FAO/Sub-Deans’ Group will be held on Friday 4 September 2009 in the Senate Room from 9.30 to 11.00am.

NB:

9:00am-9:30am Garry Hendy will be available to meet with interested staff re the “Awarding of Credit (Advanced Standing) from the International Centre to International Students”.

1. UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Sylvia Lang will provide an update on the Academic Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2009.

2. CHANGED OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – UPDATE FROM DAVE NORMAN

Dave Norman has asked that the following items regarding changes to the options available for students who are suspended/excluded from their courses and about student visa holders and ACCESS UWA be discussed:

(a) ACCESS UWA

The University has previously been advised by DEEWR that Student Visa holders can only do concurrent study in CRICOS-registered courses. DEEWR has recently confirmed that this also applies to units studied via Access UWA, and that for Student Visa holders to do these units we would have to register them as courses on CRICOS. As there are a variety of good academic reasons to allow Student Visa holders to do units via Access UWA, the International Centre and UWA Extension suggest that a group of interested Sub Deans and FAOs meet with International Centre staff to discuss how best to proceed.

(b) UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS – STUDENT VISA HOLDERS

Failure to make satisfactory academic progress is a breach of the conditions of a student visa, resulting in mandatory visa cancellation and a three-year exclusion from Australia.

Past and current practice has been to offer UWA students two options to avoid being reported to DEEWR/DIAC. The first is to successfully appeal their exclusion or suspension, and the second is to transfer into another UWA course.

We have recently been instructed by DEEWR to impose a time limit for student visa holders to make an external appeal. This goes against advice from Legal Services that to do so exposes the University if we report a student and their visa is cancelled before they have exhausted their legal right to appeal. An alternative solution, whereby we report them at the end of the internal appeals process, was proposed to DEEWR more than a year ago, but there has been little progress on this.

In light of DEEWR’s attitude with regard to this matter, the International Centre has raised the practice of not reporting students who transfer to another course with Legal Services, which feels that the legal case for this is uncertain. Consequently we consider the practice should not be continued.

As a result, from the end of this year, students who are suspended or excluded will only be able to avoid visa cancellation if their suspension/exclusion is lifted. This makes it critical that the University’s intervention strategies are as effective as possible and that its appeals management system is straightforward, consistent and allows students to present a case based not just on process but on their personal circumstances.

3. OTHER BUSINESS