



YEAR IN REVIEW

Vice-Chancellor's Review

The University continued its rapid pace of development in 2002, with a number of significant initiatives and strong progress made towards the achievement of the institution's objectives.

The University's four strategic priority objectives, relating to distinctiveness, growth and development, quality, and innovation and flexibility, were approved by University Council.

Within the Strategic Plan there are two closely-linked dimensions of the University's mission, one relating to high academic standing and the other which is a commitment to regional development. The University addressed these intertwined dimensions in examples reported below.

In advancing the distinctiveness of its academic programs, the University struck several highly beneficial and productive regional partnerships in 2002. A collaborative venture with Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village led to the establishment of a new research and education centre on Fraser Island. In conjunction with Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE, the University developed a series of four degree/diploma programs relating to regional industries such as tourism. In yet another highly beneficial institutional partnership, the University of the Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland University came to an agreement whereby a much sought-after Bachelor of Health (Nursing) will be available to regional Sunshine Coast students in 2003.

The University has taken the regional lead in establishing an Innovation Centre. The work of that Innovation Centre's business incubator commenced in 2002, with the appointment of a Chief Executive and the establishment of a board of directors and an advisory network. Discussions also continued successfully with State Government departments on the creation of a Technology Park which, once established, would link closely with the work currently being done in the Innovation Centre. In another regional development, the Noosa Study Centre was established for University and English Language Centre students.

Promoting partnerships occurred not only at the regional level in, for example, the four major Education Cluster regional projects focusing on innovation, business links, internationalisation and future learning communities, but the University also partnered nationally to form the New Generation Universities Coalition, following an international conference involving the Federal Minister for Education. In another nationally significant partnership, the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre was established on campus and opened by the Federal Minister for Ageing, the Hon. Kevin Andrews.

Work on quality gained further momentum in 2002, and a visit by the Executive Director of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) was helpful for future planning. New plans and systems were designed to enhance a framework of quality assurance in teaching, research, information technology, community service, staff and student support, as well as the development of the campus and its infrastructure.

In addition to this, steps were taken to enhance international benchmarking with other universities, for example the University of Northern British Columbia. These initiatives underscored the University's commitment to quality and international standards.

Academically, culturally, economically and environmentally, the University was directly involved with, and frequently provided community leadership on, a spectrum of regionally significant issues such as regional infrastructure, tourism, education and community development. A study commissioned by the Federal Government Department of Transport and Regional Services recognised the University's outstanding commitment to the Sunshine Coast community in a report on engagement titled 'Universities and their Communities'.

Other ongoing work such as that conducted by the University's Sunshine Coast Research Institute for Business Enterprise (SCRIBE), consultation with Maroochy Shire Council senior staff, and discussions with the combined group of regional Councils (SunROC), together contributed to the continued emergence of the University as one of the most significant of regional institutions.

The international student enrolment numbers increased substantially, and local student demand caused an over-enrolment of domestic students despite a Commonwealth Government allocation of an additional fifty places to regional universities. These extra places were very welcome and allowed the University some flexibility to rethink program priorities, gradually increasing the discipline mix and responding to community needs.

Perhaps the most significant source of frustration for the University of the Sunshine Coast is that it is unable to broaden its academic profile and increase domestic quota places to meet the escalating demand. Visits by successive Ministers, both Federal and State, and particularly the visit of Dr Brendan Nelson to initiate the Stage V building project, suggested they were aware of the problem and have some sympathy with the urgency of addressing the need to encourage further growth. We look forward to the results of the Higher Education Crossroads Review.

The University has, since its inception, prided itself on being flexible and innovative, examining each initiative on its merits and dealing with it expeditiously. This modus operandi has received international and national recognition and was, for example, generously acknowledged by the University's most recent honorary doctor, Ambassador Richard Butler, in his graduation address in April.

In the same way, a number of independent national surveys identified student support services, staff qualifications, regional engagement, and financial management as strengths of the University in 2002.

The key to the University of the Sunshine Coast's continued growth and success is the teamwork and co-operative spirit that permeates the work of the institution. This spirit, displayed by staff, students, and supporters in the community alike, is what is enabling the University to surpass the regional impact of any of its Australian predecessors at a similar stage, by a considerable margin.

It is a pleasant experience for me as Vice-Chancellor to see such committed staff and a supportive Council working in concert to ensure the continuing success of the University.



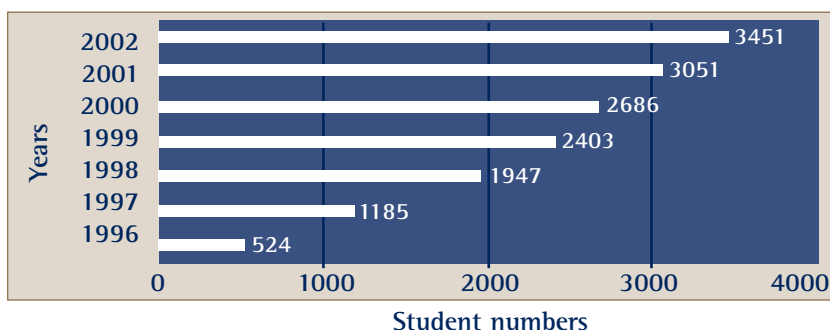
Professor Paul Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

“University of the Sunshine Coast is located just north of Queensland’s capital city, Brisbane. The name reflects our cultural and economic commitment to the region and the importance we place on community relationships. Of equal importance is the culture we have developed at the University of the Sunshine Coast – a welcoming spirit that recognises and enables individuals in a progressive, innovative and entrepreneurial environment.”

STATISTICS

Student population growth

At the March 31 census date of 2002, the University had a total student population of 3,451, an increase of 13 percent on 2001.



Student load

The University's student load increased in 2002 by more than 252 EFTSU*. (Student load calculations exclude exchange students.)

Student load	2001 EFTSU	2002 EFTSU
Operating grant student load	2154.621	2316.75
Research Training Scheme places	10.0	15.0
Other (includes full fee-paying international, postgraduate and non-award student load)	222.125	307.375
TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT 2002 (all sources)	2386.746	2639.125

*EFTSU – Equivalent Full-Time Student Unit

Faculty/combined program population and gender split

The Faculty of Business was the largest faculty in 2002. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences experienced the greatest growth, with a 20 percent increase in student numbers. The area with the largest increase was "Non-award" (cross institution, exchange, Study Abroad, visiting, Headstart and Merit Scholarship students), at almost 77 percent.

Faculty/combined program	Population 2001	Population 2002	% change	Female %	Male %
Arts and Social Sciences	833	1000	↑ 20	70	30
Business	1362	1407	↑ 3.3	51	49
Science	833	918	↑ 10.2	52	48
Combined Arts/Business	70	84	↑ 20	71	29
Combined Business/Science	39	66	↑ 69	55	45
Combined Arts/Science	61	50	↓ 10.9	60	40
Non-award	73	129	↑ 76.7	70	30
TOTAL	3051	3451	↑ 13.1	57	43

Age distribution of students

In 2002, 61 percent of the student population was mature-aged (21 years and over), a two percent decrease on 2001. The average age was 26, however the age group 19-20 had the largest number of students, and represented 26 percent of the student population.

Program type	Students' age								Total	Avg Age
	<=18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+		
Bachelors	410	887	671	297	361	250	85	14	2975	25
%	14	30	23	10	12	8	3	0	100%	
Honours			11	6	6	12	2	2	39	36
%			29	15	15	31	5	5	100%	
Postgraduate Coursework			7	44	132	57	24	264	36	36
%			3	17	50	21	9		100%	
Higher Degree Research			1	6	14	15	9	2	47	41
%			2	13	30	32	19	4	100%	
Non-Award	28	12	60	3	7	8	5	6	129	25
%	22	9	47	2	5	6	4	5	100%	
TOTAL	438	899	747	356	520	342	125	24	3451	26
% TOTAL	13	26	22	10	15	10	3	1	100%	

First in family to attend university as an undergraduate student

The University continued to achieve its aim of enabling people to access university education, with 42 percent of the undergraduate student population (excluding Honours students) the first in their family to attend university. This was an increase of five percent on 2001.

	Students' age								Total
	<=18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
First person in family to attend university	172	419	257	106	152	104	28	3	1241
%	42	47	38	36	42	42	33	21	42%

Permanent home residence of on-campus students

The Sunshine Coast community, one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, continued to show high demand for a regional university, with 81 percent of students being permanent residents on the Sunshine Coast. This was an increase of four percent on 2001.

State/Region	Students	
Caboolture Shire	188	
Caloundra City	546	
Coolooloa Shire	66	
Kilcoy	5	
Maroochy Shire	1539	
Noosa Shire	252	
Sunshine Coast total		2596
Brisbane	310	
Darling Downs	28	
Far North	4	
Fitzroy	12	
Mackay	3	
Moreton North	4	
Moreton South	19	
North West	3	
Northern	2	
South West	4	
Wide Bay	35	
Other Queensland total		424
ACT	2	
New South Wales	30	
Northern Territory	1	
South Australia	1	
Tasmania	2	
Victoria	5	
Western Australia	1	
Interstate total		42
Overseas total		107
No information total		18
TOTAL		3187

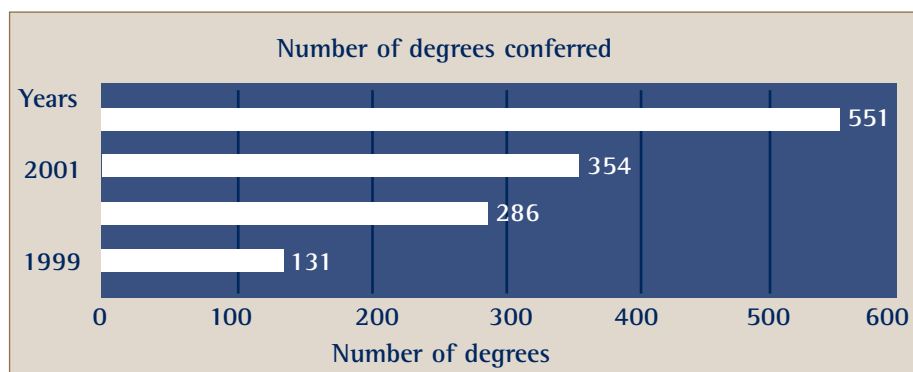
International students by faculty and mode

In 2002, 229 students from 19 countries were enrolled at the University. The highest number of students was from the United States of America through the Study Abroad program. A large number of students also came from Japan, with the majority enrolled in research programs. Growing numbers of students came from Canada, Germany and Sweden.

Faculty	Students			
	On-campus	Off-campus (postgraduate research)	On-line	Total
Arts and Social Sciences	13			13
Business	21	8	117	146
Science	11			11
Other (Exchange/Study Abroad)	59			59
TOTAL	104	8	117	229

Graduate numbers

The University reached a total of 1289 graduates in 2002, with 551 testamurs awarded in April at Graduation. Since the first graduation ceremony in 1999, 33 students have graduated with further qualifications from the University of the Sunshine Coast.



Graduate employment outcomes

In 2002, 57 percent of graduates responded to the Graduate Destination Survey/Course Experience Questionnaire. (National response rate 60.7 percent. Graduate Careers Council of Australia.)

The survey results showed that 81 percent of respondents were employed full-time or part-time, or enrolled in full-time study. Fifty percent of those employed full-time were working on the Sunshine Coast, while 28 percent were based in Brisbane. The average starting salary for these graduates was \$34,523.

Graduate satisfaction

In 2002, respondents of the Graduate Destination Survey/Course Experience Questionnaire gave the University of the Sunshine Coast the following ratings:

Overall satisfaction	90%
Generic skills	91%
Good teaching	86%
Broad satisfaction	89%

(National average: 89 percent broad satisfaction. Graduate Careers Council of Australia.)

Staff qualifications

The 2002 staffing report released by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) placed the University of the Sunshine Coast as the second-highest institution in Queensland on the proportion of full-time academic staff with higher degrees.

The DEST figures put the University within the top ten of the 39 universities in Australia, ahead of most of the metropolitan universities:

1. Avondale College
2. Australian Catholic University
3. Australian National University
4. University of Technology, Sydney
5. Macquarie University
6. Griffith University
7. University of Wollongong
8. The University of Adelaide
- 9. University of the Sunshine Coast**
10. The University of New England

Research funding

Funding received from the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) increased substantially in 2002, to a total of \$429,137.

DEST research funding received	2001	2002
Institutional Grants Scheme	\$51,080	\$119,186
Research Training Scheme	\$192,000	\$305,954
Research Infrastructure Block Grants	\$481	\$3,997
TOTAL	\$243,561	\$429,137

Resources

The University had a student:computer ratio of 11:1 in 2002. The Library collection reached more than 61,000 print and 10,300 electronic volumes in 2002, with the collection growing by more than 15,500 volumes each year.

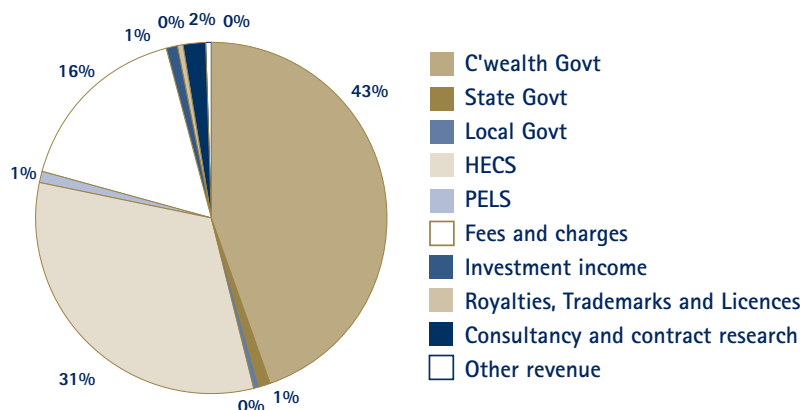
In 2002 the University of the Sunshine Coast was ranked number one in the country for the fourth consecutive year on total budget expenditure spent on information resources, according to the Council of Australian University Libraries statistics.

Finances

Revenue 2002

Total revenue for 2002: \$32.488m
(Total revenue for 2001: \$31.697m)

Revenue from fees and charges (including fee-paying students) was \$5.176m, an increase of 63.1 percent on 2001.



Expenses 2002

Total expenses for 2002: \$31.339m
(Total expenses for 2001: \$25.583m)

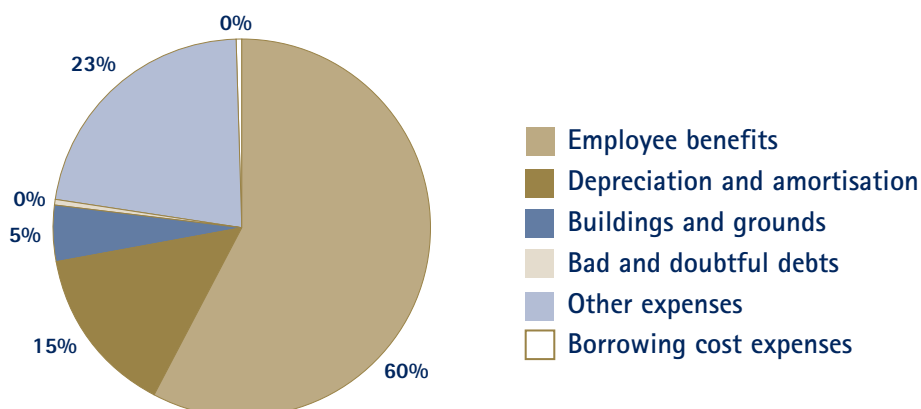
Payments for employee benefits (salaries and related expenses) totalled \$18.599m, up from \$16.055m in 2001.

Expenditure on buildings and grounds was \$1.646m, an increase of 35 percent on 2001.

Total equity at December 31, 2002: \$57.418m
(Total equity at December 31, 2001: \$53.874m)

Liquidity ratio at December 31, 2002: 2.67:1
(Liquidity ratio at December 31, 2001: 2.32:1)

Borrowings at December 31, 2002: \$4.427m
(Borrowings at December 31, 2001: \$4.727m)



Expenditure on consultancies

The table below shows the expenditure on each category of consultancies under the State Purchasing Policy.

Category	\$
Professional/Technical	411,374
Communications	41,954
Finance/Accounting	64
Information Technology	49,778
Human Resource Management	22,936
Management	7,000
General	180,197
TOTAL	\$ 713,303

Controlled entities

The Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd was formed by the University of the Sunshine Coast on 26 October 2000, under the University of the Sunshine Coast Act, 1998, Part 2, s6. Financial statements are audited by the Queensland Audit Office. The primary purpose of the company is to provide regional leadership and support for new businesses designed to create wealth and generate employment opportunities on the Sunshine Coast.

The financial performance of the controlled entity is shown in the Consolidated Statements in the University's financial statements for the year ended 31 December, 2002.