

Organisation

“AUQA commends USC for its management of work-integrated learning... and for its commitment to ongoing review...”

Australian Universities Quality Agency report

Basis of authority

The University was established under the *Sunshine Coast University College Act 1994* and officially opened by the Governor of Queensland, Mrs Leneen Forde AC, in 1996. Full university powers were granted under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*.

Functions of the University

The University's functions are to:

- provide education at university standard;
- provide facilities for, and encourage, study and research;
- encourage the advancement and development of knowledge, and its application to government, industry, commerce and the community;
- provide courses of study or instruction, at levels of achievement the Council considers appropriate, to meet the needs of the community;
- confer higher education awards;
- disseminate knowledge and promote scholarship;
- provide facilities and resources for the wellbeing of the University's staff, students and other persons undertaking courses at the University;
- exploit commercially, for the University's benefit, a facility or resource of the University, including, for example, study, research or knowledge, or the practical application of study, research or knowledge, belonging to the University, whether alone or with someone else; and
- perform other functions given to the University under the Act or another Act.

University powers

- (1) Under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* the University has all the powers of an individual. It may, for example:
- a) enter into contracts;
 - b) acquire, hold, dispose of, and deal with property;
 - c) appoint agents and attorneys;
 - d) engage consultants;
 - e) fix charges, and other terms, for services and other facilities it supplies; and

- f) do anything else necessary or convenient to be done for its functions.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the University has the powers given to it under its Act or another Act.
- (3) The University may exercise its powers inside and outside Queensland.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), the University may exercise its powers outside Australia.

Governing body

Under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*, Council (pages 6–7) is designated the University's governing body. In particular, Council has power to appoint University staff and manage and control University affairs, property and finances. Where allowed under the Act, Council may delegate powers to an appropriately qualified member of Council or member of the University's staff; or to an appropriately qualified committee that includes one or more members of Council.

Controlled entities

University Council approved a Policy for the Establishment and Operation of Controlled Entities in December 2006.

Innovation Centre

The University established the Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd (ICSC) on 26 October 2000, under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* Part 2(6).

The company's mission is to support the start-up and growth of knowledge-based businesses and to promote beneficial interaction between these businesses and the University. Its supporters include the University, Maroochy Shire Council, State and Federal Governments, and private business.

ICSC operates an award-winning Technology Business Incubator located in the Innovation Centre Building, a \$7 million facility on the University campus. The Business Incubator has nurtured about 40 early-stage businesses in sectors such as software development, multimedia, nanotechnology and sustainable water solutions.

ICSC also runs a Student Enterprise Program enabling students and graduates to launch businesses.

In 2007, the program included:

- a series of Enterprise Tuesday business networking events (page 39); and
- two on-campus Enterprisers programs for around 128 students from Australia, New Zealand and the UK, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (page 39).

Construction began on the Business Accelerator (page 16), to be located in part of the space used initially as an auditorium in the existing facility. The project, part-funded by the Queensland Government, will provide office space and business development services for established technology businesses and service firms.

A nominee of the Queensland Audit Office audits the company's financial statements. These are reported in the Consolidated Statements section of the University's financial statements (page 70) for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Multi Access Productions Pty Ltd

The University established Multi Access Productions Pty Ltd (MAP) on 21 March 2006, under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* Part 2(6).

Following an independent review, MAP Board members recommended in December 2006 that operations be wound up due to limited availability of resources to progress the venture in a competitive environment. In 2007, the University Council approved dissolution of the company.

MAP operated as a spin-off business of the University. It resulted from a research collaboration involving an international consortium of universities and IBM, focusing on accessible communications and voice recognition technology.

A nominee of the Queensland Audit Office audited the company's financial statements. These are reported in the Consolidated Statements section of the University's financial statements (page 70) for the year ended 31 December 2007.