

UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

Establishment

University of the Sunshine Coast is the first 'greenfield' university to be established in Australia in over 20 years. The concept of a university for the fast growing region of the Sunshine Coast was first proposed in 1973. In 1988-89, Commonwealth support was obtained and a 100 hectare site selected at Sippy Downs. The *Sunshine Coast University College Act* was passed in Queensland Parliament on 1 July 1994, and in February 1996, Sunshine Coast University College opened its doors to 524 students.

Full university status was obtained on 1 January 1999 under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*. The university college became University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia's youngest independent university, and was granted full membership to the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee (AV-CC) in November 2000.

In 2002, the student population numbered just over 3,100. The University is projected to accommodate 15,000 students in 20 years, and will become part of a master-planned township at Sippy Downs.

The University's three faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Business and Science offer a broad range of undergraduate and honours degrees, and postgraduate programs. The innovative on-line Master of Business Administration and Master of Financial Planning enable students to study from anywhere in the world.

The University's buildings have won awards for their architectural design and innovation. In 1997 the University Library won the prestigious national architecture award, the Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Best Public Building. Stage V of the University, an Information and Communications Technology Building, is due to commence construction in 2003, and will contain a productive ageing research centre.

In 2001, Queensland's Premier Peter Beattie opened the Innovation Centre, which accommodates a 2,000 seat auditorium, the University's English Language Centre, and business incubator. The incubator provides a data rich environment for technology-based businesses, nurturing their development from small and medium enterprises into successful, long-term business entities.

A Co-op Bookshop, and the offices of University for the Third Age (U3A) and Open Learning are also located on campus.

Mission, Values and Goals

Mission Statement

To be the major catalyst for the academic, cultural and economic advancement of the region through the pursuit of international standards in teaching and research, and by being responsive to students, staff, community and the environment.

Values

The following values underpin the University's everyday operations and its pursuit of its Mission:

- A commitment to the advancement, dissemination and preservation of knowledge through innovative and effective teaching and research

- A commitment to foster freedom of inquiry and expression
- A commitment to the process of lifelong learning
- A commitment to engage in and respond to the community's intellectual, cultural and economic needs
- A commitment to adopt consultative processes and ethical behaviour in all activities
- A commitment to engendering respect among students, staff and Council of the University for their diverse roles and contributions
- A commitment to fairness, openness, honesty, trust and effective communication as fundamental expectations of students, staff and all associated with the University
- A commitment to developing the University and its surrounds as an environmentally sensitive exemplar

Goals

1. The University

To build on a set of unique strengths as a modern university pursuing international standards in teaching and research.

2. The Students

To provide equitable and increased opportunity for students to engage in undergraduate and graduate studies, which emphasise knowledge, critical, reflective and creative thinking, ethics, lifelong learning and an entrepreneurial outlook on employment.

3. The Staff

To continue to attract and retain high quality staff who are committed to innovative, responsive and flexible approaches to all facets of the University's operations.

4. The Community

To foster partnerships which advance the academic, cultural and economic profile of the regional community in the context of environmental responsibility.

5. University Management

To develop a work environment characterised by mutual respect and support within a framework of openness and accountability, which is economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Mace

The mace, which has medieval origins, has a symbolic role in the defence of academic freedom. The mace has gradually become the symbol of the formal authority of a university, and is carried by the Yeoman Bedell in formal ceremonies at which the Chancellor is present.

The mace can vary in size and can be made of materials such as gold, silver, copper, glass and wood. Some are extremely ornate and those of older universities reflect church origins and academic traditions.

University of the Sunshine Coast's mace is carved from red cedar, felled on the slopes of Buderim in the inter-war years. The University's mace acknowledges tradition, and its more recent institutional origins and contemporary emphases.

The design of the University's mace draws from the three interwoven themes reflected in the institution's logo, mission and ongoing development. These are academic traditions and quality; the regional community; and a significant commitment and sensitivity to the environment.

The mace is normally displayed in a specially constructed cabinet in the Council Room of the University.

University Logo

The University of the Sunshine Coast's logo has three related elements.

The Sunshine Coast region is symbolised by the sun element, the academic focus of the University is seen in the open book shape, and the dynamic abstraction of the radiating points resembles the unique form of the Library - the traditional source of information in a university community. The spliced rectangle on the right is both the land and water of the Coast and hinterland.



GOVERNING BODIES and SENIOR STAFF

Council

The Council is the University's governing body. The *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* provides that the Council may do anything necessary to be done for, or in connection with, its functions. Council has the powers given to it under the Act and, in particular, may appoint staff, manage and control the University's affairs and property, and manage and control the University's finances.

The Council must act in the way that appears to it to most likely promote the interests of the University. It may delegate its powers under the Act to a member of the Council, a committee of the Council, or to a member of staff.

Composition of Council

Official Members

Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor

Chief Executive of the Queensland Department of Education or the Chief Executive's Nominee

Chairperson of the Academic Board

President of the Student Guild or the President's Nominee

Appointed Members

8 members appointed by the Governor in Council

Elected Members

3 members of the University's academic staff

1 member of the University's full-time general staff

1 member of the student body (other than a person mentioned above)

2 members of the Convocation (other than persons mentioned above)

Additional Members

Council may appoint two additional members (not members of staff or students)

Council members as at 26 November 2002

Chancellor

Mr Ian KENNEDY, AO

Chairman and Managing Director, Kilcoy Holdings Limited

Deputy Chancellor

Mr Tim FAIRFAX, FAICD

Grazier and Company Director

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Paul THOMAS, BSc(Hons), DipEd *Wales*, MA *Lough.*, PhD *Qld*, FACE, LRPS

Nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department of Education

Mr Robin McALPINE, BA, DipEd *Qld.*
District Director, Nambour District, Education Queensland

Chairperson of the Academic Board

Professor Paul CLARK, BSc(Hons), PhD *Exe.*, DipEd(Tert) *Monash*, FAIP, FIICA

President, USC Student Guild

Mr Geoff DAY

Eight members appointed by the Governor in Council

Ms Norelle DEETH, BA, BComm, Dip Ed, *Qld.*, MAICD
Senior Management (Public Sector)

Mr Tim FAIRFAX, FAICD
Grazier and Company Director

Emeritus Professor R D (Gus) GUTHRIE, AM, FTSE, DSc *Lond*, DUniv *UTS*, DUniv *Griff.*
Principal of a consulting company, former vice-chancellor

Ms Elizabeth JAMESON, BA, LLB (Hons) *Qld.*
Lawyer

Dr Robin KING CULLEN, BArch *Syd*, GradDipUrb&RegPlan *Qld.UT*, PhD *Qld.*
Director of Governance and Strategy, Local Government

Mr Bruce McDIARMID
Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland

Ms Julie-Anne MEE, BBus *CIAE*, MAdmin *Griff.*
Accountant (FCPA)

Mr Michael WILLIAMS
Senior University Manager

Three members of the University's academic staff

Professor Deborah RALSTON, BEc, GradDipFinMangt, MEc *NE*, PhD *Bond*

Dr Joanne Scott, BA(Hons) *Qld*, GCertEd(HEd) *QldUT*, PhD *Qld.*

Dr Peter SLADE, BBusSt, MBS, PhD *Massey*

One member of the University's full-time general staff

Miss Heather CARNEY

A member of the student body

Mr Daniel MORGAN

Two members of the Convocation

N/A

Two additional members

Fr John DOBSON, OAM
Priest of the Catholic Parish of Caloundra

Mr Phillip HARDING
Company Director

Committees

University committees that include students as part of their membership are:

- Council
- Academic Board
- Research Management Committee
- Learning and Teaching Management Committee
- Student Equity Committee (a representative of the Student Guild Board)
- Information Technology Advisory Committee
- University Environment Advisory Committee
- Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee (President of the Student Guild)

The University encourages student representation on the above committees. Students interested in finding out more about these committees should contact the Senior Committees Officer on + 61 7 5430 1102.