

Report of the GU8 Education Committee to the Council of Presidents September 2008

Since the last Council of Presidents (CoP) Meeting the Education Committee has met at RMIT in November 2007 and at the University of Hull in August 2008. The “Melbourne Resolution” and the “Hull Resolution” are provided to the CoP together with the presentations made to the Education Committee by participating Universities.

The key recommendations of the Education Committee are included in the Resolutions. During its discussions a number of other issues were also canvassed.

There are many interesting models of **International Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** being adopted across the GU8 universities. To give just one example, the Committee learned from Inha University about a Field Study on International Trade run with partner universities in China and Japan which involves mutual visits and exchange programs, student conferences, seminars, trade fairs, cultural events, visits to local companies and trade-related sites for students and faculty providing experiential learning and hands-on experience for students focusing on trade with China and Japan. Inha also offers a Summer School which includes corporate visits (Korean Air, GM Daewoo) and field trips. The GU8 member universities all share a strong common interest in “industry engagement” offering opportunities for our students to have an international WIL experience.

The Committee was pleased to hear about the continuing success of its first joint venture, namely the **Masters in Global Logistics Management** (taught by Inha University, the University of Rhode Island (URI), the University of Washington and RMIT) which is increasingly popular with Russian and Chinese students due to 100% employment rate after graduation. Scholarships are available for GU8 students providing return air fares to arrive at Inha in Spring 2009.

The Committee was again reminded of the availability of **intensive language programs** : Hebrew and Arabic at the University of Haifa; French at the University of Le Havre; Chinese at Xiamen University; and Korean at Inha University. These are useful as a means of preparing students to take up international work placements which GU8 partners could more easily facilitate if students were able to speak the language of the country in which they are going to work.

Various requests were made to possible collaborations including Hull seeking other institutions interested in internationalising the curriculum in biology, aquatic zoology and freshwater biology and Xiamen which

is interested in 3+1 or 2+2 programs.

The Education Committee was very pleased to learn about the success of the first offering of the **Global MBA** being delivered jointly by Inha, Le Havre, URI, and Xiamen. The goal of the program is to provide a basis for international training in research, education and application to prepare the next generation of leaders who understand global issues and who can apply them in the community and national context. Students make site visits to the other three participating universities, interact with students from the other universities, and make site visits to local companies. Their MBA program is integrated with a project that documents successful business models in each of these countries. Other GU8 universities expressed an interest in participating in the Global MBA in future.

The Resolution details the various **Task forces** which are being established by the Education Committee:

- E-learning collaboration in the Global MBA and the Global Masters in Logistics
- Marine Affairs
- Learning Spaces
- Inhibitors to Faculty and Student Mobility

It is a sign of the growing maturity of the Education Committee and the commitment of members to the aims of the GU8 that these are being established with a view to increasing the collaboration between member universities between meetings.

In light of the success of the Global MBA which was being offered for the first time several GU8 members were actively working on the development of a **Global Masters in Logistics** which will be offered in the same way as the Global MBA. This is being developed by the University of Hull, Inha University, the University of Le Havre and RMIT University. This would follow the model of the Global MBA where students visit participating universities for intensive study over 4 weeks for 4 courses and these are credited back towards their Masters at their home institution. Operational issues relate mainly to timing of intensives at participating universities, the “balance of trade” to ensure each university sends out as many students as it receives inbound, and funding for student travel and expenses.

A successful **Learning and Teaching Workshop** was organized by the University of Hull on the first day of the Education Committee meeting. As well as hearing from staff of the University of Hull contributions were also made by RMIT and URI. The Committee also heard a research presentation that was made regarding biology students’ awareness of the need for language expertise. These were useful ways to exchange ideas and share good practice and the Education Committee resolved to continue to organize such workshops and presentations in association with future meetings.

The Education Committee identified the key ways in which its work can assist members in their efforts for internationalisation:

- Joint activities such as summer schools, exchanges and teaching programs
- Shared learning about approaches and experiences
- Collaboration through doing things together

There is an increasing interest in extending the membership and scope of occasional collaborative groups to increase engagement from the bottom up, to enhance grass roots understanding, and to facilitate groups of key staff (eg Deans of Engineering, Librarians etc) meeting to share experiences, look at issues of global significance and pursue areas for further collaboration. It was agreed there should be a strong emphasis on a commitment to cooperative work that has a global focus, has clear outcomes and the pursuit of activities that are value adding, innovative and sustainable.

The Committee reconsidered its charge since the Committee for Building Administrative Capacity had been disbanded. A recommendation for a revised charge is presented to the CoP for its consideration.

Professor Peter Lutzeier from the University of Hull is recommended as the next Chair of the Education Committee with effect from the COP meeting to be held in September 2008. The sixth meeting of the Education Committee will be held between June and October 2009, hosted by Xiamen University.

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Melbourne, September 2008