

Mission: To be the major catalyst for the innovative and sustainable economic, cultural and educational advancement of the region, through the pursuit of international standards in teaching and research.

Report of the Council of the University of the Sunshine Coast

For the period January 1 2005
to 31 December 2005

April 2006

The Hon Rodney Welford, MP
Minister for Education and Minister
for the Arts

In accordance with the provisions of Section 46J(1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1997*, I have the honour to present to you, on behalf of the Council of the University of the Sunshine Coast, the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2005.

Ian Kennedy, AO
Chancellor

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Communication Objectives

This Annual Report provides a comprehensive record of the University of the Sunshine Coast's performance in 2005 and outlines plans for the future. Achievements are documented against the aims and objectives of the University's *Strategic Plan 2005–2010*.

The report highlights teaching and research activities during the year and reflects the University's commitment to its students, staff, the region and its community. It presents the University's financial statements, and meets the reporting requirements of the State Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts.

Potential readers of the Annual Report include members of State Parliament, the University community (including staff, graduates and students), business and media, potential benefactors, international visitors and members of the public.

Copies of the Annual Report 2005 are available from the Office of Marketing and Communications, University of the Sunshine Coast, by telephoning +61 7 5459 4558. An electronic version of the report is available on the University's website at <www.usc.edu.au>.

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Vice-Chancellor's Review



“We have a strong and proven regional mandate, not just for higher education, but also in addressing wider economic, employment and cultural issues.”

For the University of the Sunshine Coast 2005 was a year of significant achievements and sustained growth, ensuring we are on track to meet our projected growth rate of a total University population of 15,000 by the year 2021.

In the final months of 2005, QTAC statistics showed an increase of up to 30 percent in the number of new students choosing the University of the Sunshine Coast as their first preference, marking the end to a very successful year.

Our growth in 2005 was given additional impetus with a huge increase in the number of Commonwealth-funded student places, 1080 in total over four years, supported by a new, more equitable funding formula. As a result of this support, the University was able to greatly expand its range of programs and new employment opportunities were created within the University.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Greg Hill, was appointed and his focus will be on addressing both program development and the research advancement of the University.

Staff continued to maintain their high level of academic standards with 90 percent having higher degree qualifications. An independent analysis by the Educational Policy Institute ranked University of the Sunshine Coast academic staff qualifications second highest in Queensland, an outstanding result for both staff and the students with whom they interact in teaching and research.

In 2005, the University continued to achieve its aim of enabling people to access university education, with the majority of new students residing in the Sunshine Coast region. Approximately half of those new students are the first in their families to attend university.

To support these students, who are new to the university system, first year programs were developed in 2005, which provided unprecedented levels of supports for students and our retention data continues to improve.

Our campus is growing to meet the increase in our student population. The ICT Centre was awarded the 2005 Masters Builders award and approval was given for, and work began on, a \$25 million building expansion program with two new buildings set to open in 2006. The University's Noosa Centre was opened at Sunshine Beach offering first year business studies, and Noosa Shire Council commenced building purpose-built facilities in Grant Street in the heart of Noosa.

The University was again awarded an Employer of Choice for Women Award by the Federal Government.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) chose the University to become involved in a study involving twelve universities from around the world undertaking exemplary regional engagement.

Planning for the future continued throughout 2005 and a new Strategic Plan was developed, which emphasises the University's core framework around regional engagement and sustainability. A new Council was appointed in the latter half of the year.

Synergies and co-location opportunities continued throughout the year. The Queensland Premier announced in May at a Cabinet meeting held at the University, that a new hospital complex would be built next to the University campus. This will be a major contributor to both the development of the Sunshine Coast's job creation endeavours, and to education and health collaboration.

To further its economic advancement strategies, the University is continuing to maximise its engagement activities. Education Queensland is embedding some of its key statewide activities within the University and the links are therefore becoming even stronger.

The University continued to play a key role in the cultural development of the region also, with more than 10,000 people visiting the University Gallery throughout 2005, which represents one of the most impressive set of figures of any Queensland regional gallery.

As we look toward the future, it is clear that the higher education sector will continue to change rapidly and only the strongest of institutions will thrive. Our University's strength is clearly derived from our youth and we are not hidebound by tradition.

We have a strong and proven regional mandate, not just for higher education, but also in addressing wider economic, employment and cultural issues.

Our success throughout 2005 was palpable and continues to be so as the University continues its new and enhanced growth trajectory. The future looks very promising as in 2006, the University of the Sunshine Coast celebrates the first of many decades with its tenth year of operation. It is a time of remarkable growth and we look forward to an exciting future.

Professor Paul Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

April 2006

Table 1:

Key Five-Year Figures

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of students¹	3050	3447	3556	3862	4280
• Female	1658	1983	2023	2191	2469
• Male	1392	1464	1533	1671	1811
• On campus students	2767	3183	3262	3455	3768
• Undergraduate	2642	3010	3011	3060	3296
• Postgraduate coursework	287	264	293	408	549
• Higher degree by research	42	47	61	65	72
• Non-award	81	129	191	329	365
• International (all students)	230	229	307	521	694
• International (on campus)	56	104	187	297	362
Student load (EFTSL)²	2386.2	2636.5	2694.7	2976.5	3038.6
Graduated students					
• Undergraduate	318	425	471	526	476
• Postgraduate	37	122	138	154	303
• Higher degree by research	1	4	3	5	3
Total	356	551	612	685	782
Equity					
• Low socio-economic status ³	40%	40%	41%	42%	43%
• Disabilities ³	5.63%	5.61%	5.68%	5.21%	4.10%
• Indigenous ³	0.47%	0.80%	0.99%	1.14%	1.42%
• First in family ⁴	43%	45%	34%	40%	53%
Number of staff (FTE)					
• Academic ⁵	89	86	96	101	105
• Non-academic ⁶	135	167	193	198	223
Total	244	253	289	299	328
Proportion of academic staff with higher degree qualifications⁷	83%	86%	87%	88%	90%
Operating revenue (parent entity)	\$31.697m	\$32.488m	\$39.825m	\$40.950m	\$50.6m
Research income (HERP and DEST)	\$719,446	\$1,011m	\$1,276m	\$1,505m	NA⁸
Research publications⁹	38.39	63.64	62.1	60.76	NA⁸
Property, plant and equipment	\$53.202m	\$56.149m	\$66.377m	\$73.309m	\$100.5m

Notes:

1. Students are as at March Census 2 2004 and Census 1 for 2005
2. Student load 2005 = Census 1 + Census 2 data
3. Socio-economic status, disability and Indigenous are as a proportion of domestic students only (from Census 1 dataset for 2005)
4. First in family = Bachelor's degree only
5. Academic staff = VC, DVC, Level A-E
6. Non-academic staff = HEW1-HEW10 and non-academic staff above award
7. Proportion of academic staff = percent of academic staff (excluding those with unknown qualifications) who have a Doctorate or Masters degree
8. Not available at time of printing
9. Weighted DEST calculation