

# The University

## Priority: To ensure the University of the Sunshine Coast exercises responsible leadership and governance in order to meet stakeholder expectations and national/international standards.

### ■ Sustaining high level dialogues with relevant regional, national and international leaders on partnership and engagement opportunities

#### Hospital Co-location

Following a State Government Cabinet meeting at the University on 16 May 2005, the Premier, Peter Beattie announced a \$500 million hospital complex was to be built adjacent to the University campus. The co-location of the University and the hospital, and the opportunity it offers for the sharing of facilities such as research laboratories, was seen as strategically important for the Sunshine Coast and the development of related health programs at the University.

#### Knowledge Precinct

In August 2005, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with both the Maroochy Shire Council and Education Queensland to establish a 'knowledge precinct' adjacent to the University campus. The agreement encourages education, training and business development aimed at stimulating employment opportunities on the Sunshine Coast.

#### South-East Queensland Regional Plan

The South East Queensland Regional Plan was published in 2005, and the University and its environs were identified within it as a 'knowledge hub' for the Sunshine Coast. The area is developing as a major sub-regional 'activity centre' complementing Maroochy as the regional centre.

#### University and TAFE Collaboration

Throughout 2005 the University worked with the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE (CSIT) to jointly address the training and education needs of the region. Discussion centred on ways in which the two education providers could enhance outcomes for students, the community and the region. Three new combined diploma/degree programs were developed with CSIT bringing the number of combined diploma/degrees to seven. These programs provide students with the opportunity to obtain both university and TAFE qualifications. Similar planning exercises were conducted with the TAFE Colleges at Hervey Bay and South Bank (Brisbane).

#### Developments in the Noosa Shire

The University worked with Noosa Shire to ensure first-year undergraduate Business courses could be offered from the USC Noosa Centre at Sunshine Beach in 2006.

The University also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Noosa North Shore developer to generate learning opportunities for students and faculty staff. Proposed projects include the development of an interpretive walk explaining the environmental significance of the area.

#### Sport and Recreation Study

The University partnered the Sunshine Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (SunROC) and Sport and Recreation Queensland to develop a draft Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Study. The resultant report was prepared after extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community. Members of the public could obtain copies of the document from the University, Caloundra, Maroochy and Noosa Shire offices and the Sport and Recreation Queensland's Maroochy office.



*Professor Greg Hill with Noosa North Shore Resort CEO John Grocock signing a Memorandum of Understanding.*

### AIS Accreditation

Links between the University and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) were further strengthened when representatives visited the University's Centre for Healthy Activities, Sport and Exercise (CHASE). Professor Alan Hahn (Head Exercise Physiologist, AIS) and Dr Sue Hooper (Director, Centre of Excellence, QAS) toured the CHASE facilities with CHASE Director, Associate Professor Brendan Burkett to examine testing techniques on offer to athletes. In late 2005, the University received provisional AIS accreditation – the first university in Australia to do so.

### ■ Supporting sustainable growth to a student population of at least 8000 EFTSL within ten years

#### Rapid Growth

Student numbers have grown rapidly over the ten years since the University opened its doors for business in 1996. In 2005, student numbers grew to 4,280 and a range of new programs (refer to page 16) was introduced, bringing the number of degrees offered to more than 100.

#### E-learning

E-learning (online learning) was identified as an important means of sustaining growth. Further steps were taken to develop easy access to, and increase the capacity of, the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS), an online learning software program.

#### Facilities

An increase in student numbers and programs meant an increase in facilities. Work began on the Stage 6 Science Building, which will provide for sports science, nursing and geographical information systems when it opens in 2006. Approval was given for the construction of the Stage 6 General Purpose Building to house a 300-seat lecture theatre, tutorial rooms, the offices for Student Administration and Student Services, and a new cafe.

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and Chancellor State College resulted in a commitment by the two institutions to upgrade and share facilities. The University honoured this agreement by constructing two additional multipurpose

hardcourts and commenced work on two additional sporting fields—one for cricket and Australian Rules Football, and a second for rugby. These fields will be constructed in 2005/6 for use in 2007.

#### Online Access

Further enhancements were made to the student online access and registration (SOLAR) system to improve the students' online enrolment experience and provide access to personal examination timetables, B-pay facilities and the delivery of electronic invoicing. Student Administration developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) database that students could access from SOLAR, which provides students with 24-hour access to administration information.

### ■ Pursuing more public and private resources to increase development opportunities and reduce risk

#### Fund Raising

The Foundation Office has key areas to which supporters of the University are encouraged to donate. The three primary areas are scholarships, art gallery and campus enhancement. In 2005, \$906,237 was raised primarily for student scholarships, sporting facilities and the art gallery exhibitions.

### ■ Developing the University's performance and satisfaction evaluations to provide evidence for external reviews and inter-institutional benchmarking

#### Student Outcomes

A total of 576 students who graduated in 2004 were surveyed in 2005 as part of the annual Graduate Destination Survey. Of these information was obtained from 341 graduates, providing a response rate of 59.2 percent. For more information refer to page 23.

## Indicators of Success

### ■ Growth to 5,000 EFTSL by 2009

In 2005 the University was granted an additional 1080 Commonwealth Funded student places over four years. QTAC 'first preference' applications for study at the University increased by around 30 percent. Student load has grown steadily over the past five years.

Year	EFTSL Total
2001	2386.2
2002	2636.5
2003	2694.7
2004	2976.5
2005	3038.6

### ■ Producing a systemic program of internal and external reviews

#### Faculty Reviews

As part of its quality assurance processes, the University conducts a review of its faculties every five years. The review panel, appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, comprises two or three external members with a breadth of experience and level of academic standing relevant to the faculty. The Faculty of Business was reviewed in March 2004; the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in August 2005; and the Faculty of Science, Health and Education is scheduled to be reviewed in March 2006.

#### Program Reviews

All programs are externally reviewed at least every seven years. Program reviews are conducted by a panel with an external chair, and a majority of external members appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. No programs were reviewed in 2005. Arts and Social Science and Business programs will be reviewed in Semester 2, 2006.