

Organisation

Basis of authority

The institution 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 7–8) is designated as 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.

ICSC operates on its premises an award-winning technology Business Incubator, part of a \$7 million facility on the

University campus. The Business Incubator has nurtured more than 50 early-stage businesses, principally in the information and communications technology, sustainable technologies, and creative industry sectors.

On 6 August 2008, Queensland Tourism, Regional Development and Industry Minister, The Hon Desley Boyle, officially opened the Business Accelerator to provide office space and business development services for more established companies and professional service firms. This development was supported by a \$3.6 million financing package from the Queensland Government's Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry.

ICSC continued to develop the Student Enterprise Program in collaboration with the University's Faculty of Business, to enable students and graduates to start and grow their own businesses. In 2008, the program included a series of seven Enterprise Tuesday business networking events, direct business mentoring, and presentation of a Start It Up course in partnership with the USC Alumni. This one-day course was held in May and attracted around 40 delegates.

The Innovation Centre also introduced the UniConnect program to build added-value connections between businesses based at the Innovation Centre and the University.

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 for the year ended 31 December 2008.