Needed courses in policy limbo

The Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission's recently announced policy on master's degree programs for CAEs appears contrary to the State and Federal governments' support for a shift of emphasis in higher education to meet the needs of business and industry.

Dean of the David Syme Business School, Dr Ken Tucker, said this following the release of the CTEC blueprint for tertiary education for the next three years.

The report does not support any large scale expansion of master's Degree in Applied Science (Computing) were both affected by the CTEC's decision to give consideration of Master's degree proposals from non-designated CAEs pending the release of its report.

Each is still in limbo. A second proposal by DSBS for a master's by coursework in banking and finance failed to even make it to first base in the State system.

But it's a decision the School has found hard to swallow. According to Dr Tucker, research into the development of the program was comprehensive. It was a product we had developed which was consistent with our pioneering work in the field (current courses in banking and finance were the first of their kind in Australia), and tailored to the needs of people in the banking and finance industries in Australia.

The policy which the CTEC has now announced says master's by coursework in Institutes of Technology should not proliferate. It doesn't say they will be disallowed, but does say that preference will be given to universities.

The question now then is who is best able to give this sort of training... the people who have offered undergraduate training (concrete) to the universities, whose students are more likely to take up academic positions rather than working in a business environment?

Dr Tucker said it seems ironic that this policy runs counter to the State and Federal governments' support for higher education to meet the needs of business and industry. Indeed, the State government's recently announced growth plan for Victoria for the next 10 years follows the same line in attempting to maintain Melbourne's status as the financial capital of Australia.

Dr Tucker said following the release of the plan, the Treasurer, Mr Jolly, called on tertiary education institutions to declare what courses they were doing in terms of tailoring courses to meet industry needs. We said we had submitted a year ago a plan which would satisfy those requirements, but that we had been frustrated in our attempts to get VPESC to recognise this. The School will respond, however, to the Treasurer's request by developing a post-graduate diploma in Banking and Finance, which will go on the way towards meeting the needs of industry.

But Dr Tucker said it was a master's program that was needed, rather than the two year part time course which would be offered as a compromise.

Fourth year electrical engineering degree students, Michael Little and Andrew Edwards are pictured with the antennas they have designed. The 'cross yagi' antenna is the one which resembles two fish bones glued together.

Fourth year electrical engineering students at Chisholm are communicating with outer space. As part of their satellite communications project, the students have designed antennas which will receive and transmit signals to and from the ATS-1 satellite, centred over the Solomon Islands.

Lecturer, Mr Bryan Kimbley, says so far reception from the satellite via the 'cross yagi' antenna has been 'extremely good' and will be further improved with the addition of a header amplifier.

The bell-type antenna, also designed by the students, will be used for transmission to the satellite.

Mr Kimbley says this should be operational within the next few weeks. The School has received approval of a transmission licence from the Department of Communications.

The antennas are at the top of C Block (Caulfield campus).

The ATS-1 satellite was launched over Hawaii by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) in 1966.

After NASA had completed its own program of experiments in late 1969, the satellite was used for the PEACESAT project, an educational program aimed at linking the several campuses of the University of Hawaii, and later the University of Wellington, New Zealand.

In 1982, ATS-1 was moved from 149 degrees West longitude, to 164 degrees East longitude, placing the whole of the Australian continent, Indonesia, the rest of South East Asia and part of China within full coverage of the satellite.

As a result, the Peacenet Australia Kangaroo Network was established, providing first hand experience in the use of communication satellites, and in particular, the use of voice-band channels for broad-casting, tele-conferencing and remote tele-classroom and tutorial applications, together with digital communications applications.

Mr Kimbley says the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering's specific interest is in digital technology which will allow data communications at rates up to 9600 baud.

The Department intends undertaking joint experiments with the University of NSW and La Trobe University.

Further involvement in other satellite communications will include microwave systems and steerable dish antennae as part of the School of Engineering's research program, Mr Kimbley says.

A huge concrete mural has been proposed for a 21m buffer wall at Footscray Institute of Technology—and if all goes to plan, a Chisholm student will get the job of building it.

The proposal follows the success last year of another concrete mural, Strength and Mobility, designed and built by final year Concrete major at Chisholm, Mark Grimshaw, for FIT's new CA Hoadley Sports Complex. FIT has applied for financial backing from the Visual Arts Board for the project.

Project supervisor and concrete tutor, Mr Bill Rawls, says when the idea of a second mural was proposed, FIT decided to look no further than Chisholm. The design selected for the project is a modular one developed by final year ceramic design (concrete) student, Tim Little.

To date, he has completed a two metre long scale model of the mural. The model was recently on display as part of the 'Images' exhibition of works by Chisholm ceramics students and staff at the ANZ Bank, Collins Place.

There are 23 pieces in the abstract work which utilizes multiples and elements of four basic forms.

The mural has been designed to allow for flexibility if FIT goes ahead with a future plan to extend the buffer wall on Balaclava Road.

Mr Little says although he has never taken on a job like it before, the basic concept of the design was taken from other freestanding sculptural works he has done previously.

The finished work will be in smooth white concrete on a black background and inlaid with steel reinforcing.

Mr Little says a project such as this is 'something I've wanted to do for a long time'. His main ambition after graduating from Chisholm is to work with architectural sculpture, and as such, the FIT commission will provide valuable experience in the field.
CAD on campus

The appearance of this giant crane at Chisholm's Caulfield campus last week heralded the arrival of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering's new $100,000 computer controlled machine tool.

The MAZAK vertical CNC machining centre is one of the most advanced of its kind available for cutting parts to high accuracy and repeatability in mirror image parts.

Together with a computer aided drafting (CAD) system, the new equipment will ensure Chisholm Mechanical and Industrial Engineering degree students are given world class training in state-of-the-art techniques.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT GAZETTE

on 21 June, is Tuesday 12 June. Copy can be left with the Public Relations Office, C1.08, or telephone extension 2311.

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When we surveyed industries in our research into the development of a master's program, the clear need was for a master's degree and not a post-graduate diploma.

'Master's degrees in banking and finance and marketing are absolutely essential to maintain Melbourne as the financial centre for finance and the marketing of services', he said.

But 'we are having to play the system's game rather than offering something that's wanted, but which the system will not permit'.

Dr Tucker's sentiments were echoed recently by Dr Helen Hughes of the ANU's Research School of Pacific Studies, and an expert in the educational development of developing countries.

In a recent interview on ABC radio, Dr Hughes charged that Australian education was a highly protected industry which not only served itself and its graduates as competent with education overseas.

'I just don't think we're producing the students that Australia needs.

'Much attention is also focused on students being able to detect language difficulties in the classroom - to step in when they know a child is having a language problem which is interfering with his or her maths, reading, speaking or personality development.

Language Across the Curriculum, a compulsory program which spans the three years of the course, is based on the premise that language skills do not develop in isolation from other curriculum areas.

Mr Ian Walker and Mr Joe Dora, spokesmen for the program's lecturing staff, go further by saying: 'In fact, language skills both underpin and develop out of all learning endeavours.'

'This has significant implications for both child and adult learning in that without adequate language skills, many other areas of learning cannot be mastered - for example, maths difficulties frequently arise because a child is unable to adequately speak, read, listen to or write the English language.'

The program therefore concentrates on the development of key language areas - speaking, listening, literacy and drama, across all areas of the school curriculum, and is constantly being updated and changed to move in pace with new directions in society.

The introduction of such components as computer literacy and teaching English as a second language reflect this responsiveness to current community needs.

According to Mr Walker and Mr Dora, the three year course can be described as a process, rather than a product, centred program, with two major aims:

- to give students the understanding and skills needed to guide children through the complex maze of early language acquisition;
- to further extend the students' own language skills to ensure that their abilities to communicate as future teachers are soundly developed.

As such, the course offers a unique student remediation/diagnosis program in which third year students under supervision tutor any first year who are experiencing communication difficulties.

School of Education staff say the program is quite unique teacher language courses in the past, with the emphasis on encouraging students to think that children in schools will be the adults of the next century, and to recognise that the skills these future adults will require will need to include highly developed communication skills.

The Fellowships assist Australians working in such fields as primary and secondary industry, education, commerce, the arts or public service to spend up to 12 months in New Zealand furthering their professional experience.

One of the major aims of the scheme is to foster good relations between Australia and New Zealand. Benefits for successful applicants include a personal allowance, economy return air fare and an allowance for dependents.

Applications close on 6 July.

Grants

NZ study

ANZAC Fellowships for 1985 are now open to interested applicants.

The Fellowships assist Australians working in such fields as primary and secondary industry, education, commerce, the arts or public service to spend up to 12 months in New Zealand furthering their professional experience.

One of the major aims of the scheme is to foster good relations between Australia and New Zealand. Benefits for successful applicants include a personal allowance, economy return air fare and an allowance for dependents.

Applications close 31 August.

US study

The Harkness Fellowships for 1985 for study and travel in the United States are open to applicants from Australia.

Applications for fellowships for up to 21 months are offered to applicants in any field of study, under the age of 36.

Candidates must have an outstanding record of achievement in the creative arts, journalism or computer science.

Applications close 31 August.

Technology

Applications are now being sought by the Philippines International Institute of Technological Studies for post-graduate scholarships for 1985.

A few places are available for promising young graduate engineers and scientists.

Qualifications needed by applicants are a BSc in a field of study related to electronics and its engineering principles.

Most awards are made to candidates under 30. Completed applications must be evaluated by the end of August this year.

For more information and/ or application forms for these grants and scholarships, contact the Development Director, 158 Bridge Street, Caulfield.
Trade in services too important to ignore

The increasing importance of trade in services between Australia and ASEAN countries is the main focus of a recently released publication co-written by David Syme Business School Dean, Dr Ken Tucker. Services in ASEAN-Australian Trade: a study of a number of researchers for the ASEAN--Australia Foreign Affairs Development (Sub-Committee on Australia and ASEAN) in Melbourne on 12 April. He told the hearing that service industries are "an important public and commercial consideration in our diplomatic and commercial policies towards South East Asian countries.'

He explained that the specific services Australia is best equipped to offer to the region are those which "embody our comparative advantage in terms of human skills, scientific knowhow, industrial design and business expertise'.

Examples of these are telecommunications, consultancy, financial and R & D (research and development) services.

Even more important, he says, could be "selling our comparative advantage as a tourist destination, final service to international consumers'.

And it is also important to recognise that a number of services are embodied in the goods Australia sells, and 'important that we increase our expertise in these technical, professional, design, marketing and packaging areas... It's integral to our success'.

The authors argue that in the past, much of Australia's expertise was assigned to the terms of selling these services overseas.

'We need to do a lot better job of selling them to mass markets, and develop market strategies for quantity delivery of these services'.

Dr Tucker says much scope also exists for 'highly professional and skilled services in research and scientific knowhow, and, rather than losing our best people overseas, we should provide a base for them and lead to our publication and promote what we have available'.

But a number of obstacles exist which inhibit fuller exploitation of trade and ASEAN, the most important being regulatory barriers, and the lack of standardisation in the region in areas such as customs, entry protocols and tax conditions.

Dr Tucker says some of the policy implications raised in the publication includes:

• whether or not some countries in the region should specialise even more at present
• whether or not the newer services in banking and finance should be allowed to grow without controls
• whether Australia excessively protects its existing service industries.

He says developing countries in the region which are moving into high technology industry have a "big interest in obtaining un inhibited access for the sale of these services to the advanced economies'.

"It's highly probable that there will be debate in the next few years from the point of view of all economies in the region, on access to each other's markets and the degree of specialisation in servicing these markets'.

Dr Tucker notes that GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) is likely to give priority to trade in services in the near future.

A number of other publications under the research project are in the pipeline, and Dr Tucker will be involved in production of a monograph which will draw all the major themes together and make policy recommendations.

He was invited to participate in the project in recognition of his previous work on investment and trade, and the economics of the service sector.

Trade relations between Australia and South East Asian countries was the major thrust of his work for the Bureau of Industry Economics prior to his appointment to Chisholm.

Dr Hemingway has been sailing the club. Dr Hemingway has been sailing the club for nearly 20 years, and a few years ago was a competitor in the Olympic class International Torpedo titles. He has also built a number of boats, including two Tornedos (catamarans) and two Mirrors (monohulls). Dr Hemingway's skills in sailing making recently found practical application when he volunteered with his wife Laurie (a Finance, Branch staff member), to make the tabelodavos for the new Staff Club premises at 888 Dandenong Road.

Together they burned the mid-night oil in a frantic bid to have the clothes finished in time for the opening.

The 40 or so tabelodavos took an entire bolt of cloth, supplied by a local cloth merchant.

Dr Hemingway, it seems, is a man of many talents.
Cash prizes, satire at accounting dinner

A total of $2500 in donated prizes for exceptional academic performance was awarded to David Syme of Business School students at the Accounting Department's annual dinner on 16 May.

Four of the prizes in the Bachelor of Business (Accounting) were taken out by Mr Neil Morrison. He won a total of $650 by topping three of his courses and sharing top in a fourth.

The prize for top accounting student was awarded to Ms Gina Urquhart. She won two years membership of the Australian Society of Accountants, as best graduating student, and a cash prize of $200 as best third year student.

The prizes were donated by accounting firms, business corporations and professional associations.

Chairman of the Department of Accounting, Mr Darrell Mahoney, says the 134 graduates in Accounting and professional associations.

Chisholm is one of the largest educators of accountants in Australia, he says.

Over 200 people attended the dinner at 'Merri-Mu' reception centre in Chadstone.

They were entertained by stage, radio and TV impersonator, Mr Campbell McComas, who relived the Walk-out by New Campbell McComas, who relived the Supply Department.

In addition to the prizes, the move is also important in that the Institute of General Motors Holden and Peat, Marwick & Mitchell Insolvency Practitioners have held a number of positions on various VCSA working parties, and was staff member representing general and academic staff on the Chisholm Staffing Committee from 1982-83. 'In terms of achievements for staff in general, I initiated the recognition'.

'... I have a sincere desire to promote issues which concern general staff... in order to fight for our perceived rights in a determined manner. I have been involved with the VCSA since its inception, was president of a similar group in the Victorian public service, and was president of CITPACTA which VCSA replaced at Chisholm. I have served on a number of Institute working parties dealing both with General Staff and academic staff and I am currently a member of the Computer Policy Committee and the Schools and Information and Advisory Committee."

STAFF CLUB

CIT - COUSTH

Performances are held on Tuesdays from 12.30-1.30pm at B2.18 (Caulfield) and the George Jenkins Theatre (Frankston).

12 June - Caulfield: Victorian College of the Arts Jazz Ensemble.

12 June - Frankston: Patrick Nolan (flute), Wendy Morrison (piano).

19 June - Caulfield: Patrick Nolan (flute), Wendy Morrison (piano).

BAROQUE, BRUNCH & MORE BAROQUE

Sunday, 17 June - $12. A roast lunch, which is included in the price of the ticket, is served at interval. 11.30am - 3pm. 2nd Level, Phillip Law Building, Caulfield Campus. For ticket information: please ring 573 2133.

ROMANESCA

MONTEVERDI WITH FRIENDS

Harley Newburn, Ron Bandt and John Griffiths are joined by Margot Cory (soprano), Julie Hewison and Ross Mitchell (baroque violin), Michelle Horor (cello) and Priscilla Taylor (harpsichord) to perform works by the Venetian master and his circle.

CHISHOLM FILM GROUP SCREENINGS are on alternate Thursdays in B2.14 Caulfield Campus, at 12.30 & 6pm. Admission is $2.50 for Staff Club Members and $3.50 for others.

21 June - 'Twilight's Last Gleaming' (Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark.)

ARTS IN AUSTRALIA SEMINARS

The 1984 Winter Saturday series is designed to make contemporary Australian Art available to a wider audience, and covers aspects of Australian music, film, theatre, literature and visual arts.

The series is a project of the Foundation for Research in Australian Art and is supported by the Australia Post. The schedule is:

30 June: Leaving Out From Australia. Noted theatre critic, scholar and publisher Katherine Brisbane, reviews recent developments in Australian drama.

The seminars are held from 12.30-7pm at the College Lecture Theatre, School of Music, VCA, 234 St Kilda Rd. Telephone 488 4316 for more information.