Super decision deferred

The Council of Academic Staff Association (CASA) has urged Victorian colleges to take a collective stance to negotiations on participation in the Superannuation Scheme for Australian Universities (SSAU).

In response, Chisholm Council, at its meeting on 9 October, voted to refer discussion until the November meeting, of findings of the Staffing Committee's SSAU Working Party.

In a telegram to Council, CASA secretary, Mr Tony Lamb, said a premature decision on SSAU participation would put the interests of Chisholm and other colleges in jeopardy.

Academic staff representatives on Council, Mr Arthur Crook and Mr Tim Haslett, supported CASA's call.

Mr Crook said 'CASA is asking Chisholm not to go it alone. He believed a collective approach was vital to ensure CAEs were strongly represented in any negotiations with SSAU.' 

And Mr Haslett added that moves by individual colleges could mean 'the whole thing will go down the tube'.

In its interim report, the SSAU Working Party, established by the Staffing Committee in July, found that a 'strong prima facie case exists for Chisholm participation in SSAU'.

This conclusion had been drawn on the basis of a close study of the SSAU Scheme, discussions with SSAU representatives and with representatives of VPSEC and the Victorian Department of Management and Budget.

The report said SSAU was a fully-funded scheme designed specifically for tertiary institutions (including CAEs), and endorsed by the former Federal Government as the appropriate scheme for tertiary institutions.

'The Working Party's investigation has been undertaken in the context of concern about the emerging costs of staff superannuation as a consequence of participation in the State Superannuation Scheme.'

SSAU had a 'number of attractive features, especially its potential for enhancing career mobility', and represented a 'considerable improvement on the Institute's own scheme and warrants serious examination as the superannuation vehicle for Chisholm staff'.

The report noted that the Hawke Government's policy on college participation in SSAU had not been announced, and this was a critical factor in any decision relating to participation by Chisholm.

The Working Party recommended that Council agree in principle to Chisholm participation in SSAU, subject to the conditions that:

- SSAU had a 'number of attractive features, especially its potential for enhancing career mobility', and represented a 'considerable improvement on the Institute's own scheme and warrants serious examination as the superannuation vehicle for Chisholm staff'.
- The Federal Government accepted full responsibility for funding employer costs of participation, and the residual costs of pension liabilities arising from existing staff membership of other schemes.
- The Institute was able to negotiate with SSAU satisfactory transitional provisions for staff wishing to transfer to SSAU.
- Other matters of significance to existing and new staff to be dealt with to the satisfaction of Council.
- It was also recommended that the Working Party be authorised to negotiate with SSAU to 'ascertain the most favourable conditions which would apply to new and existing staff contributing to SSAU, with the Working Party to report to Council on the outcome as soon as possible.

Council will resume its discussion of the report at the November meeting.

Meanwhile, support was given to a further recommendation that the Director, Mr Patrick Leary, seek clarification from VPSEC on the Federal Government's attitude to funding employer contributions should Chisholm decide to participate in SSAU.

And subsequent to the Council meeting, the SSAU Working Party met with representatives of CASA and VCSA on 18 October for discussions on the desirability of SSAU participation.

With these factors in mind, the BPC addressed the priorities set by Council and the Directorate in the following ways:

- Specific provision for the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Technology.
- Continued support for the continued initiatives of David Byrne Business School and the School of Computing and Information Systems.
- Provision for the Assistant Director's position at Frankston.
- Continued support for the Management Information and Resource Planning Branch.
- Additional money for the library for its acquisition program, and staffing to support requirements at Frankston.

'The other thing we should watch', Dr Tucker notes, 'is that for 1985, as well as for the balance of the triennium, VPSEC are requiring us to target new intake, and the fields of study in which quotas are allocated have been set for the triennium.'

The emphasis, which shows up in the comparative figures for 1984/85 to direct teaching cost centres, is on business and computing, which received increases of $152,000 and $169,000 respectively.

Dr Tucker: 'The BPC, in making its allocations, wished to preserve the share of funds going to the direct teaching cost centres. They wanted to prevent cost pressures that arise in Institute overheads from encroaching on the resources available to the teaching functions of the Institute.

'The second thing they recognised was that any new initiative could only be supported if savings were made in other areas - given the funding climate.'
Engineers mix a new recipe for success

Chisholm civil engineering students pulled off a hat-trick at the annual Concrete Canoe races this month at Lake Wendouree, Ballarat.

They took home trophies for the best design, best team and overall championship at the event, which is sponsored by the Concrete Institute of Victoria.

The Chisholm Concrete Canoe Club won eight out of eight races over distances from 100 to 500 metres.

This year the competition attracted entries from RMIT, Footscray Institute of Technology and Ballarat CAF.

Civil engineering lecturer and project supervisor, Mr Tony Ho, says the event is more than just a boat race.

Students are required to apply their knowledge gained from the course to the design and construction of the canoes, with particular emphasis on getting the strength/weight ratio right.

This year three Chisholm-built canoes were raced. One was designed by student Andrew Paull using the traditional concrete and steel reinforcement, but the others, designed by Sean Davis and Brad Little, both third year students, were something new.

Their canoe were the end result of six months research although 'we'd been thinking about it for a good two years', the pair said.

Their designs were unique, using a synthetic reinforcement of fiberglass woven mesh instead of the traditional steel, as well as polymer modified concrete.

'The design was entirely up to us, as long as we stayed within the rules', which stipulate that the main binding agent should be Portland cement.

'We spoke to many people in different businesses finding out what was available on the market,' the designers said.

'We came up with the reinforcement office doing a series of tests, and once we knew it would work, went ahead with the actual mould.'

This was supplied to them by sponsors AVEY Chemicals.

They said polymer modified concrete had never been used in the event before, and was found to be something of a breakthrough.

Not only does it allow more flexibility in construction and provide greater strength for the same weight, it is also very durable.

The students said by the end of the day at Lake Wendouree, all the other canoes in the competition were starting to crack up.

Theirs were still intact. Another bonus of the overall design of the canoes was their speed.

From Page 1 - The Budget

- A $5000 increase to the General Staff Development Fund.
- Increased superannuation provision of $184,000.
- Continued provision for the Executive Professional Development Program to allow Deans and members of the Directorate to report on overseas developments and 'fields crucial to Chisholm's planning for the future.'
- Extension of the 'user pays' system applied to Buildings Branch to include Printing Services in 1985.
- A specific allocation to Computer Graphics of $25,000 (previously this was supported solely by the School of Computing, but has now been identified as an Institute activity).
Acoustics research wins acclaim

Acoustics research by Chisholm physicist, Dr Charles Don, is meeting with enthusiastic response to the problem of noise pollution as the best participation rates in the top international.

Dr Don recently returned from a six month PEP visit at Salford University, UK, where he joined a team of acoustics researchers conducted by the British Ministry of Defence to investigate accurate noise measurement techniques in weapons testing.

The research is aimed at providing a solution to the problem facing the Ministry of predicting when they can test weapons so that those around are not affected by the surrounding community.

The project is 'much more acute in England than in Australia', because of the lack of wide open spaces available for testing, Dr Don says.

But testing in Australia is likely to be affected because it moves across a particular terrain, and the physical laws that govern those changes.

Dr Don has found that meteorological variables, such as temperature and wind velocity can 'greatly change the nature of the impulse'.

The meteorological effects allow us to look at the different aspects of the physics of the propagation', he says.

The work he has done at Chisholm, he says, 'looks like providing a major advance on the work done' on the 'open spaces at Salford University'.

A further aspect of his work, done in conjunction with senior tutors at Salford and Cranford, is also attracting attention in scientific circles.

The development of a technique for measuring the acoustical impedance of different surfaces, such as carpet or grass.

Dr Don explains that 'if you want to know how much sound will be reflected off a particular surface, the amount will be dependent on its acoustical impedance.'

The results will be useful to an engineer, for example, who needs to know how much sound absorbing material is required in the construction of a room.

Dr Don at work in the laboratory.

Budget cuts, the last straw for some

Chisholm has had little trouble in adapting to the Freedom of Information Act since its introduction last year.

Acting Academic Registrar, Mr Alan Young, puts this down to 'the general openness of our procedures which have long been in place.

Fifteen months down the track, it is clear that the Act has reinforced Chisholm's proactive attitude to making information as accessible as possible, Mr Young says.

Since FOI's introduction in July last year, we have handled a great many inquiries, many of them for documents already available under existing procedures (such as exam results), and many from members of the public', Mr Young says.

Mr Young says some of these inquiries resulted in appeals to the County Court but in each case the Institute's judgements were vindicated.

Mr Young is proposing a review next year of the procedures for streamlining the handling of Freedom of Information inquiries in the light of experience so far.

Some procedures have already been reviewed as a result of the Act, with a result that they are more open and better documented.

Mr Young says staff should be mindful of their obligations under the Act.

The reduction in Federal funding levels per student below 1984 levels is the 'straw that broke the camel's back', according to Mr Arthur Crook, Academic Staff representative on Chisholm Council.

His comment was in response to a report by the Director, Mr Patrick Learoy, to the October Council meeting on funding for the 1985-87 triennium.

In it, Mr Learoy pointed out that the effective cuts per student were in sharp contrast with the 'frquent statements by the Federal Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Senator Ryas, in which she stated an overall increase in funding to post-secondary education.

'There has indeed been an increase, over previous years, in Federal funding to post-secondary education', Mr Learoy said, 'however there are higher cuts to levels per student over the next three years.

'the warning at his farewell on the eve of his departure to become the first Deputy Director of the Institute of Advanced Education.'

Chisholm and other tertiary education institutions were being subjected to pressure from 'one government bureaucracy after another'.

The same pattern of increasing government intervention in higher education was evident in Europe and Japan.

It requires us to assist people in making inquiries. We cannot obstruct them. If we know something which will assist them, we are required to help.

But staff should also be aware that:

- There are Freedom of Information officers located throughout the Institute (such as the Academic Registrar) and member of the executive of the Council of Academic Staff (CASA), says the Act specifies how the government's funding strategy should be set by all existing as new students.

'The Government's argument is that we can accommodate marginal cost students because of the economies of scale built into the system.

'That they don't recognise is that after six years of progressively reduced funding we have used up all those economies of scale.'

Mr Crook said as a result, staff were teaching more students, putting in longer hours, equipment and facilities were being progressively more outdated, and things could only get worse.

Mr Learoy said the Government had built in an extra 2.6 hours per week teaching time for academic staff, using an average of 15.6 hours per week as the basis for its calculations in the Budget working papers.

'The average staff member's preparation time is at least two hours for every teaching hour (that's a conservative estimate), therefore academic staff are facing at least an extra eight hours a week in their workload.'

Already, Mr Crook said, academic staff put in about 50 hours per week, including 'two or three evenings per week without any compensation.

The degree of increased hours would mean even greater work and more disruption to the family lives of academic staff members, he said.

'These are the sorts of issues we are up against. We are facing a three front war declared on us by the Government.'

Specifically, Mr Crook believes real funding per student:

- Academic staff salaries.
- College participation in the new Superannuation Scheme for Australian Universities (SSAU), which Mr Crook said has a number of drawbacks.
- There has to be a bottom line somewhere and I think we have reached it.

'The point is we cannot accept additional students into the system without seriously disadvantaging all students.'

Mr Crook said in response to this, the Federation of College Academics had resolved to support industrial action designed to freeze enrolments once fully funding enrolment commitments had been met.

'While we would prefer not to do it, the solution is simple -- if the government wants additional enrolments, it must pay for them.'

Concluding his report on the issue, Mr Learoy said the ramifications of the funding reductions per student 'mean that institutions such as Chisholm must move quickly to be more efficient in the use of its, recurrent dollar through innovative teaching methods and streamlining of its activities, as well as seeking to increase the proportion of its total income from extraneous sources'.

The realities of the recurrent funding trend had become 'much more pertinent' recently, as work on drafting Chisholm's own budget for 1985 had progressed, Mr Learoy said.

Tertiary education institutions must beware of being forced into a trap of cost cutting active decision to reduce funding that could not be defended in court'.

The results will be useful to an Institute complying with other on a document). Mr Young says

The former Deputy Director of the Institute of Advanced Education.

He told a gathering of about 70 friends and colleagues that the last days of Chisholm and other tertiary education institutions were being subjected to pressure from 'one government bureaucracy after another'.

'The same pattern of increasing government intervention in higher education was evident in Europe and Japan.'

This was forcing tertiary education into a reactive role and forcing change at a 'horrific rate'. There was not enough thought and debate on where the society as a whole was going, and the tertiary education's role in that should be.

Dr Kennedy said the tertiary education sector had support the recognitions of a major role. The government was not into being a minor player in the broad picture of life.

Dr Kennedy said the tertiary education sector should be looking at what people wanted to do, where they wanted to go, and responding to those aims.

Institutions such as Chisholm, he said, were not strong enough to promote debate in the community on these matters.
Chisholm Gazette 25 October 1984

MULTICULTURALISM IN AUSTRALIA

1984 Beanland Lecture - presented by the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr David Penman, on the topic, ‘Multiculturalism in Australia: A Christian Perspective’, Melbourne Institute of Technology, Wednesday 30 October, 6 pm. For more information, telephone 688 4200.

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 30 October, George Jenkins Theatre, Frankston Central. ‘Police Academy’ and ‘Silkworm’. Tickets are $3 (including chicken and champagne/orange juice supper), $5 a double or $6 per family. Commencing at 7.15 pm.

PHOTO GRAPHICS

An exhibition of photography by Graphic Design students, 1 – 16 November, Level 2, Block 9, am – 5 pm weekdays.

Sport and athletic events in Caulfield are expected to attract ‘true invaders olympics’ and Chisholm educational displays in the Café.

Festival to forge community links

About 15,000 people are expected to visit Chisholm during the Caulfield Festival, to be held in the last week of November.

The program of activities is currently being finalised. It is expected Chisholm’s participation will be in:

- A Community Education Day at Caulfield Town Hall on 24 November, where displays, videos and information about Chisholm will be provided.
- National Youth Day – 25 November at the Caulfield campus. In conjunction with the Student Union, activities provided will include live bands, organised games and other educational displays.
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- Community Festival – Caulfield Arts Centre, 1 December. The Institute will provide catering for 100 Community Festival Organisers from the surrounding area.
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For more information, please contact the Public Relations Office on 688 4200.

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Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

VCA CHISHOLM BRANCH
OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1984/85

The Executive
Margaret Hume – Chairperson
John BLYTH – Secretary
Allan HARRISON – Treasurer
The Committee
Administrative – Alan Wurman (Frankston), Margaret Kiley (Caulfield), Ewan Colquhoun (Caulfield)
Finance – Alan Wurman (Frankston), Margaret Kiley (Caulfield)
Technical – John Britton (Frankston), Allan HARRISON (Caulfield)

KANSAS GDAID – Kansas University of Foreign Studies, Japan. English teaching assistantships and merit scholarships for foreign undergraduate students with a serious interest in Japanese and East Asian Studies, but who lack proficiency in Japanese.

SCHOLARSHIPS


KANSAS GDAID – Kansas University of Foreign Studies, Japan. English teaching assistantships and merit scholarships for foreign undergraduate students with a serious interest in Japanese and East Asian Studies, but who lack proficiency in Japanese.

For more information about any grants/scholarships/fellowships, contact the Development Director, Dr Bill Briggs, extension 2111 (Caulfield campus).

STAFF CLUB

CIT COUSTIC
(Free Lunchtime Concerts)
Tuesday, 23 October:
Caulfield campus – 12.30 – 1.30 pm, R2.18 Phillip Law Building. Contemporary Greek Folk music. Mark Dunbar (drums), Michael Kyriakakis (flute), Irina Vella (guitar), Michael Skutenko (percussion).
Frankston campus – 1 – 2 pm – George Jenkins Theatre. Victorian College of the Arts Brass Ensemble Works from Renaissance to Ragtime.

Inquiries: 573 2133.

CIT SPEAKS

Lunchtime discussions by staff members on topics of their choice. Caulfield campus, R2.14, 12.15 pm.

25 October – Dr Ken Tucker, Dean, David Syme Business School. Subject: The Asian Connection: A Threat or a Promise?

CIT MARKET

A market is held every Wednesday from 11 am to 2 pm in the grounds of Caulfield campus. There will be stalls selling a range of items, including vegetables and craft goods. Inquiries: 573 2133.

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BOOK LAUNCH

David Syme Business School is a joint sponsor of a book by its foundation Dean, Dr John Miller. ‘Training for a Profession: The Early Years in Accounting’, a summary of Dr Miller’s PhD thesis, will be formally launched at a function on 3 November. Research for the book, based on three major surveys, was begun while Dr Miller was still at Chisholm.

A survey of undergraduates involved 246 Chisholm student respondents, and a graduate survey involving 83 ex-Chisholm business students. He surveyed a total of 1502 respondents for the book, which will acknowledge the contribution made by DSBS.

BOOST FOR ENDEAVOUR

Chisholm Endeavour, the School of Education/Division of Continuing Education program for head injured people, has received another funding boost.

Executive Officer of the Division, Mr Dale Ingamells, says the latest grant of $13,800 from the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, will provide the salary for a part-time co-ordinator to develop and extend the program.

In the past, the Endeavour program has been run entirely on a voluntary basis.

Printing Services

2850 MULTILITH OFFSET PRINTING MACHINE

- designing, typesetting and complete art
- same day service for class notes, minutes & agendas and all general printing (1.1 per side depth stock)
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- manuals, letterheads, newsletters
- cover material, leaflets
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- colour supplements, floppy disc
- We also have a pick-up and delivery service.

For further inquiries ring extension 21351

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For further inquiries ring extension 21351 (Free Lunchtime Concerts)