30 July 2007

JCHE Review of the National Governance Protocols
Loc.130
Department of Education, Science and Training
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

University of the Sunshine Coast Submission
MCEETYA Review of the National Governance Protocols

The University of the Sunshine Coast’s (USC) views on the review of the National Governance Protocols are closely aligned with the sectoral views expressed by Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors in their joint paper.

USC has also expressed its views in the consultation with DEST in Brisbane.

Its views were initially shared with the Minister on 7 February 2007 in a letter from the then Chancellor, Mr Ian Kennedy AO.

The thread that links these responses is that in a sector in pursuit of diversity, and characterised with the presence of an already broad range of universities, there are few, if any, compelling arguments for more prescriptive protocols.

We feel particularly strongly about being able to retain outstanding contributors to the work of the Council and the University where performance warrants their retention, without an arbitrary limit.

We also feel that the relationship between a university and its controlled entities be re-examined as there is some confusion and potential reputational damage if say, a controlled entity collapses, and where company directors roles and Chancellors’ roles lack precision.

A further feature that we have highlighted in our responses is that we also not diminish the importance of executive leadership of the University in the movement to establish good governance.

I wish you well in the review of the Protocols.

Yours sincerely,

John M Dobson OAM
Chancellor

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