Communication on Progress Report

2010-2013

ACU|business
The Faculty of Business (FBU) was launched January 2010 (with the Foundation Executive Dean commencing March 28, 2010), growing out of the former national School of Business within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

With a history developed over more than twenty years, the faculty is located across three campuses of ACU in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Our staff consists of a dedicated team of administrators and academics whose teaching is supported by their active involvement in relevant industries, professional associations, the wider community, and informed by their current research and scholarship.

The Faculty is dedicated to discovering and developing intellectual, cultural, and spiritual wholeness through transcendent teaching, learning and research, based within a special emphasis on respecting and advancing human dignity. Its value proposition is its grounding of all activities in a sense of meaning, spirituality, and a wider social good purpose. The education focus is on how and what students learn rather than what we teach; and adherence to The United Nations Global Compact on The Principles For Responsible Management Education (encompassing human rights, just labour, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption).

- **Faculty Vision**

  To be Australia’s renowned Faculty of Business, recognized for academic excellence in ethical, socially responsible, meaning centred and spiritually infused transcendent business education, research and practice, serving both individual and societal needs – a leader in educating for positive self and social transformation.

- **Faculty Mission**

  To advance quality management knowledge and practice with a distinctive spiritual perspective and concern for humanity, making a positive difference to transforming self and society through quality teaching and learning, research, engagement and service.
Principle 1 | Purpose: We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

At the undergraduate level through the university’s Core Curriculum students do compulsory units in Understanding Self and Society – Global Perspectives, Our World – Community and Vulnerability, Professional Ethics, Responsible Reasoning and Communication, and Professional Experience in the Not-For-Profit sector. Students are also able to do dual degrees with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences – Bachelor of Business Administration/Bachelor of Global Studies, and Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Global Studies in which there are a range of focussed units such as Environmental Sustainability, Global Health, Global Change and Development.

These support the Faculty’s endeavours to achieve Principle 1.

At the postgraduate level, students are rewarded with a scholarship if they satisfy requirements to demonstrate how undertaking the degree can contribute to both self and society – that is, the focus is on developing the individual, their career but also the capacity and willingness to make positive contributions to both national and international society. New programs in (a) Occupational Health, Safety and Environment and (b) Supply Chain Management are also crucial in developing capabilities as in Principle 1. The Faculty is also developing a new M Sustainable Enterprise to be offered from 2014. Whilst there are many applicable units in such programs some of the key ones are Ethical Leadership in Organisations, Managerial Economics in a Global Environment, and Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility.
The educational innovations outlined in relation to Principle 1 also cover the values of Principle 2 at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This includes special support provided for indigenous students at both levels also, in for example, the Associate Degree in Indigenous Studies and the Faculty support for an indigenous staff member to complete doctoral studies.
**Principle 3 | Method:** We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

The points made under Principles 1 and 2 incorporate the focus on Principle 3. The key here is the compulsory Core Curriculum, the compulsory unit in Professional Experience (BIPX100) focused on the not-for-profit sector, the specific units tailored to educate for responsible leadership, and the scholarship reward structure embedded in our postgraduate Masters programs.

Other examples are the peer tutoring embedded in undergraduate programs and the community garden for vegetables run on the Brisbane campus by a lecturer and member of the University’s International Office. The garden was set up with a grant from the Vice-Chancellor to create a facility to assist disadvantaged students and it can, under appropriate circumstances contribute towards BIPX100. We can include other suitable BIPX100 projects that develop responsible leadership skills as an example. Another project that it might be worth mentioning is the peer tutoring.
Principle 4 | Research: We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

A major vehicle for meeting this Principle is the editorship by the Head of School Professor Grant Jones of the *Journal of Global Responsibility* published by Elsevier. Other relevant similar activities are: *International Journal of Responsible Employment Practices and Principles* (Associate Editor, Lynne Bennington); *Journal of Social Marketing* (Editorial Board, Professor Susan Dann); *Journal of Global Responsibility* (Editorial Board Member, Elizabeth More); *Journal of Markets and Morality, Faith and Economics* (Editorial Board Member, Adjunct Professor Paul Oslington).

Relevant current topics being studied by some of our research students include:

- “Directors values and board decisions”.
- “Socially responsible investing: Evidence of Islamic mutual funds”
- “Relationship between CSR and institutionalised normative calls for such behaviour”
- “Good governance and the impact of legislative regimes on Aboriginal organisations”
- “Directors’ values and identities”
- “Social Enterprise”
- “Corporate Social Responsibility”
**Principle 5 | Partnership:** We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

The Faculty is establishing a range of key partnerships with Business through our collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce across three Australian states, through the Faculty’s Advisory Council, its involvement with professional bodies such as the Australian Institute of Management and those pertaining to Accounting, Human Resources, and Marketing bodies. Many Faculty members work on boards (especially NFP ones) and tribunals.
**Principle 6 | Dialogue:** We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

The Faculty supports a range of conference participations and presentations by its staff locally and internationally and offers a range of workshops – such as those for International Womens’ Day and a recent free lunchtime seminar on “Developing Internal Expertise for Organisational Growth and Success.” A further example of such dialogue is with A/Professor Nasir Butrous who has been on the Queensland Moreton Bay Regional Development authority board for a number of years and, as a result, has undertaken research with students on food supply in the region (report released 2012). He has also facilitated the Agenda North Forum which brings together key businesses and government organisations for discussions on development in the north Brisbane/Moreton region.