

## RATIONALE FOR A STUDENT ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

### **Purpose**

This document, prepared by the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement), is intended to provide a background briefing for the first meeting of the Student Engagement Steering Committee.

- **Planning Framework 2015**

Each of the new strategic planning documents makes reference to the student experience at Monash:

- *Focus Monash* – the new five-year strategic plan
- 2015 Implementation Plan – one of the strategic objectives is to “increase student engagement and effectiveness through a high quality student experience”.
- Draft Academic Plan – expands on the strategic goals enunciated in *Focus Monash*.

Aspirations in the draft Academic Plan include enhancement of graduate skills, preparation for future employment and the development of leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

- **Student Engagement**

Through its planning framework, the University has placed student engagement among its highest strategic objectives alongside quality education and research. Monash has been active in this area for some years: for example, the Student Leadership program, *Ancora Imparo*, celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2015. It is widely accepted that student engagement, both academically and in extra curricula activities, is central to the student experience and forms a key plank in the enhancement agenda. In addition, Monash has made a clear commitment to an on-campus student experience as part of its future global positioning.

- **Organisational Structures**

The ongoing importance attached to student engagement by Monash is evidenced by establishment of the Campus and Community Division (CCD), charged with delivering a wide range of services designed to improve the non-academic student experience. Key programs offered include: Leadership, Volunteering and Careers; Student Futures; Monash Residential Services; Monash Sport; Counselling and Mental Health. In addition, the position of the Pro-Vic-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement) aims to facilitate and amplify the positive effects of the CCD and ensure a high quality student experience.

- **Student Experience Networks(Campus-Based SENs)**

The Clayton, Caulfield and Peninsula campuses each operate a Student Experience Network(SEN), chaired by a Campus Director. These groups meet on a regular basis and exist to share best practice and exchange information, news and views between staff and students. They are thought to serve a very useful purpose.

- **Student Engagement Steering Committee**

Until 2014, a University-wide SEN used to meet in order to bring together the various student organisations and administrative units operating on different campuses. Following a review earlier this year, it has been agreed that this committee is replaced by a higher level committee, the Student Engagement Steering Committee that is able to strengthen the strategic intent of the Monash Student Engagement strategy [q.v. Attachment].

**Professor David Copolov**  
**Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement)**

**Student Engagement Steering Committee**  
**[Formerly University-Wide Student Experience Network]**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE (REVISED 2015)**

Monash University is strongly committed to offering its students exceptional experiences in all aspects of University life so they can reach their personal, professional and intellectual potential. The Student Engagement Steering Committee brings together students and staff from all campuses to share best practice and new initiatives in the realm of student engagement across student organisations, faculties and central portfolios. In this respect, it complements the work of the Campus SENs but its focus is on strategic level policy development.

#### **The Committee will achieve its goals by:**

1. Contributing to the development of policy in the Student Engagement arena
2. Monitoring the University's progress in implementing new student engagement opportunities, with particular reference to the International student experience
3. Encouraging student organisations and faculties to share experience gained through their activities and new initiatives
4. Guiding the development of partnerships between central portfolios and Faculties
5. Strengthening the sense of community between different campuses
6. Oversight of leading student engagement practices, including reference to world/global standards
7. Receiving annual reports from Student Organisations within the University and working with Student Associations to provide an on-campus experience
8. Making recommendations where appropriate in respect of new and revised student engagement activities

### **PROCEDURES**

- The Committee may seek and obtain guidance from any board, committee or officer of the University, and may request and obtain information relevant to its inquiries from any such board, committee or person.
- The Committee will meet twice per year (In 2015 towards the end of July and the end of November) or as required, with the November meeting comprising reports from student organisations and membership consisting of both incoming and outgoing student presidents.

### **REPORTING**

The Committee reports to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Student Engagement and Major Campuses for whom it also operates as an advisory committee. It may make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for further consideration by the senior executive, as appropriate.