

Universitas 21

Meeting No. 9 of the U21 Deans of Education Group

September 11 and 12, 2006

Geneva, Switzerland

Participants

Airini, Auckland
David Clarke, Melbourne
Jim Conroy, Glasgow
Field Rickards, Melbourne
Roger Slee, McGill
David Thompson, Birmingham
Pat Thomson, Nottingham
Rob Tierney, UBC
Paula Uddman, Lund
Jonas Emanuelsson, Gothenburg (Observer)

MEETING REPORT

The meeting was held in five parts over the two days of September 11 and 12, 2006. It had originally been intended to hold Parts 3 and 4 simultaneously as two separate working groups, but it was decided that these could be dealt with sequentially by the entire group in the time available. As a consequence, instead of separate recommendations going forward for consideration by a final combined meeting in Part 5, recommendations were proposed and considered by the entire group as these arose in the course of the two days.

Part 1. Introductions and Sharing (9 am to 12:30 pm)

The morning session was taken up entirely with participants introducing themselves and highlighting issues current at their home institutions. These issues served to catalyse a general discussion and sharing of common concerns and current initiatives.

Issues and initiatives shared included:

- a. Canadian Deans of Education have established an accord in relation to teacher education research (Tierney).
- b. Experience of international student exchanges highlighted difficulties in setting up equitable arrangements since some institutions and countries were more attractive to students than others.
- c. The capacity of the group to draw on international perspectives not available at any individual university (establish the value-addedness of the U21 consortium).
- d. Strengths/expertise of individual Faculties/Schools of Education should be identified and made more visible through the U21 network.
- e. Various initiatives at different universities to measure research productivity and quality (particularly in relation to research in Education).

- f. Growing interest in ‘Knowledge Transfer’ (by whatever name) at different universities – connected to an expectation that Faculties of Education should demonstrably influence educational policy and practice.

Part 2. Higher Degrees in Education (September 11, 2 to 5:30 pm)

The meeting identified (and endorsed) a four-stage approach to the development in the long-term of an international program of U21 higher degrees in Education.

The four stages are:

1. Encouragement for the undertaking of overseas study at other U21 universities (undertaken by any mode) into existing higher degrees in education.
2. The development and accreditation at each institution of a MEd (International) with the structural inclusion of a prescribed minimum of 25% overseas content and a maximum of 50% of overseas content (undertaken by any mode).
3. The development and local accreditation of collaboratively delivered courses, such as a MEd (International School Leadership) or a MEd (International Curriculum) – such courses could be collaboratively delivered by two or more U21 Faculties of Education.
4. The development and accreditation of a badged U21 higher degree in Education – marketable as such.

Any program of internationally recognised higher degree studies would raise certain issues that would need to be addressed:

- a. Fees – the student should pay the fees required by the institution offering the subject being taken. It is possible that this will cause anomalies, where a student is recipient of a fee-remission scholarship from the home institution, but is required to pay fees to a host institution. In such cases, payment may be required from the home institution to the host institution for any such subject costs.
- b. Accreditation and recognition of work done at another institution. The nature of U21 membership is such that any higher degree study undertaken at one U21 university should be recognised as of an appropriate level for the equivalent degree at another U21 university. Equivalences can then be determined on a case-by-case basis, according to the fraction of the relevant degree that each completed subject (course of study) represents.
- c. Inter-institutional research supervision – since co-supervision is common practice and procedures already exist to accommodate this mode of supervision, cross-institutional supervision between U21 universities should be possible, with the transfer of the appropriate supervisory fee on a pro-rata basis.

It was recommended that immediate action should be taken to promote Stage One and the means by which this might be carried out was the subject of discussion in Part 5 of the two-day meeting.

Part 3. Collaborative Program Development (Nottingham and Auckland) (September 12, 9 to 11 am)

Airini and Pat Thomson reported on the collaborative development of a masters level degree in education by the Universities of Nottingham and Auckland, which will now be carried out by Chris Hall (Nottingham) and Mavis Haig (Auckland), who are responsible for the implementation of the program ‘on the ground.’

Possible timetable:

1. Pilot delivery at Nottingham in the summer of 2007, with some Auckland involvement.
2. Full delivery in 2008 by both Nottingham and Auckland.

Possible delivery:

Summer school classes with virtual classes in between (July in the Northern Hemisphere and December in the Southern Hemisphere).

Course/Degree Name:

The qualification may have different names at different universities to accommodate local markets and existing courses.

Next steps:

Mavis Haig and Chris Hall will meet in January or February, 2007, in order to develop a course program based on the outline tabled at the U21 Deans meeting in San Francisco, April, 2006. This will be done consistent with each institutions course outline pro forma. Work has commenced on this. A research project should be run parallel with this initiative to examine the learning outcomes from such a course of study.

Part 4. Doctoral Students Survey and Forum (September 12, 11 am to 1 pm)

David Thompson reported on the progress of the Doctoral Students Working Party, convened by Lynn McAlpine. A discussion paper was tabled, prepared by Lynn after consultation with doctoral student representatives from various U21 institutions. Discussion of this paper led to the recommendation of these key points for consideration by the U21 Deans of Education. The key elements in the discussion paper concerned a proposed survey of U21 doctoral students to ascertain their needs and interests, and a U21 doctoral students forum to be held coincident with the 2007 conference of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago (April 9 to 13).

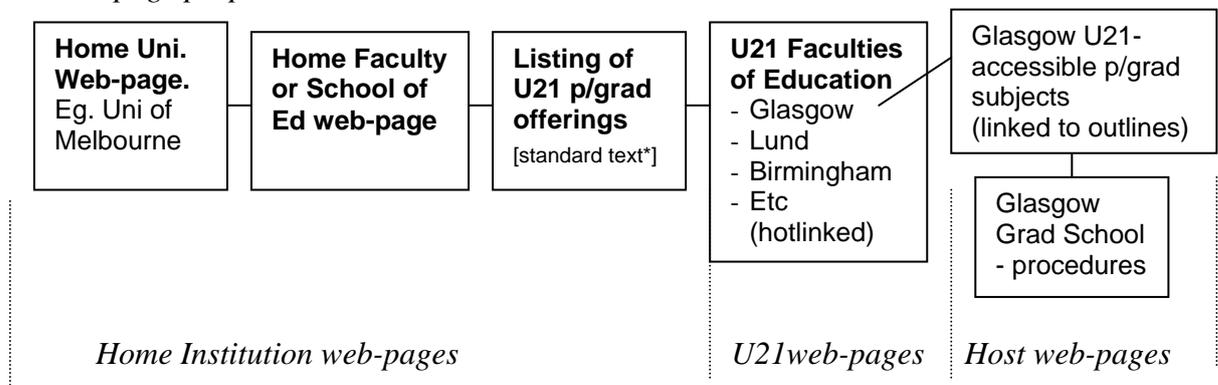
1. Deans to undertake to find a doctoral student representative to join the existing student committee (convened by Lynn McAlpine, McGill). This nomination to be a matter of urgency as the student working group will contribute to the development of the proposed doctoral student survey. **ACTION: DEANS**
2. Each Faculty to be responsible for distributing the doctoral student survey at the end of November (by which time doctoral students should know whether or not their papers have been accepted for the AERA conference – and these students can then be targeted for survey completion). **ACTION: DEANS**
3. Each Faculty to identify all doctoral students planning to attend the AERA conference and to forward a list of these students, with contact details, to Lynn McAlpine (lynn.mcalpine@mcgill.ca) and David Clarke (d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au). **ACTION: DEANS**
4. Each Faculty to subsidise doctoral student attendance at any U21 AERA doctoral student forum, including involvement in forum activities prior to the formal commencement of the AERA conference. **ACTION: DEANS**
5. As reported at the previous U21 Deans of Education meeting, the Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDOGS) group had some funds to support postgraduate student networking at conferences. David Clarke had contacted Barbara Evans (convenor of DDOGS) and established the procedures for application for these funds. Given the support of the meeting for both the survey and the proposed Doctoral Students Forum, to be held in conjunction with the AERA conference in Chicago in April, 2007, David Clarke agreed to submit an application to the DDOGS group for funds to support this networking initiative. **ACTION: CLARKE**

6. A key element of the proposed forum was felt to be the provision of experienced academics to serve as mentors to sub-groups of doctoral students. The Deans undertook to recruit such academic mentors from among the more experienced researchers attending the conference. **ACTION: DEANS**
7. The structure of the proposed forum was discussed with general agreement that an initial meeting be held on the day immediately prior to the commencement of the AERA conference (unless this would clash with an AERA event from which the students might benefit), but that subsequent shorter meetings be scheduled - possibly two breakfast meetings and two evening meetings – to provide students with a time for sharing and reflection on their conference experiences, possibly with input from the academic mentors. Finalisation of the program to emerge from the activities of the representative student group coordinated by Lynn McAlpine.

Part 5. U21 Deans of Education Meeting – Business Arising and General Business (September 12, 2 to 5 pm)

Item 1: Higher Degrees in Education - The discussion of Higher Degrees in Education commenced in Part 1 was continued and a four-stage approach to the development in the long-term of an international program of U21 higher degrees in Education was identified; the first stage to involve the structural inclusion of overseas study into existing higher degrees in education. Extended discussion occurred regarding how best to encourage higher degree students to undertake study at other U21 institutions. It was agreed to employ a common structure and text across websites (consistent with local conventions). The diagram below sets out the agreed connections between web-pages.

Web-page proposed connections



*Jim Conroy provided the following standard text to be included on each Faculty/School of Education website (as indicated above)

U21 Partnership Arrangements for Faculties of Education

Universitas 21 is a strategic alliance of some 20 major international universities. It has as a central objective, the cultivation of a capacity to engage creatively with globalisation. Today, ecology, environment, trade and conflict are global concerns. A sensitive and sensible response to such changing patterns of association and understanding increasingly needs itself to be global. For some years now, Deans

and other senior colleagues in Education Faculties in the network have been meeting regularly to explore and develop collaborative research and teaching initiatives.

Over the next few years we are initiating a number of innovative and exciting collaborations, which we believe will be of interest and benefit to our current and future students. We are beginning this process by offering postgraduate students the unparalleled opportunity to undertake part of their studies with any one of our participating partners. This will allow students to experience postgraduate education in at least two world leading institutions. Moreover, it will provide access to leading scholars across the globe. Some courses may be accessed online while others may require a period of residency in the partner institution. At this stage we intend offering as much flexibility as possible. Students enrol in their home institution but where they access a module or course they will pay the appropriate fee to the host institution. To find out more about our partners involved in this initiative have a look at [*website or hotlink*].

Item 2: U21 at the AERA conference – The recommendations in relation to the proposed doctoral student survey and AERA conference forum (Part 4 above) were confirmed for action as indicated. Discussion occurred in relation to a U21 Reception. The UBC and McGill Schools of Education have established the practice of jointly hosting a reception and both deans (Tierney and Slee) expressed their willingness to have this reception designated as a U21 reception. Other attending deans expressed their willingness to contribute to the costs of such a reception, funds permitting. **ACTION: DEANS**

Item 3: Research-mapping database - At the San Francisco meeting (April, 2006), Roger posed the question, “Why have a research data base?” and suggested that there were two central justifications:

- i) To facilitate networking
- ii) To support benchmarking

Roger agreed at the San Francisco meeting to explore U21 institution websites (or by any other means) and to collect information about each university’s research strengths. Roger spoke to the Geneva meeting in relation to this item. McGill has employed administrator to map research activity at U21 education institutions. Roger will be requesting information from Faculties with each choosing its own research groupings.

A further report on the progress of this initiative will be circulated separately.

ACTION: SLEE

Item 4: U21 Deans of Education webpage – David Clarke reported that a U21 Deans of Education web-page had been established (<http://www.universitas21.com/educationgroup.html>) and requested feedback on its current content and structure.

Item 5: Prioritisation of U21 Research Partnerships – The meeting strongly endorsed the idea that applications for research funding should prioritise the inclusion of U21 researchers as research partners.

Item 6: U21 Conference prior to ECER – It was proposed that a one-day U21 conference “Research in Education and Educational Research” be held immediately prior to the 2007

conference European Educational Research Association (EERA). Each U21 School of Education will present a paper on current and intended initiatives in relation to research in education and research education. The focus of the conference would be on the purpose and obligations associated with educational research. The aim would be for the U21 Deans of Education group and U21 Education in general to adopt a more pro-active role in the debate on the quality of research in education and to translate this into tangible programs for the education of researchers. Details of this conference to be discussed via email and finalised at the next U21 Deans of Education meeting in Chicago in April, 2007.

ACTION: DEANS

Next Meeting

Timing of the next meeting would be determined subject to progress on actioning item 2 above.

Meeting Closed: 5 pm