University Secretariat
Principles

Principles for the Operation of Committees

While the committee structures provide a suitable framework, it is the members of the committees who determine whether good governance and better practice standards are actually achieved and ensure that the committee is adding value.

General:

1. **Collegiality**: The Committee system is transparent and consultative, and all staff have the opportunity to provide meaningful input into decisions that significantly affect them.

2. **Working Smart**: Committee time is used in ways which make the most efficient and effective use of staff time to deliberate on significant issues and policies.

3. **Good Conduct**: Committee members abide by a Code of Conduct that requires them to be appropriately informed and prepared before the meeting so that they can contribute to the decisions of the committee.

4. **Review**: All committees are regularly reviewed in relation to both the performance of committee business and committee members.

Functional:

5. **Policy Decisions**: Committees are, wherever possible, engaged in establishing policies and rules within which individual staff can manage and administer University business.

6. **Management Decisions**: Committees are involved in management and administrative decisions as close to the activity as is compatible with legislative requirements.

7. **Communication**: Committees are used to provide a contextual framework within which University policies are developed and decisions are made.

8. **Membership**: Committee membership ensures the broad University community, in all its diversity, is reasonably represented. However, individual committees are not constituted to represent every possible interest group and the number of members should be kept as low as practicable.

Revised on 16/02/2006
University Secretariat
Rules for the Operation of Committees

Establishment and Review of Committees:

1. Committees are to have a constitution that clearly describes the purpose and operation of the committee including membership, Chair, function, decision-making and communication lines, quorum and conduct of meetings.

2. Mechanisms for reporting the business of each committee should be made clear at the time of establishment of the committee.

3. Committees should establish a review regime addressing the frequency and nature of the review process and the allocation of responsibility for conducting and acting on the review.

Conduct of Meetings:

4. Meetings should only commence with the appropriate quorum. If the meeting is inquorate the meeting can be cancelled and business dealt with by circulation or discussion can take place in committee mode with recommendations ratified at the next meeting or by circular.

5. Meetings should be held in accordance with constitution. However, the committee should not meet simply because a meeting has been scheduled rather only when there is important business to transact. If business is limited, consideration should be given to circulating items with the Chair’s recommendation rather than to deferring items to a later meeting.

6. Items brought to the committee for a decision for noting or for communication should be relevant to the business or role of the committee. Consideration should be given to holding a joint meeting of two committees when there is an item of interest for more than one committee. When it is clear that the committee has insufficient knowledge to add value to a decision, then other means of processing the decision should be found within existing policy and legislative provisions.

7. Where decisions are to be referred to other University committees then meeting dates should be scheduled to facilitate the efficient flow of business to these committees.

8. There should be an opportunity at the start of each meeting for members to declare any potential or perceived conflict of interest in respect of any item and where appropriate to absent themselves from discussion and/or the room while the item is being considered.

9. Documentation for committees should be written precisely, accurately, clearly and succinctly. The level of formality and detail should match the purpose and readership of the document.

10. Agendas of meetings should:

• Contain or have attached any background material necessary to enable members to make informed decisions. If items have been discussed previously a chronology of key elements of the discussion should be attached.
• Be divided into three parts (Attachment C):

Part 1. Items for Communication to be dealt with En Bloc - only items for communication that require no decision or discussion, but are relevant to the business of the committee or its future decision-making, or require dissemination by members to staff within their
areas;

Part 2. Items for Decision to be dealt with En Bloc - only items for decision with clear recommendations by the Chair that are likely to require no further discussion;

Part 3. Items for Discussion and Decision.

- Include an Item/Business in Progress List providing an update of actions since the last meeting, where appropriate
- At the discretion of the Chair allow items of ‘Other Business’ provided there is advance notice to the Chair and the item is not a major policy item.
- Be distributed to members at least three working days before the meeting and items perceived by the Chair to be key issues should be highlighted. Deadlines for placing formal items on the agenda should be enforced by the Chair and the Executive Officer. Rather than delay the distribution of an agenda because one item is not ready, the use of supplementary agendas should be considered.
- Be posted on the Web, with attachments where possible and available to all staff on the University’s intranet, unless issues of confidentiality preclude this.

11. Minutes of meetings should:

- Contain a summary or précis of events, in dot form wherever possible, rather than a detailed account of every contribution. In general names of individuals should not be recorded in the discussion.
- Contain all resolutions and agreements, whether reached formally through motions or through general consensus, and a clear statement of the action to be taken in relation to each item including the person responsible for the action and a timeline for completion, where appropriate.
- Be distributed to committee members within 10 working days of the close of the meeting.
- Be posted on the Web and available to all staff on the University’s intranet, unless issues of confidentiality preclude this.

Role of Members:

12. Members are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the University’s Code of Conduct and the University Committee Members’ Code of Conduct.

13. Members are required to participate actively in committee business and provide appropriate contributions to decision making for the betterment of the University as a whole.

14. University members should only nominate for committees for which they feel they are well placed and appropriately informed to contribute to the business of that committee.

15. Members who represent constituents on a committee should make every attempt to canvass the views and opinion of that group to bring back to the discussion of the committee and report committee decisions back to their constituents.

Role of Chair and Executive Officer:

16. Chairs and Executive Officers are responsible for ensuring these rules for the operation of committees are followed including the appropriate recording of decisions and actions.

17. Chairs should conduct meetings with the degree of formality appropriate to the committee. Generally, greater formality is needed with major committees, committees with a larger membership and where it is required by constitutional and statutory provisions.

18. Chairs should ensure meetings are conducted fluently so members understand the
matters at hand and have the opportunity to discuss them, and the voting processes and resolutions are clear. Chairs should try to ensure the active participation by all members of the committee.

19. Chairs and the Executive Officers have a responsibility to ensure the business of the committee is either referred for a decision to the relevant committee or is communicated effectively to relevant areas of the University.

20. Committees should make provision for delegating responsibilities to the Chair and Executive Officer as far as possible, ensuring accountability for these delegations.

21. Chairs and Executive Officers should meet to discuss the draft agenda so both understand the purpose and possible outcomes of the meeting.

22. Executive Officers should familiarise themselves with the working of the University committee system as a whole, and as much as possible work with Executive Officers of other committees to ensure smooth transition of business through the committee system.

23. Executive Officers should work with the Chair to provide all new members with induction briefing material and appropriately induct new members into the committee. Where possible, this should occur well before the member’s first attendance at a meeting of the committee. It is recommended that briefing material provided to new members includes:

- The constitution of the committee including information on the position of the committee in the University committee structure (namely maps with pathways for decisions and communication).
- The Principles and Rules of the Operation of Committees.
- The Code of Conduct of committee members.
- Committee meeting dates.
- Major items of business of the committee of the previous year.
- Commonly used acronyms and abbreviations which might be used in the conduct of the committee’s business.
- Effective Meetings - A Guide to Good Practice

Any enquiries relating to the rules for the operation of committees may be directed to the Academic Secretariat.

Revised 16 February 2006
University Secretariat

University Committee Members' Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

Membership of a University Committee is an important role and brings with it key responsibilities and obligations. The specific membership requirements for University Committees have been prepared to promote good practice and give committee members a summary of their obligations and provide guidance on ethical conduct.


1. **Personal Conduct**: All members of University committees are required to conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the University’s Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. A copy is available at: http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/publications/code_of_ethics

Members of committees are also required to:

- Understand the committee’s role and purpose within the University.
- Stay informed about relevant matters affecting the committee’s business.
- Attend all committee meetings or where attendance is not possible, submit an apology.
- Participate actively and work cooperatively with other committee members and University staff.
- Prepare for all committee meetings by reading and considering the agenda items, papers circulated and other relevant documents.
- Not improperly influence other committee members.
- Make new points succinctly without reiterating at length points already made.

2. **Accountability**: All members have a responsibility to ensure efficient and effective operations of the committee, avoid extravagant and wasteful use of resources and ensure actions are consistent with the role and purpose of the committee.

Members of committees are also required to:

- Participate constructively in committee activities in a lawful, ethical and justifiable manner.
- Ensure decisions are consistent with any statutory and legal requirements.
- Ensure resources, funds and staff are used effectively and economically for committee business.

3. **Record Keeping and Use of Information**: All documentation produced by the committee forms part of the University records and should be maintained in accordance with University’s Record Keeping Plan (http://www.archives.uwa.edu.au/rkp).

In conjunction with specific responsibilities of the Executive Officer, members of committees are also required to:

- Ensure adequate procedures are followed for documenting decisions and actions of the committee.
• Maintain confidentiality of committee business where necessary, ensuring confidential records are subject to appropriate storage and access procedures.
• Respect confidential discussions and not misuse any information obtained through membership of the committee.
• Openly declare any matters of private interest and record any issues with the potential for conflict or perceived conflict to ensure they are transparent and capable of review.
• Where appropriate, disqualify themselves from committee discussions and decisions where a conflict of interest occurs.
• Be aware of the FOI Act 1992 and that access may be sought to all records under this legislation

Where members are unsure of their obligations or responsibilities under the University Committee Members’ Code of Conduct, the member should contact the Chair or Executive Officer of the Committee for assistance.

Revised on 16/02/2006
UWA FUTURE FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Progress report for Academic Board, 17 March 2010

The general picture

It is a little over a year since the Vice-Chancellor established an Implementation Committee to ensure that the recommendations of the Review of Course Structures are followed through in a timely and coordinated way.

So far, the complex process of preparing the University for such a fundamental and far-reaching set of changes has, in general, gone as smoothly as it is reasonable to expect.

- There are various practical difficulties, academic and administrative, that should not be underestimated; but they are being worked through systematically and seem at this stage to be manageable.
- Intensive curriculum redevelopment has been taking place across all disciplines, with hundreds of staff contributing directly.
- Timeline targets, which are essential to ensure that prospective students receive useful information when they need it, are being met.
- Boards, committees, faculties and central support areas alike are engaging constructively with the challenge of absorbing implementation work into the mainstream of their respective activities.

Development of new undergraduate majors

At the centre of the Future Framework reforms is the large task of devising a full new suite of undergraduate courses. Over the last few months academic staff members have expended a great deal of effort on this, and outcomes so far are generally very positive.

In Phase 1 of the process, expressions of interest for the development of new undergraduate majors, submitted by 30 November 2009, were thoroughly considered by the Interim Boards of Studies, and proposers have received feedback.

The two-phase course development process enables applicants to put forward draft concept plans of their proposed majors, guided by the structural requirements of the new framework, and then to receive feedback before developing these plans further. The Interim Boards have now provided feedback on all submissions. The detailed Phase 2 proposals, to be lodged on the new Callista Approval and Publishing System (CAPS), are due in early May along with proposals for Honours and for individual units (whether within or outside majors).

Feedback and revision

In Phase 1 submissions, 81 majors were initially proposed.

Written feedback on each of these was provided by the Interim Boards, supplemented where appropriate by the Board Chairs, who held discussions with the proposers of majors to clarify issues and assist with the revision of some submissions. The Senior DVC and the Senior Academic Reviewer also participated in several such meetings with individuals and groups.

The main issues arising were these:
Achieving a balance between disciplinary distinctiveness and sensible unit-sharing. Some proposed majors consist entirely of units unique to the major, but some share a substantial proportion of their units with other majors. Board consideration has avoided any rigid application of rules, acknowledging that circumstances may legitimately differ from one discipline to another. In some cases the balance is best achieved through streaming within a major, particularly at Level 3.

Ensuring clear progression through different levels while permitting reasonable flexibility where appropriate. It was noted that those proposing a major with loose prerequisites and numerous optional units may find it more difficult to demonstrate in Phase 2 how each possible pathway will meet the requirements of the new course structures (most notably a coherent discipline-specific developmental learning sequence, and systematic embedding of research and communication skills). Board feedback has emphasised this while also recognising that in some cases the provision of alternative pathways may be appropriate.

As a consequence of the feedback and negotiations, the 81 majors originally proposed have been reduced to 66 ahead of the Phase 2 process.

Numbers of units and of unit sets

It is not yet possible to make a definitive and meaningful comparison between the number of undergraduate units offered at present and the number that will be offered in the new courses.

The Phase 1 proposals comprise 834 unique units. Quite a few of these appear in two or more majors. The net total will probably increase in Phase 2: for while some units will disappear as majors become more tightly defined, on the other hand additional units will emerge, partly for broadening and elective purposes.

1320 of the 1663 undergraduate units offered in 2009 were at levels 1, 2 or 3, and it may seem at first glance that these provide a useful basis for comparison with the number of units listed in the Phase 1 proposals. But many of the current L1, L2 and L3 units belong to professional courses such as Law and Medicine that are not represented in the new proposals because in future they will be offered at the postgraduate level.

There are currently 76 undergraduate courses (including combined degrees but excluding end-on honours). Not all undergraduate degree courses have majors – e.g. the LLB has no majors – but 66 (single and combined degrees) do have “unit sets” of some kind, comprising 208 majors and 110 other unit sets (minors, programs and specialisations). The grand total of 318 is nearly five times the number of majors now being proposed under the Future Framework.

Ian Reid
Senior Academic Reviewer
8 March 2010
1 PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

UWA Professor Cheryl Praeger awarded Western Australian Scientist of the Year for 2009

Australia's most highly cited pure mathematician, Professor Cheryl Praeger, was recently named the WA Scientist of the Year. Professor Praeger, Professor of Mathematics at The University of Western Australia and an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, is a leading international researcher in group theory, algebraic graph theory and combinatorics.

Announcing the winners on 2 December 2009, Western Australian Science and Innovation Minister Troy Buswell said: "Professor Praeger's work has resulted in findings that have led to new thought being adopted by mathematicians worldwide."

Professor Praeger is in the top one per cent of highly cited mathematicians in the world and is recognised for adapting a 19th century theory by a now celebrated rebel French teenager, Evariste Galois, for use in today's information technology.

Also recognised at the WA Science Awards was Professor Kevin Pfleger from the UWA-affiliate, The Western Australian Institute for Medical Research. Professor Pfleger was named Young Scientist of the Year for his work in developing novel technology to identify and study receptors that are extremely important in the treatment of disease.

In addition to these awards, Professor Ian Constable, Professor of Ophthalmology at The University of Western Australia and the founder of and driving force behind the Lions Eye Institute, was inducted into the Science Hall of Fame at the 2009 Western Australian Science Awards. A world-leading ophthalmic surgeon, Professor
Constable was recognised for his outstanding contribution to ophthalmology and to science.

Announcing the induction, Science and Innovation Minister Troy Buswell said Professor Constable had been instrumental in his role as chair of the State's science advisory councils in recommending funding priorities and establishing the WA Energy Research Alliance, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research.

**Two UWA students awarded Rhodes Scholarships**

As announced in November 2009, the 2009 Rhodes Scholarship for Western Australia was won by Physics and Chemistry student Dustin Stuart. Since then, it was announced that a UWA student received a 2009 Australia-at-large Rhodes Scholarship.

Jessica Panegyres was awarded one of the three 2009 Australia-at-large Rhodes Scholarship. At Oxford the UWA Arts/Law Honours student wants to undertake a Masters in Political Theory.

Jessica attended Lesmurdie Senior High School, has won several awards during her UWA studies, including the Serge Ferrier Family Law Prize in 2009, and in 2007 the Rob Riley Prize, the Faculty of Law Book Prize (Legal History) and the Ciara Glennon Memorial Law Scholarship.

Jessica has worked as a volunteer for organisations including the Centre for Advocacy, Support and Education for Refugees, the Deaths in Custody Watch Committee, Unity of First People of Australia, the Red Cross, and the Environmental Defender's Office. She has also taught English as a second language to Aboriginal children and refugees and has also assisted in providing emergency accommodation for refugees and people with mental illness.

**UWA graduates and staff honoured in Australia Day Awards**

A number of UWA staff and graduates were honoured in the 2010 Australia Day Awards. The awards are a tremendous acknowledgement of the outstanding work done by UWA staff and graduates and recognition of the importance of Australia’s universities to the nation’s future.

UWA graduate, The Honourable Chief Justice Robert French, Chief Justice of the High Court, received the highest and rarely awarded honour, a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC) for his service to the law and the judiciary.
Dr Jim Ross, a graduate, Honorary Research Fellow at UWA, and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from UWA, was also acknowledged in the Australia Day Awards. Dr Ross was made a Member in the General Division (AM) in recognition of his contribution to geoscience and, among other things, the establishment of the UWA Geoscience Foundation.

Also acknowledged and made a Member in the General Division was UWA graduate and staff member Professor Jenny Gregory. Professor Gregory was recognised for her exceptional work and service to the community as an historian and academic.

In total there were 14 honours bestowed on graduates and staff of UWA. On behalf of the UWA community, I congratulate the award winners and thank them for their exceptional dedication to their professions, their fellow citizens and to the nation.

The details of the awards made are as follows:

**COMPANION (AC) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION**

- **The Honourable Chief Justice Robert French, AC CitWA (UWA Graduate)** - For eminent service to the law and to the judiciary, to legal education and administration in the areas of constitutional, competition and native title law, and to legal reform.

**OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION**

- **Dr Richard Tognetti, AO (UWA Honorary Doctorate recipient)** - For service to music through leadership of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, as an internationally acclaimed violinist, through the development and promotion of educational programs for children, support for emerging artists and contributions to charitable organisations.

**MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION**

- **Dr James Ross, AM (UWA Graduate and Honorary Doctorate recipient)** - For service to geoscience through advocacy of mineral industry interests, leadership in developing research and education and the establishment of the University of Western Australia's Geoscience Foundation.

- **Professor David Black, AM (UWA Graduate)** - For service to education and to the social sciences, particularly through the promotion and preservation of the political and parliamentary history of Western Australia.

- **The Honourable Mr John Cowdell, AM (UWA Graduate)** - For service to the Parliament of Western Australia, to regional development, and to the community, particularly through contributions to history and heritage.

- **Dr Patricia Giles AM (UWA Graduate)** - For service to the community through organisations and advisory bodies that promote the interests of women, and to the Parliament of Australia.
Dr Susan Heather Graham-Taylor, AM (UWA Graduate) - For service to conservation and the environment through executive roles with a range of organisations, through the development of protection measures relating to air quality and the management of waste, and as an historian.

Professor Jenny Gregory, AM (UWA Staff and Graduate) - For service to the community as an historian and academic and through the promotion and preservation of local and regional history in Western Australia.

Professor Byron Lamont, AM (UWA Graduate) - For service to conservation and the environment, particularly Australian flora as an educator, researcher and author.

MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Rev Father Kevin Davine, OAM (UWA Graduate) - For service to education, and to the Catholic Church in Victoria.

Dr Ivan Milton Vodanovich, OAM (UWA Graduate) - For service to the law through the reform of the Criminal Justice system in Western Australia, particularly in the area of probation and parole.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)

Ms Susan Hunt, PSM (UWA Graduate) - For outstanding public service as the Chief Executive Officer of the Perth Zoological Parks Authority.

Professor Ernest Hunter PSM (UWA Graduate) - For outstanding public service to Queensland Health, particularly in the delivery of mental health initiatives in rural Queensland.

Mr Colin Peter Murphy, PSM (UWA Graduate) - For outstanding public service at senior levels in the financial and business services areas of the Western Australian Government.

2. RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Professor Robyn Owens appointed to the ARC Advisory Council

Professor Robyn Owens, UWA's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), has been appointed to the nation's pre-eminent research advisory body, the Australian Research Council Advisory Council. Former UWA Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Seares, has recently retired from the Council.

Professor Owens was an outstanding academic with a distinguished career in mathematics, research and research training, who will bring a great deal of expertise to the Council. The appointment of Robyn Owens reflects the high esteem in which she is held by her peers and the Australian Government. Following on from the
appointment of Margaret Sears, it is also an indication of the high regard for the
standards of excellence being achieved at our University.

**International mining collaboration to further industry and environment**

In December 2009, The University of Western Australia signed a collaborative
agreement with the China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT) and the
University of Queensland to strengthen cooperation in mining research. The
collaboration will involve the establishment of a Sino-Australian Mining Research
Centre in China which will act as an international platform for the Australian and
Chinese governments, industries, educational and research institutions.

CUMT is considered China's top university for mining technology and boasts more
than 40,000 students. The Centre will be located at CUMT's main campus in Xuhou
(in China's Jiangsu Province) and will integrate training and research with the
delivery of technology and innovative products. The research areas will include
geological exploration, mining and safety, mineral processing, coal-based synthetic
fuel, new energy and ecological environmental restoration.

### 3 EDUCATION

#### 2010 Offers

The University of Western Australia has made more than 4400 offers for
undergraduate courses this year - the most the University has ever made.

The number of offers has risen by three per cent from 4296 in 2009 to 4435 this year.
This includes 640 offers to students in rural WA and 136 to 'second-chance' students
through the University's Mature-age Access Program.

The higher number of offers was due to continuing demand among high achieving
students for UWA courses. The University has managed to keep cut-off scores at
similar levels to last year, despite increased demand in areas such as arts and science
and ongoing strong demand in engineering.

**First TAFE students gain entry to UWA design course**

A 20-year-old Iranian-born woman and a 21-year-old man from Réunion are the first
students to enter The University of Western Australia under a new agreement between
UWA and Central Institute of Technology, formerly Central TAFE.

Shokoufeh Rajaian, of Balga, and Mickael Renouard, of Leederville, will undertake a
Bachelor of Environmental Design at UWA this year after successfully completing a
Diploma of Building Design and Technology at the Central Institute of Technology.

In accordance with the principles outlined in the articulation agreement between
Central and UWA's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, the students
were assessed for entry to UWA by a lecturer from Central, David Plowright, and UWA's Associate Professor Kate Hislop. The students had to demonstrate English language competence as part of the assessment, which was also based on their final Diploma project.

The students will receive credit equivalent to one full year of the Bachelor of Environmental Design degree, in recognition of the units completed during their Diploma, which means they will only need to do the equivalent of two years full-time study to complete their degree.

**UWA’s first Indigenous dentist**

The first Indigenous dental graduate from The University of Western Australia - David Plichta – was honoured at a completion ceremony at the University in December 2009. Mr Plichta’s country is in the Northern Territory but he has lived in Sorrento with his family for several years while studying. Mr Plichta became interested in dentistry when he attended a UWA School of Indigenous Studies Year 10 camp on the UWA campus. Mr Plichta's graduation was a very significant personal achievement for David as well as a proud moment for the University.

UWA has a comprehensive program for attracting Indigenous students into dentistry, medicine and the health sciences through its Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (CAMDH).

CAMDH has a very high success rate for retention of medical students, compared with other Australian universities. CAMDH's recent focus has been on Indigenous dental students. The University was committed to Indigenous education because it ensured health care services were more accessible for Aboriginal people.

**UWA enters into partnership with Open Universities Australia**

The Centre for Integrated Human Studies at UWA has entered into a partnership with Open Universities Australia to enable students, wherever they live, to study IHS courses. Under the new partnership, students from around the world will be able to study online for a degree that examines the nature and future of humankind. UWA’s ability to provide programs through OUA is a great opportunity for the University to engage further with the online educational community.

OUA is Australia's largest online higher education services provider with 14 universities in the partnership, increasing access to high-quality career-oriented educational postgraduate programs and more flexibility for students.
4 EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WA State Cabinet meets at UWA

I am very pleased to report that on Tuesday 16 February 2010, 14 members of the WA Cabinet, including the Premier, Colin Barnett, attended a briefing held in the Senate Room of UWA. Senior staff of UWA attended and participated in the briefing.

Among other things, Cabinet Ministers were briefed on UWA's new courses due to come into effect in 2012 and a proposed minerals and energy institute to consolidate research and teaching expertise for the resources sector. It was also an opportunity to again bring to the attention of the Government the ambitious target of the University of becoming one of the top-100 universities in the world by its centenary in 2013, and one of the Top 50 in the world by 2050.

The briefing provided State Cabinet with an understanding of the University, its research and teaching agenda, its collaborations (State, national and international) and its future priorities.

UWA Student Guild Volunteer Hub officially launched

In an Australian-first, UWA students have partnered with a major volunteering organisation to set up a volunteering hub at The University of Western Australia.

The UWA Student Guild voted unanimously to establish a volunteering program with Volunteering WA which will allow students to make a difference in the local community, gain new experience, develop skills, meet others and support worthy causes.

Officially launched on the 2010 Orientation Day, the hub - an office in the Guild Village - will enable students to search for volunteer positions both in the local community and on campus. An important feature of the partnership with UWA is the formal recognition of the rich volunteering tradition that has developed within the Guild throughout its 97 year history. As most would be aware, PROSH and Uni Camp for Kids are UWA students' best-known voluntary fundraising events.

It is hoped that with the success of the hub, other universities around the country will follow and engage students in volunteering.

Volunteering will be an aspect of UWA's new courses, helping Western Australian students compete in the international marketplace. Students will have the opportunity to undertake a structured 'service learning' experience with a not-for-profit organisation to develop an awareness of community needs, citizenship responsibilities and leadership capabilities.
2010 Perth International Arts Festival

The Perth International Arts Festival is the premier cultural event conducted in Western Australia. UWA is proud to be the founder and supporter of the Festival, which is now in its 58th year.

The 'Festival of Perth' was founded in 1953 by Professor Fred Alexander, Dean of the UWA Faculty of Arts, whose vision of 'a festival for the people' continues to this day. The Festival began as a community arts experiment of the then Adult Education Board and has developed into the most wonderful, creative partnership between The University of Western Australia and the community.

It is a pillar of UWA’s longstanding commitment to the arts in Australia and to the University’s enduring and active engagement with the community it serves.

The Perth International Arts Festival remains one of the most exciting arts festivals in our nation, and the world, and is the oldest international arts festival in Australia.

Many will be aware of the very impressive program that has been put together by Shelagh Magadza, the Artistic Director. The Festival Films at the UWA Somerville Auditorium commenced in December and are, as always, enormously popular with the general public.

The Perth Writer’s Festival program was launched on 28 January, with the Festival events themselves taking place on the grounds of the University in February.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor