

## Supplementary Submission 146.1 TE Inquiry

During a presentation to the House of Representatives Teacher Education Inquiry in Brisbane by Mark Dawson, Lesley McAulery-Jones and myself a few months ago, I indicated that the University of Southern Queensland's Faculty of Education does not have the same concerns about siphoning off of Commonwealth funds that other Faculties across the country had apparently drawn to your attention. You asked me if I knew how much money to expect from the University each year and I said "Basically, Yes". You then asked me if I could send you some details.

Since that time I have looked further into this matter. I have also noted that a media release by the ACDE this past week has made the very point that Faculties of Education across the country are being "sidelined" and "marginalised" by their Universities.

In essence I can state with confidence that DEST's cluster concept is used as the central principle at this University in the determination of Faculty budgets. Specifically, from 2006:

- 1 USQ will set aside the funding received from DEST for practicum costs (approx \$1,300,000) and will provide it to the Faculty for that purpose.
2. After allocations for central university costs, a further \$42 million is expected to be available from DEST revenue for allocation to Faculties in 2006. Of this, 15% will be for research support, 5% will be allocated according to Teaching & Learning performance, and the remaining 80% will be allocated on the basis of clusters as reported to DEST.
3. Additionally, USQ employs a financial review strategy developed in conjunction with an external agency, Agility Based Costing (ABC), to assess the Financial Contributory Margins of Faculties and Departments each semester. Deans are able to use these data to scrutinise their own internal operations and also to compare cross-Faculty productivity indices, particularly in relation to Teaching functions.

I also gained the distinct impression during my attendance at the Inquiry that a number of Panel members held the view that Faculties of Education have poor images both in their Universities and in their broader communities. That is not the case in this Faculty, where staff assume a wide range of responsible leadership roles in the University and where the Faculty represents the core of what I personally regard as the most dynamic educational community (Toowoomba) in the country. Guided by our local schools, we have recently developed a new structure, entitled Toowoomba Education Coalition, and comprising USQ, TAFE, and all secondary schools, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, to develop new pathways and opportunities for Toowoomba's youth. The effects of this initiative are already becoming apparent. Perhaps partly as a result, this past week has seen a wide-ranging media-based nationwide attack on schools and Faculties of Education. By contrast the Toowoomba media have featured a range of articles about the achievements of our schools and education institutions.

It is regrettable that in the very important work that you are undertaking you do not have the time to visit communities such as this one to see firsthand that there are in fact some significant success stories in the midst of all the gloom.

With thanks and best wishes,

Frank

Professor Frank Crowther,  
Dean of Education and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional Engagement and Social Justice)  
University of Southern Queensland,  
Toowoomba.

[crowthef@usq.edu.au](mailto:crowthef@usq.edu.au)