



4 March 2009

The Raffles AUQA Audit – Quality, Expertise and Commitment

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) completed an audit of Raffles College, at the College's request, in late 2008.

The audit commended Raffles for its strong commitment to students, its quality of teaching staff and its strong links to industry that result in high employability for its students. The report also found that Raffles College required "further work in the area of academic governance and how the governance and management structures intersect."

A snapshot of the audit's findings (in bold) and Raffles responses to those are below. A fuller response to each of the commendations, affirmations and recommendations from the *Report of an Audit of Raffles College of Design and Commerce* is also available on the RCDC website.

"The Panel acknowledges the foresight of the College in committing to a rigorous external audit and recognising the potential contribution of audit findings to raising the quality of all aspects of RCDC operations."

AUQA complimented Raffles College for inviting them to audit the college early in this first audit cycle of Non Self-Accrediting Institutions.

"The Audit Panel members and students were impressed by the quality of teaching staff and the skill, expertise and commitment the teaching staff contribute to the College, particularly in terms of connections with industry."

"Students reinforced the commitment of staff to their education, and commented that staff are approachable and generous in sharing their expertise and knowledge of the various professions within which they are involved. This included staff at head of school, program director and sessional level."

"Students consider the staff, with very few exceptions, to be helpful and operating above the necessary requirements when assisting students."

The quality of the education that Raffles provides to its students is paramount over all other activities and success in this regard is evident in the AUQA audit report. Student learning and teaching quality has been recognised as being indisputable with AUQA's main recommendations focussed on the development of more comprehensive academic and commercial management systems in the context of Raffles' desire to becoming a Self-Accrediting Institution in future.

Raffles College is particularly pleased that AUQA visited its two largest and probably most diverse transnational sites (Singapore and Shanghai).

“Industry representatives at all three sites were enthusiastic about the quality of the students the College is producing, and are keen to build further linkages...”

This is a most rewarding finding as our intention always has been to develop an academic enterprise that provides our graduates with real futures in the commercial world in their chosen disciplines.

Raffles is committed to the nexus of teaching expertise being linked to scholarly activity, being linked to research, and the following statement by the auditors indicates that Raffles has indeed embarked seriously along that road:

“Both within the Portfolio and in interviews at all three sites visited, there was evidence of the emerging research agenda of RCDC (Raffles College of Design and Commerce), RU (Raffles University) and REC (Raffles Education Corporation). At RCDC Sydney a Research Committee of Academic Board has been established. Staff members with research backgrounds or potential, are being recruited and supported.”

REC and Raffles College are both growing in numbers and in strength and this AUQA audit is seen as a positive and important step in the growth and development process. Raffles thanks AUQA for a very constructive audit and welcomes its recommendations.

Raffles College signals that it is committed to work hard to continue to develop its management systems while maintaining its excellent learning and teaching environment across its many campuses as recognised by AUQA.

Professor Ron Newman
Chair Raffles College Council

Ms Jane Mourão
Raffles College Director