



## **Presidents Report – AGM 2009**

The ACDS Executive met five times in Sydney, at UTS; on 24 November 2008, 2 March 2009, 11 May 2009, 3 August 2009 and 14 September 2009. On behalf of the Executive I thank the dean at UTS (Professor Bruce Milthorpe and his PA, Ms Carol Crane) for assistance in accommodating and facilitating the holding of our Meetings.

During the 2008-2009 span of the current Executive we had the added services of Professor John Rice in the role of Executive Director (ED) as agreed at the 2008 AGM. I would thank John for his sterling efforts through this period, not only pursuing several important developments initiated last year by the ACDS, including ASELL, and further activities related to Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning), but also being the ACDS principal contact and respondent in matters relating to the National Science Curriculum. John through my coincidental inability to attend Board Meetings attended **all** FASTS Boards as our representative, having organised for us to be the cluster representative at FASTS Board Meetings. Thanks you indeed for all of these activities John.

Some of the matters which the ACDS Executive generally, John Rice (ED) or I personally (RKN) dealt with or responded to included (in no particular order):

- The effect and widespread appreciation of the reduction in HECS
- DEEWR Working Group on HDR Employment (RKN was a member) and our response
- Media requests for information/comment on popularity polls for science faculties (pre-enrolment) and the actual enrolment data (not assisted greatly I would add chidingly by some of our members being slow or apparently reluctant to reveal their enrolment patterns)
- Review of DEST Annual Report (ED attended a Parliamentary Review Committee on behalf of ACDS)
- AD(T&L) Conference (ED organised and coordinated)
- Review of *The Science ALTC Pilot Project Report* and our covering letter thereto
- Various responses, attendance at meetings and inputs to the *National Science Curriculum*, including membership on the *National Science Curriculum Advisory Panel* (ED) and attendance at a National Science Curriculum Workshop (by RKN).
- Procedural response by ACDS to donations to charities (deemed to be outside the activities defined in our *Constitution*)
- Attendance at Science Meets Parliament in early 2009 (RKN)
- Upgrading and maintenance of the ACDS Website (thanks to the Monash Faculty of Science IT team for this)
- Various actions in relation to ASELL
- FASTS-ACDS joint workshop on *The Changing Nature of Scientific Work*

- Agreement to support an application by ASELL for ALTC funding (successful)
- Changes to funding arrangement for Science Outreach Organisations
- Consideration of membership of/contributions to (financial and/or written) various organisations, including *ANZAAS*, *Safe Climate Australia*, *Science Hub Australia*, and *Campus Review*.
- Organisation of the 2009 AGM

Much of the details of these activities and involvements are given in the Agendas/Minutes of the Executive Meetings listed in the Secretary/Treasurer's Report.

The ACDS Executive has been quite stable in its current term although all members have found time constraints difficult and all have appreciated the effect and effectiveness of having John Rice as our ED.

I would take this opportunity to thank those members of the Executive who are completing their terms as deans through retirement or promotion to higher activities. This is led by the two David's, Day and Finlay. I would like particularly to thank David Finlay for his incredibly long period as a member of the Executive and for his key roles as President and Secretary/Treasurer. David was Secretary/Treasurer during my first two-year term as President in the early days of ACDS and was an extremely supportive and heavily involved member of Executive then and subsequently in the next two years in which he took on the role as President and indeed on several later occasions when he accepted nomination onto the Executive. I would wish David (who I suspect is the longest currently serving Dean of Science in the country) all the best in his well-earned retirement at the end of 2009. I would like to thank Gillian Bushell for her excellent job as Secretary/Treasurer including a difficult period in which she acted as Pro Vice-Chancellor as well as Dean.

I would also thank the other members of the ACDS Executive, Jo Ward, Warren Lawrence, Will Price, and Russell Crawford for their participation and active contributions during the last year.

The challenges to and for Science Faculties in their various shapes and forms across our membership remain and must be identified and addressed if we are to maintain a strong scientific community in Australia – I challenge all members of ACDS to support the 2009-2010 ACDS Executive in its activities and wish all members all the best in the coming ACDS year.

7 October 2009

Professor Rob Norris  
**President, ACDS**

