

Board of Education Report

The Board of Education met on 2-3 July 1987. The following were the major issues discussed.

\$250 Tertiary Administration Fee

Information gathered from library schools indicates that the effect of the \$250 Tertiary Administration Fee has been variable; however its effect has been particularly marked on single subject enrolments. A report commissioned by CTEC has identified several categories of students who are disadvantaged by the fee, but, proposes only limited extensions of the exempt categories.

Single subject enrolments are particularly important for library staff wishing to keep abreast of developments in information technology and/or wishing to upgrade overseas qualifications. The Chairman of the Board of Education is writing to the Minister for Education, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Chairman of the CTEC monitoring committee, seeking extension of the \$250 tertiary administration fee exemption to include persons enrolled in single subjects.

Resourcing of Library and Information Studies Courses

The Board has been concerned for some time at the level of funding available to Library and Information Studies courses and has been collecting data from principals of Institutions, Heads of Schools and Higher Education Boards about levels of funding.

CTEC in its *Report for the 1988-90 Triennium Vol 1* has proposed undertaking a discipline assessment of computer/information science courses during the 1988/89 financial year.

The Chairman is writing to CTEC to determine how it has defined computer/information science courses, conveying the Board's opinion that it would be beneficial to include Library and Information Science courses in the review.

Revised Conditions for Professional Membership

An amended paper on *Revised Conditions for Professional Membership* has been prepared by Mairead Browne and Jeanette Knox.

The main changes made to the earlier paper concern assessment procedures for people coming from non-accredited courses who wish to apply for Associateship. Such people, including those holding overseas qualifications, will be assessed individually and will be expected to supply evidence of a broad professional understanding and competence, as well as a commitment to keeping abreast of current developments.

The majority of applicants for Associateship will, however, continue to apply in the usual way.

The amended paper will be discussed at the General Council meeting in September.

Criteria for Professional Membership

Eric Wainwright has prepared a paper which proposes the introduction of a higher grade of membership of the Library Association of Australia than Associate. This would provide an incentive to Associates to upgrade their skills and knowledge throughout their career.

Application for this higher grade of membership, to be known as 'Senior Associate' would be made through the Board of Education and would take into account the following criteria:

- (i) possession of a recognised degree or diploma;
- (ii) clear evidence that candidates are engaged in the provision of an information service at a professional level;
- (iii) clear evidence of candidates' professional competency.

This paper is to be discussed by General Council at its meeting in September.

AUSTUDY Grants for Teacher-Librarians

The Board has become aware of a discrepancy in the provision of AUSTUDY grants for students wishing to become teacher-librarians. In Tasmania, where a Diploma of Education is not a pre-requisite for a teacher-librarian, students with this qualification who wish to undertake a Diploma in Librarianship are ineligible to receive AUSTUDY assistance. In other states, where dual qualifications are required, students with a Diploma of Education who subsequently undertake a Diploma in Librarianship are able to receive AUSTUDY assistance. The Secretary to the Board has written to the Commonwealth Department of Education seeking the introduction of a uniform policy which will allow all prospective teacher-librarians to receive AUSTUDY whilst studying for both their Diplomas in Education and Librarianship.

Equal Employment Opportunity Legislation

General Council, at its April 1987 meeting asked the Board of Education and the Educational and Industrial Services Manager to examine the Association's policy concerning the role of librarians and library technicians particularly with regard to Equal Employment Opportunity Legislation.

Legal opinion has been sought and the matter will be discussed by General Council at its September meeting.

Collection of Workforce Data

Mairead Browne and Mike Middleton have completed a study on the feasibility of collecting information about the employment market for library staff from newspaper advertisements. Mairead Browne and Helen O'Brien are doing further work on the project and will report to the October 1987 meeting of the Board.

Information Work Definitions in Education Policy Statements

The Board of Education has prepared a definition of Library and Information Service Work which it wishes to include in the covering statement at the beginning of the education policy statements in the LAA Handbook. The definition will be discussed by General Council in September.

Assessment of Overseas Qualifications

Three professional qualifications and one technician qualification have been recognised by the Board.

Information Technology Course Curriculum Planning

The Association has been invited to nominate a representative on an Information Technology Course Curriculum Planning study group which is to be established by the Australian Information Technology Council.

1990 Biennial Conference

The President of the Western Australian Branch has invited the Board to organise a session on curriculum design in library and information studies during the 1990 Biennial Conference. The Board has conveyed its willingness to be closely involved in such a session.

Course Recognition

The Board's recommendations concerning recognition of the Associate Diploma in Applied Science Library Technician studies offered by the Seven Hills College of TAFE and the Gold Coast College of TAFE will be discussed by General Council.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Committee has prepared a report on *Continuing Education Activities in the Library Association of Australia*, which will be considered by General Council in September.

Awards

The Board discussed its relationship with the Honorary Awards Committee. The Board's recommendation for the award of Fellowship and the Library Manager of the Year Award will be discussed by General Council.

Louise Lansley
Secretary to the Board of Education

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AD Hope	Judith Wright	David Malouf	Ania Walwicz
Alan Marshall	Roland Robinson	Stephen Sewell	Jas H Juke
Hal Porter	Les A Murray	David Williamson	Eric Beach

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