

Chancellor

I have the honour to present to you Charles Webb whom Council has determined should be accorded the title of Emeritus Professor of the University.

Dr Charles Webb joined the then University College of the Northern Territory as a Senior Lecturer in Zoology in 1987. Over the next 25 years of service Charles rose through the ranks of academia to become Dean of the Faculty of Science, later taking on roles as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, and prior to his retirement serving as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor. In all of these roles Charles exhibited distinguished academic leadership and outstanding senior management within the University and across the Higher Education sector in Australia.

One of the greatest strengths Charles brought to the University during his long tenure was his ability to foresee the future direction of academic quality assurance and innovation in teaching and learning. Not only did he foresee it he actively championed the development of new processes and systems at the University that would not become mainstream in the tertiary education sector for many years.

Under Charles' leadership the innovative survey instruments were developed and implemented. MyCEQ was the first survey tool of its kind to reconcile external survey results with internal quality assurance data to provide a robust evidence based framework from which to effect continuous improvement across all aspects of academic endeavour. This enabled the identification of areas of strong performance and also where improvement was required. As part of this quality improvement process the outcomes were released to students to demonstrate that the University was responsive to their concerns. This was but one example of ground-breaking innovation introduced by Professor Webb.

The University *Course Accreditation and Reaccreditation Process* which provides the internal peer review and accreditation of higher education courses was developed under Charles' leadership and placed the University at the leading edge of the sector at a time when such practices were only emergent. Today the Commonwealth's Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority requires evidence of such processes as part of the institutional accreditation and registration process. The development of such an approach many years ago was ahead of its time.

Undertaking tertiary study today without the use of educational technologies is almost unheard of. Recognising that the future of the University depended on using advanced educational technologies to assist student learning, Charles championed the implementation of Learnline.

All higher education students, and an increasing number of vocational education and training students, now use our learning management system - Learnline - as an essential part of their learning. The introduction of this educational technology in the late 1990s heralded a new direction for higher education that is now common place.

All higher education undergraduate students have to undertake Common Units. These units provide students with a common core set of studies that reflect the best ideals of a liberal education. Charles championed the inclusion of these units across all undergraduate courses as it enabled the alignment of educational outcomes to the graduate attributes of the University, creating a more rounded graduate, no matter the course of study chosen be it engineering, education or commerce. Again, this was an innovation that helped to differentiate Charles Darwin University and is one that has received the highest national accolades through a citation from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council.

Charles' passionate commitment to advancing academic quality saw him take an active role on national committees to develop student satisfaction survey tools; quality assurance frameworks; and benchmarking projects. He became an accredited auditor for the Australian Universities Quality Agency, the former Commonwealth agency responsible for undertaking quality audits of higher education institutions. In this role Charles lead quality audits on a number of Australian and international institutions.

Charles has also contributed more broadly to the community through long-standing memberships on the board of the Strehlow Research Centre Board, the audit committee of the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, the Northern Territory committee of the Winston Churchill Foundation and many others.

In recognition of his distinguished academic leadership and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the University and tertiary education in the Northern Territory, Charles Joseph Webb has been accorded the title Emeritus Professor of the University.

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