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From: Karen Hill <khill@unimelb.edu.au>

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 2010 01:22:22 +1000

To: Karen Hill <khill@unimelb.edu.au>

Subject: Au Revoir

Dear Friends

As most of you know, today marks the end of my assignment with the Faculty of the VCA and Music.

It was some two years ago that I started work on planning for the integration and for the last 12 months I have worked in the Faculty, helping make the integration a reality, as the interim Faculty Executive Director.

I am thrilled with how much we have achieved in that time, often in difficult circumstances, including:

- designed and implemented the new professional staff structure including:
 - the new across-Faculty operational support team providing technical, program and administrative support to the academic and research programs across the Parkville and Southbank campuses
 - over 90 new position descriptions and the appointment of staff to new roles
 - the significant number of associated University's HR and finance systems changes actioned
- implemented the RDM changes including strengthening the HR, IT and finance functions within the Faculty
- developed the new Chart of Accounts with simplified and more transparent budgets for all Schools
- significant improvements to several buildings and facilities for students and staff
- implemented an online booking process through the Arts and Music Student Centre for Music students to book student advice appointments at both the Parkville and Southbank campuses
- established a staff exchange program between the VCA and Music

and the Arts and Music Student Centres to increase Student Advisers knowledge of the VCA and Music courses

- built a real sense of team among the professional staff with better communication, accountability and willingness to make decisions and accept responsibility
- replaced equipment, furniture and teaching support materials, much of which had deteriorated over a lengthy period and recently the subject of student concerns
- the development of a real sense of energy and purpose amongst the professional staff which has contributed significantly to reducing “silos” and to improving support for academic staff and students.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all, and particularly to my management team, for helping make these important achievements possible. Thank you too for the many kind messages I have received in the past few days – I have been really touched by your kind sentiments.

I have very much enjoyed my time with the Faculty and have appreciated the opportunity to work with Sharman. I know how much she involves staff and students in the process of developing exciting new directions for the Faculty, and I am delighted to see and hear recently clear signs that her leadership is being appreciated more.

I am returning to the Office of the Senior Vice-Principal to work on some new and challenging projects. I shall watch with great interest the progress of the Faculty and wish each of you all the very best in your roles as you continue to move the Faculty forward. I also look forward to maintaining contact.

I am confident I am leaving you in good hands with Lynda Poke taking over the Executive Director role.

Thanks again for your wonderful support. All the very best

Karen

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