

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The University of Adelaide is undertaking a review of its School of Social Sciences to consider the School's future direction in the context of the University's *2008-2012 Strategic Plan, Building a Great Research University* and as part of the University's review cycle. The views of academic and professional staff, students and external stakeholders of the School will be sought, including employers, alumni and professional associations, and other relevant areas of the University.

The Review Panel is asked to consider and make recommendations on:

1. The core role and function of the School, and its future direction in the context of the *University's Strategic Plan*. This will include review of the School's planning documents, and evaluation of current and future activities relating to:
  - **research and innovation** priorities and opportunities;
  - **research collaboration and partnerships**, within the School, with other disciplines in the University and with other internal and external stakeholders;
  - **research training** including support for PhD and Masters by research students and opportunities for increasing completion and reducing attrition;
  - **research performance** especially with regard to ERA;
  - **learning and teaching** priorities and opportunities in relation to:
    - The structure, content, quality and overall coherence of the programs;
    - The appropriateness and effectiveness of teaching methodologies to deliver the aims and objectives of the programs;
    - The destinations and outcomes for graduates who complete the program;
    - The student profile of the programs and future demand and growth opportunities; and
    - The programs' performance and outcomes, benchmarked against similar programs at Group of Eight (Go8) universities or similar programs in other Australian universities and relevant international institutions.
  - **teaching collaborations and partnerships**, including both those programs delivered by the School and those programs into which the School provides substantial service teaching;
  - **facilities and infrastructure** needs and forward planning;
  - the **professional and community engagement** of the School, including links with public and private sectors, the Confucius Institute, and the local community, staff participation in local, national and international professional activities, and contact with alumni; and
  - the **role of the School in the Faculty** and more broadly within the University.
2. The **management and staffing** of the School and the extent to which it is an effective and efficient model for supporting the University's strategic direction. Consideration will be given to the School's staffing structure, leadership and management, staff development and induction, staff engagement, planning, quality assurance and improvement systems.

3. Any **barriers to the school performing its role** to the level required to meet the current and future goals and expectations of the University; and
4. Relevant **best practice at other Australian Go8 universities and international universities** that might be adopted at the University of Adelaide.

In making its recommendations, the review panel should assume that there is unlikely to be an increase in the resources provided from internal University funds, but is invited to indicate the highest priorities for the use of extra resources should they be made available.