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1991

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA AMENDMENT BILL 1991

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(This memorandum takes account of amendments made by the House
of Representatives to the Bill as introduced)

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services,
the Hon Peter Baldwin MP)



University of Canberra Amendment Bill 1991

OUTLINE

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the University of Canberra Act, 1989 which provides for the establishment, operation and management of the University of Canberra.

There are four substantive changes to the principal Act.

The method of appointing members of the University's governing Council from the Australian Capital Territory has been streamlined so that the Chief Minister of the ACT Legislative Assembly appoints the ACT members directly to Council.

The University's audit requirements have been amended to make them more appropriate to the non-commercial nature of the institution, and to bring the University of Canberra into line with other comparable Commonwealth higher education institutions.

The Bill also provides for an increase in the membership of the University's Council, and for the University to be able to appoint the Chancellor either from outside or from inside the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The amendments have no financial impact.

NOTES ON CLAUSES OF THE BILL

Clause 1: Short title etc

Clause 2: Commencement

Clause 3: Definitions

Clause 4: Constitution of Council: The amendments identify the Chancellor as an ex-officio member of Council and provide for an extra four members of Council to be appointed by the Governor-General. The five extra members in total will mean that the Council membership is increased from 17 to 22. The amendments also provide for the Chief Minister of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory to appoint the ACT members directly to Council. Previously two persons were appointed by the Governor-General on the nomination of the ACT Minister responsible for education.

Clause 5: Vacation of office: The amendment provides for the office of a member of Council to become vacant upon appointment of the member to the office of Chancellor, to enable a new member to be appointed to the Council. This will mean that the Council is not reduced in size if the Chancellor is elected from the Council membership.

Clause 6: Chancellor: The amendments enable the Council to appoint the Chancellor either from outside or from inside the membership of the Council, as is the case for other higher education institutions.

Clause 7: Annual report and financial statements: This alters the audit requirements so that they are more appropriate to the non-commercial nature of the institution.