

Letter to ACDICT Members from Peter Cole

Dear Councillor,

I would like to thank everyone involved in creating the vibrant and truly representative body that is ACDICT. I have been involved with ACDICT since its inception and I have personally learnt so much from this engagement.

The primary reason that ACDICT was formed was to promote the recognition of Information Technology as a discrete discipline and promote this view to the wider community particularly to Government. This has been achieved in the main very successfully, with ACDICT being invited to the table in discussions with industry and government alike.

Where we have failed, if failure is what it is, is the representation of Information Technology within our own organisations, our universities. At an increasing rate we have witnessed the subsuming of previously autonomous schools of Information Technology into conjoined Schools, mainly with Engineering. The rationale behind these reorganisations is often justified under the auspices of efficiency and economy. This may be the reality of today's universities and certainly influenced by the lamentable state of enrolments in IT courses, however, the other reality is the loss of our independent voice in our home institutions. Removed from the top table we can only lobby for our cause through agents and hope that we are heard. I urge all the Councillors of ACDICT on return to their institutions, to request meetings with their respective Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors on a regular basis so our voice can be heard first hand.

Finally, thank you for all your assistance and support over the last four years and I wish you all the very best in forging the future of Information Technology in academia and beyond.

Yours faithfully

Peter Cole