Griffith University was established in 1971 as a single campus on the Nathan campus in Brisbane. The original Campus Development Plan envisaged that the University would eventually grow to being a campus of about 10,000 students, nestled in the bush, providing an alternative to attending the University of Queensland at St Lucia.

Today, Griffith is a multi-campus, comprehensive institution with over 33,000 students across every field of study.

In 1975, following the completion of the first four buildings on the Nathan campus, a review of the outcomes of that first building program yielded up a number of areas where the design and construction process could be improved in order to provide better and longer lasting facilities for the University. The twelve or so pages of ‘Design Standards’ which resulted from that review were in fact the first set of design standards or guidelines adopted by the University.

Closing the loop by evaluating the outcomes of our processes on a regular basis has resulted in successive reviews and updates of the ‘Design Guidelines & Procedures’ as they are now known.

We believe that the Guidelines are amongst the most comprehensive of any found in an Australian or New Zealand University, and if used properly by all members of the team which is assembled to deliver a new building or refurbishment project for the University, can only make everyone’s job easier and the project so much better.

In early 2006, the then Office of Facilities Management (OFM) was merged into a new body named Campus Life (CLF). This new entity is responsible not only for the activities previously undertaken by OFM, but also for student accommodation, food services, sporting facilities and programs, clubs and associations and other social activities, all of which contribute to life on campus for students and staff.

The Planning, Design & Construction Division (PD&C) of Campus Life is tasked with the responsibility of planning for, designing and procuring the University’s buildings and infrastructure. This division is therefore responsible to ensure that these Design Guidelines & Procedures reflect innovative design and buildability principles contributed by designers and contractors on past projects, as well as new materials and systems which CLF considers will improve the standard and quality of the University’s buildings.

All users of these Guidelines and Procedures should acquaint themselves with this Version 17 (Amendment 4) document to ensure that they implement all the requirements (either mandatory or guiding) into the projects in which they are involved.

All the amendments to the previous Version 17.3 are contained in a separate file on the CLF website for ease of identification.

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Griffith University
March 2011