Report on the Visit to the Centre for Accounting, Governance and Sustainability (CAGS) in the School of Commerce, University of South Australia from Monday 19 November to Friday 14 December 2012 of Professor Richard Laughlin, Emeritus Professor of Accounting, King’s College London, University of London

The primary purpose of the visit of Professor Richard Laughlin to the School of Commerce as a Research Performance Panel (RPP) member of CAGS was to assist staff and PhD students with their research, draft publications and research funding proposals. In this regard meetings were held with 16 different scholars. A total of 23 more formal hourly meetings were held with these colleagues, plus numerous ad hoc and more informal discussions with those who had more than one meeting. A number of meetings involved discussing research ideas and plans rather than a specific piece of writing. But many formal and informal meetings involved discussing draft papers, research funding proposals and doctoral research proposal plans and draft chapters. In this regard 22 different pieces of writing were read and commented upon – 10 draft academic papers, 1 outline of a proposed academic paper, 1 set of reviewers comments, 1 proposed publication plan, 1 proposed research funding request, 1 overview of a proposed book, 4 doctoral proposals and 2 draft chapters of a PhD thesis. The meetings to discuss these various pieces of work proved very productive and, hopefully, have helped colleagues to further their research, writing and research funding plans.

A joint presentation with Professor Jane Broadbent, from Royal Holloway, University of London, who is also a RPP member and was visiting at the same time, was made on Thursday 22 November. The presentation entitled ‘Accounting Control and Controlling Accounting: Interdisciplinary and Critical Perspectives’ is based on a jointly authored book by Professors Broadbent and Laughlin which will be published by Emerald Group Publishing in 2013. Emerald also publishes the Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal (AAAJ) whose editorial office is in the School of Commerce given that one of the Joint Editors, Professor Lee Parker, is a senior Professor in the School and is a member of CAGS. The book complements and adds to the insights into interdisciplinary and critical perspectives on accounting, auditing and accountability that have been developed over the 25 years of AAAJ’s existence. It is fitting, therefore, that the substantive drafting of the book was completed during the current visit of Professors Broadbent and Laughlin to CAGS. An acknowledgement of thanks to CAGS and the School in this regard is now in the Preface to the book which was also completed during the current visit.

On a more personal note it has been a pleasure and privilege to be a RPP member and to visit CAGS and the School of Commerce again. This is my third visit in the last two years and these repeat visits have allowed academic relationships to develop over time such that contact with some colleagues to discuss research, draft papers and ideas has been ongoing between visits. This continuity has hopefully added to the assistance that it has been possible to give to academic staff and doctoral students in relation to their research and publications. As a RPP member of CAGS I look forward to further ongoing contact in the future and doing what I can to assist with the development of quality publications and research of staff and students in CAGS and the School.