



## **OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 2, 2018 – 8 MAY 2018**

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At its meeting on 8 May 2018 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2018 business schedule.

### **Overseeing and reviewing University performance**

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor on strategy and current matters, focusing particularly on the University's performance against targets for student enrolments following the Trimester 1 census date. Council noted the strong growth in international and higher degree by research student enrolments.

### **2017 Deakin University Annual Report**

Council received the published 2017 Deakin University Annual Report, which was tabled in the Victorian parliament on 1 May 2018.

### **Overseeing the management and control of finances**

Council reviewed the Finance and Major Projects Reports to 31 March 2018, incorporating Outlook 1 for the full financial year. Council noted:

- the forecast budget surplus for the year
- the increased demand for project expenditure and that projects would be managed to meet budget
- the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and noted the reasons for any variation from targets.

Council noted the strong financial performance of the Deakin University Student Association and the Association's plans for its bookshop operations.

### **Investment Governance Framework**

Council welcomed the finalisation of a new Investment Governance Framework to guide the University's managed investments under the auspices of the Investment Committee. The Framework:

- provides the University with a long term investment perspective
- places Responsible Investing principles at the centre of decision-making
- aligns closely with the University's strategic and sustainability goals.

Council approved the new Framework and associated amendments to:

- the Investment Management policy
- the terms of reference of the Investment Committee.

### **Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability**

Council received advice from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee on:

- the status of work on the University's risk appetite statement

- the final management letter from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office about Deakin's 2017 audit which identifies three areas for follow up, all of which are of the nature of fine-tuning and are being addressed by an agreed management action plan.

### **Oversight and monitoring of academic activities**

Council received a report from the Chair of the Academic Board and noted results and enhancements arising from the Board's 2017 self-review.

Council considered a presentation from the Faculty of Arts and Education featuring:

- an overview of Faculty activities, challenges and opportunities by Professor Brenda Cherednichenko Executive Dean
- an outline of the University's priorities in Indigenous education and research by Professor Liz Cameron, Director of the Institute of Koorie Education
- a snapshot of teaching, research and partnership activities in the School of Education by Alfred Deakin Professor Christine Ure.

Council thanked the Faculty representatives for their informative and engaging presentations.

### **Commercialisation strategy**

Council considered a report on Deakin's commercialisation strategy and a presentation elaborating on the report by Alfred Deakin Professor Peter Hodgson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Dr Ben Spincer, Director Deakin Research Commercial.

Council noted measures implemented to nurture and monitor commercialisation ventures and to integrate lessons from each venture (successful or unsuccessful) into the development and management of future ventures.

Council emphasised the importance of always considering commercialisation in the context of the University's social and community responsibilities and specifically the University's aims to:

- deliver high value jobs in the community
- support sustainable economic growth
- enable further research at the University.

### **Ethics framework**

Council approved a series of actions to implement recommendations for boards from the book *The Ethical Kaleidoscope: Values, Ethics and Corporate Governance* (2017) by Douglas Long (UNSW) and Zivit Inbar (Deakin). These actions build and elaborate on Council's existing policies and practices. Council noted that ethical awareness needs to be integrated into all governance decision making, albeit that discrete reporting on specific ethical issues may be required from time to time.

### **Governance legislation and Code of Best Practice**

Council considered a report from the Legislation Committee, including on:

- a proposed amendment to Victorian university Acts to enable Council and the Government to set expiry dates for members' terms on dates other than 31 December
- the status of work on amending the University's regulation and associated policy and procedures on student misconduct to support Faculties with a centralised process to manage student misconduct matters, including sexual assault
- proposed updates to the Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities to be considered for adoption by Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors at their plenary meeting on 15 May 2018.

## **Vale Dr Donald Geoffrey (Geoff) Neilson AM**

Council expressed its sadness at the passing of former Deakin University Council member and Deputy Chancellor Dr Donald Geoffrey (Geoff) Neilson AM and paid tribute to his lifetime of service to education and the community.

Dr Neilson was appointed to the Interim Council of the University in 1975 and became a member of the University Council when it was established in 1977. He served an initial term until 1981. He joined Council again in 1983 and remained a member until his retirement in 1998. He was a Deputy Chancellor for his last three years on Council. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of the University in 1999, and Deakin continues to honour his contribution through the annual Geoff Neilson Prize to the highest achieving Bachelor of Commerce student undertaking third year study at the Geelong Waterfront Campus.

Council conveyed its condolences to Dr Neilson's family and resolved to write to the family expressing the University's appreciation for Dr Neilson's outstanding contribution to Deakin and to the community.

## **Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness**

Council received its 2019 meeting dates.

Council approved amendments to the following documents, consistent with the actions agreed to implement recommendations from *The Ethical Kaleidoscope*:

- the Deakin University Council Charter
- Council Operating Provisions
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Chancellor.