



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2019 – 12 DECEMBER 2019

At its meeting on 12 December Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2019 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Council noted that the University's strategic plan *LIVE the future* continues to the end of 2020 and the next strategic plan would be developed during 2020 to commence in 2021. The Vice-Chancellor outlined the timetable for the development of the plan and presented data on trends in student enrolment numbers by various cohorts over the past decade.

Overseeing University performance

Council considered the recent results from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Council noted with acclamation that Deakin retained first place in Victoria for overall satisfaction among undergraduates for the tenth year in a row. Deakin also ranks first in Victoria for undergraduate generic skills and good teaching.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Financial Report and Major Projects Report for the period to 31 October 2019 and a presentation from the Chief Financial Officer with the consolidated financial results for the period to 30 November 2019. Council noted that the University was tracking for a full year financial result consistent with the financial plan.

Council noted the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timeline targets. Council approved changes to the timeline and budget for the Waurin Ponds Microgrid project arising from regulatory and market factors.

Responsible Investment Strategy

Council considered a report from the Investment Committee on the application of responsible investment principles under the University's Investment Governance Framework. Council noted the continuing evolution of responsible investment principles and the Investment Committee's close attention to developments in this sphere.

Overseeing and monitoring academic activities

Council received a report on the outcomes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 19 November 2019 and noted that the Board:

- approved an amendment to the Higher Education Courses policy to embed Indigenous knowledges into Deakin's curriculum framework
- held a 'hot topic' session on Deakin's student success and retention strategy with a focus to enhance the student experience and support for students to progress successfully through their courses.

Council considered the annual report from the Chair of the Academic Board on the Board's work in 2019 to monitor and maintain academic standards in teaching, learning and research and to uphold academic freedom.

Council considered the annual report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research on the performance of the University's research institutes. Council commended the quality of the report.

University legislation and policy

Freedom of Speech policy

Council considered a proposed Freedom of Speech policy and noted amendments to the Academic Freedom policy approved by the Academic Board at its meeting on 19 November 2019. Together these policies encompass the University's response to the French Review of Freedom of Speech at Australian Higher Education Providers.

Council acknowledged the important work on the policies and the resolutions of the Academic Board. Council considered the Freedom of Speech policy in detail and particularly the way in which it adopted the principles of the Model Code arising from the French Review. Council noted that the new policy affirms principles of lawful free speech on campus and promotes critical and free enquiry within the University and wider society.

Council endorsed the Freedom of Speech policy for approval by the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the University's Policy Framework. Council also noted that the Vice-Chancellor will write to the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education about the University's actions in response to the French Review.

Legislation

Council noted the progress of work to streamline the University's Statute and Regulations.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered the University's Headline Risk Report and the Strategic Audit Plan 2020-2022. Council also noted the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the University co-source internal audit provider and advantageous aspects of that appointment including that PwC is committed to coordinate closely with the Internal Audit Unit to avoid duplication and to maximise the value of audit work.

Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs

Council approved the name of a building at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus.

Human resource matters

Council considered a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer on human resource matters in 2019 and noted University-wide actions arising from the 2019 staff survey, notably in regard to the status of teaching, linking staff members' contribution to their career progression and streamlining administrative processes where they cause frustration to staff.

Council noted the University's [Gender Equity Report and Action Plan 2019-2023](#) and recent relevant developments, including reduction in the gender pay gap and accreditation for gender equity programs by the SAGE Athena Swan program, the Australian Workplace Equality Index and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

University Advancement

Council received a presentation from the Chief Advancement Officer on the University's fundraising and alumni programs. Council noted initiatives to broaden engagement with Deakin's alumni and to re-establish contact with alumni currently out of communication with the University.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council considered reports on the fulfilment of 2019 business schedules by Council and all Council committees. Council agreed that these reports demonstrated that Council had fulfilled all of its responsibilities during the year in accordance with the *Deakin University Act 2009 (Vic)*, the Deakin

University Council Charter, corporate governance and accountability standards specified by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), and the Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities.

Council also considered the Register of Council delegations and report on the exercise of those delegations in 2019. Council noted that delegations had been exercised appropriately and that all delegations remained current.

Council approved the reappointment, for a two year term, of:

- a member to the Investment Committee
- the Chair of the Bowater Trust.

Honours and acknowledgement

Council expressed its appreciation of the significant contribution made to Deakin University Council and the Legislation Committee by Mr Jean-Marc Kurban, elected student member in 2019. Council noted that Mr Kurban had been an active and articulate voice for students. Council conveyed its best wishes for Mr Kurban in his studies and career.

Council approved the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor upon one esteemed Professor.