



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 7, 2018 – 6 DECEMBER 2018

At its meeting on 6 December 2018 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2018 business schedule.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Financial Report and Major Projects Report to 31 October 2018 and forecasts for the full year. Council noted that the University is on track to achieve a sound full year result in line with budget targets, and noted the progress of projects against budget, timeline and scope targets

Council further noted that funding and market conditions will be challenging for the 2019-2021 triennium but that the University is well placed to meet those challenges.

Council noted the performance of the University's short and long term investments against their targeted returns.

Research, Innovation, Science and Engagement (RISE) Precinct

Council approved a major project to establish a new science and technology precinct at the Melbourne Burwood Campus. The Research Innovation Science and Engagement Precinct will accommodate multidisciplinary teams from a range of scientific disciplines and will facilitate growth in both student numbers and research activity in these fields. The Precinct will also facilitate engagement with industry.

Council noted that the design approach features highly flexible modular laboratory space which will support a multi-disciplinary approach and will minimise the risk of space being unsuitable for any specific research group. The project will proceed into the design phase in early 2019 and is expected to be complete in 2023.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University

Graduate employment

Council considered a presentation from the Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Employment on the DeakinTALENT program to increase employment opportunities for students and graduates and to deepen engagement with employers.

Council noted the successful shift achieved over the past four years from many students thinking about career opportunities only towards the end of their study to most students planning for their career from the commencement of their study. The University provides a range of services and tools to assist students in their planning and to enable them to demonstrate their attributes.

Council agreed that the University had achieved substantial progress in this area over the past four years and congratulated Professor Dineli Mather and her team on their work.

Driving the digital frontier

Council considered an update from the Chief Digital Officer on the development and deployment of the Deakin Genies personalised virtual assistant. Council was pleased to note the strong uptake and extremely positive feedback from students.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board reviewing work undertaken by the Board in 2018 to uphold academic freedom, standards and quality. Council also had regard to the Board's academic risk monitoring framework aligned to the Higher Education Standards Framework. Council noted that numerous improvement actions were building on existing good practice and thanked the Chair of the Board for his comprehensive and informative report.

Council noted the terms of reference for the review by the Hon Robert French AC of policies supporting freedom of expression and intellectual inquiry in Australian higher education and noted that the University is compiling the information requested by the review.

Council also noted that the University achieved its best ever success rate and highest number and value of awards for 2019 Australian Research Council project grants. Council was pleased to note that Deakin's success rate was amongst the best in the sector and that a number of Deakin humanities researchers had won highly prestigious early career researcher grants.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered advice from the Audit and Risk Committee on the University's Strategic Audit Plan 2019-2021 and noted areas of focus for the triennium, including ongoing attention to cybersecurity and IT user access controls.

Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs

Council received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer on the Campus Infrastructure and Utilisation Plan and noted:

- the very substantial financial return gained from the move from 'owned' to 'shared' space and from improving the design and use of space since 2013
- the optimisation of space and asset utilisation through renewing existing infrastructure, which avoids the costs of new construction and saves on energy, water and carbon dioxide usage
- progress towards the University's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

University legislation and policy

Council considered the status of the review of the University's regulations by the University Solicitor and in particular the Regulation on Student General Misconduct.

Council approved a new and streamlined Delegations policy to be introduced alongside the University's new finance system in February 2019.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council received reports on the fulfilment of 2018 business schedules by Council and its Committees. Council noted that these reports demonstrated that Council had fulfilled all of its responsibilities during the year in accordance with the *Deakin University Act*, the TEQSA corporate governance provider standards and the Voluntary Code for the Best Practices of the Governance of Australian Universities.

Council received the updated register of delegations by Council and a report on how those delegations were exercised and reported in 2018. Council noted that delegations had been exercised appropriately and that all delegations remained current.

Council approved membership of Committees from 1 January 2019.

Honours and acknowledgements

Council acknowledged with acclamation the significant contributions made to the Council and Deakin University by members of Council concluding their terms on 31 December 2018:

- Mr Peter Meehan, member since 2007 and Deputy Chancellor since 2011
- Ms Helene Bender OAM, member since 2008 and Deputy Chancellor from 2010 to 2016
- Dr Simon Eassom, member since 2016
- Ms Lauren Hustwaite, elected student member and President DUSA in 2018.

Council expressed its appreciation of the outstanding service to Deakin University by retiring Executive member Alfred Deakin Professor Beverley Oliver. Council paid tribute to Professor Oliver's achievements in enabling the University to deliver on its promise to offer students a brilliant education where they are and where they want to go and its aim to be Australia's premier university in driving the digital frontier.

Council received the 2018 review of honorary degrees awarded by the University and approved the awarding of seven Deakin Honorary Doctorates at graduation ceremonies in 2019.