



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 5, 2017 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

At its meeting on 14 September the Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2017 business schedule.

Sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities

The Vice-Chancellor reported on follow up to the Australian Human Rights Commission's report on sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities, including:

- the provision of training on avoiding and preventing sexual harassment and assault for all staff as a compulsory part of induction
- the requirement for all contractors working at the University to behave in accordance with the University's Code of Conduct, also imparted at induction
- work by the Deakin University Student Association to prevent and combat sexual harassment, including through social media messages to raise awareness among students and training for staff of the Association
- specific measures in student residences to promote responsible and respectful behaviour.

Overseeing and reviewing of University performance

Council reviewed:

- the University's performance against full year targets for student enrolments and noted the increases both in the number of enrolments compared to 2016 and in the number of students commencing their studies in Trimester 2
- the University's continuing work to enhance campus safety notably:
 - the *Safezone* app for students and staff
 - ongoing measures to protect crowded places on campus, with a current focus on preventing vehicle attacks
 - an audit of all university buildings to identify and eliminate any flammable cladding.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council reviewed financial performance to 31 August 2017 and the progress of major University projects against budget, scope and timeline targets and noted the reasons for any variance to target.

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

Council also noted the University's ongoing commitment to environmental, social and governance (ESG) objectives and that a new investment by the University will increase the University's dedicated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) pool.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board and noted:

- the Board's continuing work to engage students at Board and committee meetings and an update on the Board's upcoming elections
- the Board's in principle endorsement of the University developing courses in languages other than English, following which the University will offer a niche program in French in France.

Council received presentations from Deakin's *3 Minute Thesis* competition winners:

- Judges' choice: Mr Paul McGorrery, Deakin Law School on why the prosecution of psychological harm in the legal system needs to change
- Peoples' choice: Ms Julie Gaburro, Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation on how the Zika virus manipulates neurons and how a cure might be found for brain infections caused by such viruses.

Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs

Council considered developments relating to the Geelong Future Economy Precinct at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus, including the Deakin Energy initiative and the role of ManuFutures in enabling emerging enterprises.

University legislation and policies

Council approved amendments to the Regulations governing the University's Institutes so that reporting requirements are broadly consistent across the regulations, while allowing for individual needs.

Council received an update on actions by Victorian universities to seek changes to university Acts to improve efficiency consistent with those made in other states. Council noted that submissions had been made by universities to the Premier's Jobs and Investment Panel.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council approved:

- the reappointment of Mr Peter Meehan as Deputy Chancellor for a further term from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018
- amendments to the terms of reference of the Legislation Committee to include an additional term of reference to cover policy
- amendments to the Deakin University Council Charter and the Guidelines on the Appointment and Remuneration of Council Members.

Council also received:

- a report on the completion of actions from the 2016 Council Review
- its 2018 business schedule.