



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2016 – 27 OCTOBER 2016

At its meeting on 27 October 2016 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2016 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Council was pleased to note indicators of the success of the University's digital strategy. Deakin was ranked the leading Australian university for computing and IT resources to support learning in the most recent Student Experience Survey. The University was also showcased as a global leader in information technology at the Gartner Symposium 2016, the most important IT conference in the world.

Council was also pleased to note that Deakin won the Export and Training category in the Victorian Governor's Export Awards for the third successive year.

Council was advised of developments regarding the FutureLearn online platform, which offers certain Deakin MOOCs, and the proposed Australian Education City in Victoria.

Overseeing and reviewing University performance

Council received a review of the methodologies used in the most prominent international rankings and the reasons why Deakin's ranking varied between them.

Council reviewed the progress of the University towards full year targets for student numbers and financial outcomes.

Council considered a presentation by Frontier Advisors on the University's investments. Council noted that in addition to the dedicated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment pool, consideration of ESG factors is integral to decision making on University investments and includes reference to the Principles for Responsible Investment and Equator Principles.

Council considered a presentation from the Executive Director, Human Resources Division on programs and initiatives to enhance staff wellbeing and job satisfaction; to address areas of improvement identified by staff; and to provide HR services efficiently and conveniently.

Innovation and commercialisation

Council approved a proposal for the continued funding of DeakinDigital Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary offering expert business-to-business services to credential employees' skills and professional development.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council reviewed the progress of major projects and the reasons for any variations to project scope, timelines and budgets.

Overseeing and monitoring risk management, systems of control and accountability

Council received a report from the Audit and Risk Committee on its annual planning meeting in which it examines risks being monitored across the University and ensures that all areas of risk are covered.

Council noted that the Committee has raised with the Victorian Auditor General's Office the value of better alignment between external and internal audits to eliminate overlap and enhance overall oversight.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a written and oral report from the Chair of the Academic Board, including an overview of the University's process for approving and reviewing courses to ensure that they are aligned to the appropriate level of the Australian Qualifications Framework and fulfil all regulatory requirements, including industry accreditation where relevant.

Council received a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education on the University's programs to enhance the employability of graduates, a presentation which is part of the University's ongoing communication with employers and employer organisations.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council approved the appointments of Dr Jenni Lightowlers and Ms Helene Bender as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Legislation Committee in 2017.

Council received the final report on outcomes from the 2015 review of Council committees.

Council noted the satisfactory conclusion of correspondence with the Minister for Training and Skills about membership of Council. Council comprises three official members, two elected members, five government appointed members and five Council appointed members. Eight members are female and seven are male.