



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2018 – 1 NOVEMBER 2018

At its meeting on 1 November 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

2018 Financial Report – Outlook 2

Council considered the Financial Report to 31 August 2018 and an oral update to 30 September 2018 and noted that the Outlook 2 analysis indicated that full year targets will be achieved. Council received the Major Projects report to 30 September 2018 and noted the progress of projects against budget, timeline and scope targets.

Deakin University Financial Plan 2019-2021

Council considered the University's Financial Plan 2019-2021 and noted the challenges the Plan was framed to address and that the University would maintain a sound financial position and continue to be debt free over the triennium.

Council approved the 2019 budget and noted the financial projections for 2020 and 2021.

Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs

Council approved expenditure for the commencement of construction on upgrades to two entrances at the Waurin Ponds Campus as part of the Geelong Future Economic Precinct project. Council welcomed the commitment by the Australian Government to match the University's investment in stage 1 of this important project. The entrance upgrades will improve safety for people coming to and leaving the Campus.

Council also approved funding for the University to move to stage 2 of a comprehensive program of remediation works on University buildings containing combustible cladding materials. Stage 2 involves eight buildings. All of the buildings are confirmed as safe for occupation and have adequate fire management, treatment and systems in place. The program of works will reduce risks from non-compliant cladding and conforms to the guidelines set down by the Victorian Cladding Taskforce. Council emphasised that safety on campus and in University facilities is of paramount importance to the University.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council noted that the Risk Appetite Statement it approved in September 2018 is now being embedded at faculty and portfolio level in relevant management planning and reporting.

Council further noted that the Audit and Risk Committee held its annual planning meeting in which it examined:

- the draft Strategic Audit Plan 2019 -2021 and the proposed coverage for the triennium
- risks being monitored across the University to ensure that all areas of risk are covered.

The Audit and Risk Committee also reported on its discussion of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's Prudential Inquiry into the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and the lessons which are applicable to the operation of organisations in all sectors, for example that a narrow focus on financial risks can lead to governance bodies neglecting to attend to non-financial risks and ultimately to non-compliance with the law.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council received a report from the Chair of the Academic Board addressing:

- the recent meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates in Australia at which the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency presented on the importance of high standards of academic governance in tertiary education
- the recent meeting of Deakin's Academic Board and the attention given by the Board to contract cheating, academic freedom, and students' mental health.

Council noted recent discussion in the sector about academic freedom including at the recent Universities Australia plenary meeting. Council supported the statement from the meeting that 'Australian universities restate our absolute commitment to academic freedom and intellectual inquiry. We remain committed to supporting freedom of expression on our campuses and among our staff and students'. Council noted that Deakin's Professoriate would work with the Chair of the Academic Board to review Deakin's policy on academic freedom and to provide the Vice-Chancellor and the Academic Board with advice on its currency and usefulness.

Council also discussed the vetoing of 11 humanities research projects by the former Federal Education Minister. While no Deakin projects were among the 11, Council joined the Deakin Professoriate in expressing its concern at this intervention. Council affirmed its support for independent assessment to determine grant success and for the value of arts and humanities research.

Council considered reports on:

- the University's system for measuring teaching quality to achieve continuous improvement from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education
- the performance of the University's research Institutes from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University

Annual presentation on human resource matters and initiatives

Council received a presentation from Mr Kean Selway, Chief Operating Officer, on human resource initiatives and programs and noted:

- major developments in 2018 including the establishment of a new talent acquisition service, *DeakinRecruit* and implementation of the refreshed performance and development program *DeakinAchieve* for professional staff in 2018 and preparation of transition to *DeakinAchieve* for academic staff in 2019
- initiatives to address pay inequity and inconsistent allowance practices, and the review of potential barriers associated with the recruitment and promotion of senior academic and professional female staff
- the latest data on health, wellbeing and safety performance, in particular that Deakin:
 - achieved the lowest workers compensation claim rate of all 32 Australian benchmarked universities (AHEIA), and has WorkCover premiums below the average for the sector
 - introduced new initiatives in 2018 to promote mental health
 - achieved certification of the Victorian Government's Healthy Together Victoria alcohol pillar, with certification for achieving the remaining pillar on healthy eating in progress.

Sports strategy

Council considered a report on Deakin's sports strategy and noted that the principle strengths and benefits of the University's sports related programs are:

- high quality education and interdisciplinary research in sport, exercise, nutrition and health sciences
- internship and work integrated learning opportunities for students in the sports field
- community connections through sports partnerships.

Follow up to student forum with Council

Council received a report on improvement actions implemented by the University to address issues raised by students in the student forum with Council in August 2018.

Council welcomed the report and noted that it would be provided to the participating students, whose input the University greatly appreciates.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council appointed Ms Philippa Kelly as a Deputy Chancellor for a two year term from 1 January 2019 alongside continuing Deputy Chancellor Ms Kathy Grigg.

Philippa Kelly has served on Council since 1 January 2010 and is Chair of the Finance and Business Affairs Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee. Her other positions include Chief Operating Officer, the Julliard Group of Companies, Director and Chair Audit Committee of Lifestyle Communities Limited and Director and Chair Audit Committee of the Australian Drug Foundation.

Council congratulated Ms Kelly on her appointment and expressed its appreciation of her significant and continuing contribution to Deakin.