



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 4, 2019 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

At its meeting on 26 September 2019 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2019 business schedule.

Perspectives from our students

A group of 17 current and recent students from across all campuses and levels of study was invited to the meeting to talk about their student experiences and to highlight areas that they felt could be improved in regard to their learning, support services and preparation for employment.

Key issues raised included but were not limited to:

- the increasing level of awareness among students of the University's graduate employability services, Deakin Talent, and the value of engaging with these services from the commencement of study rather than just at the end
- the 24 hour library opening is enormously welcome and popular but there is a lack of nearby food services which are open after hours and which would provide opportunities for breaks and sustenance during late night study
- the balance between the convenience and flexibility of Deakin Cloud offerings and the value of face to face peer contact and a vibrant on-campus environment.

Council noted that a comprehensive list of the issues raised by students would be compiled, addressed in an action plan and reported back to participants and Council.

Council expressed its gratitude to students for their thoughtful contributions to the session.

Overseeing and reviewing University performance

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor on recent results from University activities including:

- the University's equivalent full time student load (EFTSL) in Trimester 2, 2019
- ratings in the latest Times Higher Education World University and ARWU rankings
- award of an Athena SWAN Bronze Institution Award for the advancement of gender equity
- success in the 2019 Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards, namely:
 - winner in the International Education category for the Deakin India Research Initiative (DIRI)
 - joint winner in the Industry Engagement category for the HSBC Blue Carbon Citizen Science
 - Professor Emma Kowal, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, joint winner in the category of Emerging Leader.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council of the University's engagement with the National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy and the Destination Australia program. The latter program will support promotion of the Warrnambool Campus as an attractive destination for international students.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Financial Report to 31 August 2019, incorporating Outlook 2 for the full year and noted that financial performance was in line with budget and full year targets.

Council noted the University's Financial Plan for 2020-2022 would reflect tightening market conditions in both international and domestic cohorts, and that the University aimed to continue its investment in research, maintain staff:student ratios and support projects to enhance the student experience.

Responsible Investment Strategy

The Investment Committee reported on its consideration of a review of the University's Responsible Investment Strategy. The Committee will keep this Strategy under active review because the market is evolving rapidly and there is an ongoing challenge to achieve the optimum balance between commercial returns and environmental, social and governance outcomes. The Committee has regard to responsible investment commitments in all decisions on proposed investments. All fund managers with whom the University invests are signatories to the UN supported Principles for Responsible Investment.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board and noted the Board's discussion of the 'hot topic' of contract cheating and assessment design, and especially the Board's appreciation that good teaching practices could reduce the potential for contract cheating. Relevant good practices include refreshing rather than repeating assessment tasks and setting authentic assessment tasks that turn assessment into an engaging learning experience.

University legislation

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

Council approved amendments to Regulation 2.2(1) – *The Academic Board* to make updates to the Board's composition.

Freedom of Speech

The Vice-Chancellor and the Chair of the Academic Board briefed Council on consultation underway across the University of a new Freedom of Speech policy to address recommendations from the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers. The policy will be presented to an upcoming meeting of Council for consideration and, if appropriate, approval.

Honours and appointments

Council approved the reappointment of Professor Elizabeth (Liz) Johnson as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education from 1 October 2019.

Council was pleased to note the appointment of Professor Mark Rose as Deakin's first Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation.

Council appointed Ms Kathy Grigg and Mr Peter Niblett as Deputy Chancellors alongside Ms Philippa Kelly in 2020.

Council conferred the title of Alfred Deakin Professor on three Professors for their outstanding and sustained contribution to furthering Deakin's research, teaching and learning:

- Professor Brett Bryan
- Professor Craig Olsson
- Professor Alison Hutchinson.

Council Performance Review

Council considered the report on the 2019 Council Performance Review by BoardsGlobal.

The review concluded that Deakin Council has a very strong emphasis on ethics and values, performs very highly against best practice benchmarks and fulfils all of its governance responsibilities.

The review found no material areas requiring improvement but identified a series of enhancements to deepen the role of Council in strategy, culture, stakeholder engagement and advocacy.

Council approved an action plan arising from the review for implementation in 2019 and 2020.