



## OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 1, 2018 – 15 MARCH 2018

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At its meeting on 15 March 2018 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2018 business schedule.

### **Overseeing and reviewing University performance**

Council reviewed the University's 2017 Annual Report and *LIVE the future* implementation report.

#### ***2017 Deakin University Annual Report***

Council approved the 2017 Deakin University Annual Report, including:

- the University's 2017 financial statements
- statutory reporting required under the Standing Directions and Financial Reporting Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic)
- the University's attestation of compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction 3.7.1 – Risk Management Framework and Processes
- report on The Year in Review.

The Report will be published and forwarded to the Hon Gayle Tierney, Minister for Education and Skills for tabling in the Victorian Parliament.

#### ***LIVE the future implementation plan***

Council noted pleasing progress in 2017 in all areas of the *LIVE the future* strategic plan, including:

##### *Learning:*

- Commencement of work to offer six postgraduate degrees on the FutureLearn platform and development of a deeper international Cloud presence.
- Maintenance of number 1 ranking in Victoria for overall student satisfaction for the eighth year in a row.
- Improved ranking for graduate employment and rating as 'best careers service in Australia' by the Graduate Employers Association.

##### *Ideas:*

- Ranking of 213 in the 2017 Academic Rankings of World Universities.
- Targets for total research income and research commercialisation exceeded.
- Partnership established with LeMond Composites on carbon fibre advanced manufacturing in Geelong.

##### *Value:*

- Strong student enrolments maintained, exceeded 2017 target.
- Sound financial performance throughout the year.
- Implementation of cybersecurity program, DeakinShield.

### *Experience:*

- Enterprise Agreement concluded.
- iSay staff survey again showed a high level of staff understanding of and engagement with the University's strategic direction.
- Morgan's Walk opened to unite the two sides of the Melbourne Burwood Campus.

Council also noted the following priorities for 2018 arising from the Council Strategy Conference:

- building revenue independent of Government teaching and research funds to ensure greater self-reliance
- implementing the portfolio of large projects for which Council approved funding in 2017
- increasing community awareness of the University's capabilities.

### **Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability**

In reviewing the University's 2017 Annual Report Council had received advice from the Audit and Risk Committee that the Committee was satisfied that:

- the University had sound governance, risk management and control frameworks in place regarding the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information
- the 2017 financial statements represented a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the University
- the statutory reporting and risk management sections of the University's 2017 Annual Report were complete and accurate
- the Internal Audit function's independence and objectivity had been maintained throughout the year and not been impaired by the recent integration of the Risk and Compliance function with the Audit function.

Council also considered the Headline Risk Report and work by the Audit and Risk Committee to monitor actions on items assessed as having a higher risk level than the targeted range for the item.

### **Overseeing the management and control of finances**

Council considered a report of the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and noted the reasons for any variation from targets.

Council approved a change request to the budget for the development of the Specialist Sports Science Teaching Space building.

Council approved a new term of reference for the Finance and Business Affairs Committee to enable it to approve and report to Council on variations of up to 10 per cent to the budget of approved major projects, provided that the variation is fully covered by the Financial Plan and does not exceed \$10 million.

Council approved additional transfers to the University's Future Fund and considered a report on the progress of the review of the University's investment strategy being conducted by the Investment Committee.

Council approved a new Contracts policy and procedure to streamline and clarify the contract process without diminishing controls and a consequential change the Financial Delegations policy.

### **Philanthropy**

Council considered a presentation from Mr Ron Fairchild, Chief Advancement Officer, on the University's fundraising activities and plans.

### **Oversight and monitoring of academic activities**

Council received a report from the Chair of the Academic Board and noted the completion of actions arising from recommendations from the 2016 Academic Governance Review chaired by Emeritus Professor Joan Cooper. Council also noted the Board's high level of engagement with 'hot topic' presentations on:

- the cloud campus and an additional form of credit for prior learning through professional practice credentials
- Deakin's India operations.

### **Student housing**

Council members toured the new Geelong student residences 'Brougham House' and noted features of the accommodation to promote student safety and wellbeing.

### **Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness**

Council welcomed the appointment of Mr Stephen Bubb as Chair of the Legislation Committee for 2018.