



## **OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 5, 2019 – 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

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At its meeting on 14 November Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2019 business schedule.

### **Overseeing University performance**

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor on matters reflecting and affecting the University's performance, including:

- the high level of staff engagement shown in the University's two-yearly staff survey and priority actions arising in terms of improving internal processes and teaching and career development opportunities
- performance testing on resisting and recovering from cyber attack
- the University's actions in line with the recently released 'Guidelines to counter foreign interference in the Australian university sector'.

The Vice-Chancellor reported on his recent trips to India and China and on partnership building activities. In China the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement met with senior representatives from the Shanghai University of Sport about developing a partnership in sports education, a field in which both universities have leading international programs and reputations.

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

Council considered the University's Financial Plan for 2020-2022, comprising the 2020 budget and financial projections for 2021 and 2022. Council noted that the 2020 budget addressed the challenges facing higher education in Australia which include flat or declining domestic CSP demand, ongoing Federal Government funding constraints and a slowdown in international student growth. Through the 2020 budget the University will transition to a lower growth environment.

Council approved the 2020 budget. Council also agreed that the University develop a budget and operating model for the future which reflects this lower growth environment. Council noted the need for focus on prioritising projects and expenditure to enable continued investment in future initiatives.

### **Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs**

Council reviewed the Major Projects Report as at 30 September 2019. Council considered the progress of projects against key performance indicators for budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variations from target.

Council received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer on the University's Capital Infrastructure and Property Strategy and noted:

- the substantial benefits from the shift from an "I own" to "we share" approach to space usage
- sustainability and carbon neutrality targets and initiatives
- ongoing work to improve disability access
- priority projects at each campus, including to bring partner organisations onto campus where space is available.

Council approved an increase to the budget for the Research Innovation Science and Engagement (RISE) Precinct at the Melbourne Burwood Campus. Council agreed that the additional expenditure was justified to support growth in student numbers and research activity and to ensure that best possible use is made of space.

### **Campus security system**

Council approved expenditure for the implementation of a new security system at all Deakin locations including the Waurn Ponds, Burwood, Waterfront and Warrnambool campuses, Greenwood Park, student residences and the Learning Centres at Werribee, Dandenong and Lilydale. The new system will upgrade existing alarm and access control panels and associated infrastructure, hardware and equipment.

### **Overseeing and monitoring academic activities**

Council received a report on the outcomes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 24 September 2019 and noted that the Board:

- supported the establishment of an overarching academic partnership for the delivery of courses between Deakin and the Shanghai University of Sport , with each course to be subject to normal course approval processes
- had considered the following reports and actions arising to achieve continuous improvement:
  - student evaluation and unit evaluation from Trimester 1, 2019
  - student complaints annual report
  - University Appeals Committee for meetings 8-14, 2019.

### **Freedom of Speech policy**

The Chair of the Academic Board advised Council that at its upcoming meeting the Board would consider amendments to the Academic Freedom policy and a new Freedom of Speech policy. Together these policies encompass the University's response to the French Review of Freedom of Speech at Australian Higher Education Providers and will be presented to Council at its next meeting.

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

Council considered a report from the Audit and Risk Committee on its review of the University's arrangements in respect of whistleblowers. On the recommendation of the Committee management will put in place an external "hotline" service for receiving complaints and allegations; a 12 month trial period will demonstrate whether there is value in maintaining this as an ongoing service.

Council approved:

- updates to the University's Risk Appetite Statement
- amended and updated policies on Risk and Compliance Management.

### **Council's own affairs**

Council approved:

- amendments to the Guidelines on the Appointment and Remuneration of Council Members
- Membership of Council Committees for 2020
- Council's 2020 business schedule.

### **Honours and appointments**

Council approved the conferral of the title Emeritus Professor upon one esteemed Professor.

Council received the 2019 review of honorary degrees awarded by the University and approved the awarding of seven Deakin Honorary Doctorates at graduation ceremonies in 2020, to individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community aligned to the University's objectives.