



## **OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 4, 2017 – 4 AUGUST 2017**

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At its meeting on 4 August 2017 the Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2017 business schedule.

### **Sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities**

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the University's action plan to address the findings and recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission's report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities. Council noted:

- the University's determination to prevent sexual assault and harassment
- initiatives to increase knowledge among students and staff about how to report incidents and where to seek help as a consequence of an incident as a victim or by stander
- the need to ensure all staff have the appropriate knowledge and training to manage these issues when they arise
- the University's commitment to report publicly and regularly about progress.

Council acknowledged:

- the important role played by the Deakin University Student Association and its President of Ms Dana Harding on the *Respect.Now.Always.* initiative in association with Deakin Student Life
- the valuable contribution of all students who responded to the Commission's survey.

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

Council reviewed the University's performance for the first half of 2017 against the performance targets in the *LIVE the future* implementation plan. Council commended substantial progress against key performance indicators, notably:

- the development of an enrolment strategy to open all courses to direct enrolments for Trimester 1, 2017 which enabled the University to make more informed decisions regarding the potential for student success and exceed enrolment targets
- partnership with LeMond Composites to licence breakthrough technology in carbon fibre manufacturing
- relationship with FutureLearn to develop postgraduate courses on a global platform enabling the University to extend and improve its Cloud agenda.

Council also received a detailed report analysing Deakin's performance against Victorian and benchmark universities in a range of areas.

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

Council reviewed financial performance to 30 June 2017 and the progress of major University projects against budget, scope and timeline targets and noted the reasons for any variance to target.

Council approved implementation of the Finance Business Transformation Program to enhance financial analysis and forecasting and to improve the efficiency of financial processes.

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

Council noted that the Audit and Risk Committee had approved amendments to the 2017 Audit Plan which had been reviewed to ensure it took account of changes in business risks, operations and priorities since it was developed.

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

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board and noted the Board's:

- work on reviewing and enhancing the Evaluation of Teaching and Units procedure
- endorsement of the general educational direction for the development of courses being delivered in languages other than English
- coordination with Faculty Boards on academic quality initiatives.

## **Student Forum**

Council held its annual forum to hear the views of students from located and Cloud Campuses and from different fields and levels of study.

Council was very pleased to hear students' view on a range of issues including:

- rewarding and enjoyable aspects of the student experience at Deakin University
- ways in which the University can better meet students' needs
- challenging current issues such as the extremely competitive employment market
- the results and recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission's report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities.

Council noted that issues raised by students will be followed up and actions reported back to students and Council.

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

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

Council approved construction of a major new building, the *Deakin Law School Building*, on the Melbourne Burwood Campus to:

- provide new accommodation for the Deakin Law School
- address the demand for flexible learning space to support active learning
- increase space for desk-based research
- enable student, health, equity and wellbeing services to be co-located.

The building is designed to be flexible, adaptable and to meet the highest environmental standards. Construction is scheduled to be completed in time for the commencement of Trimester 2, 2020.

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

Council received a report on the results of the 2017 biennial review of Council committees.

Council approved the reappointment of Ms Philippa Kelly for a further term from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

## **Alfred Deakin Professors**

Council conferred the title of Alfred Deakin Professor on five professors in recognition of their outstanding and sustained contribution to furthering Deakin's research aims, or its teaching and learning aims:

- Alfred Deakin Professor Tracey Bucknall
- Alfred Deakin Professor Chris Doucouliagos
- Alfred Deakin Professor John Grundy
- Alfred Deakin Professor Beverley Oliver
- Alfred Deakin Professor Christine Ure.