



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 8, 2022 – 9 DECEMBER

Deakin University Council met on 9 December 2022 at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2022 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Indigenous strategy

Council expressed acclamation for the Deakin Indigenous Strategy 2023-2028. Council extended its gratitude to Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and innovation, Professor Mark Rose and all contributors to the excellent strategy.

Council emphasised the importance of the strategy to the whole University.

Trailblazer Universities program – Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH)

Council welcomed confirmation of Commonwealth funding for the development of the Deakin University Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH).

Council approved the governance framework for the project.

Council congratulated the REACH project team on their success in bringing together industry and government partners and in developing strong momentum behind the project in 2022.

Damion Drapac Centre

Council noted the landmark establishment of the Damion Drapac Centre in the School of Medicine, funded through a generous gift commemorating the life of Damion Drapac. The Centre will build a transformational program of socially accountable medical education.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University – Reports on 2022

Council considered, and approved as appropriate, reports and recommendations relating to the University's performance and Council's responsibilities in 2022:

- performance and remuneration review of the Vice-Chancellor for 2022, in accordance with the Australian Universities Code for Vice-Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration
- annual report from the Academic Board on the Board's work to uphold academic freedom, standards and quality at Deakin and to monitor and address academic risks
- 2022 Attestation on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom for publication in the University's 2022 Annual Report
- report on Council's fulfilment of its governance responsibilities during the year under:
 - the *Deakin University Act 2009* (Vic)
 - Deakin University Council Charter
 - corporate governance and accountability standards auspiced by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
 - Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities
 - Deakin Policy Framework, specifically policies requiring Council review and approval.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council was satisfied that the Financial Report for periods to end October and end November reflected sound performance and that trends were consistent with previously reported factors.

Council discussed the rebalancing of the University's investment holdings in the Australian equity sector in response to legislative changes and in line with continuing enhancement of the University's Investment Governance Framework.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Risk Appetite Statement

Council considered a review of the University's Risk Appetite Statement and approved amendments to that Statement. The Statement is valuable in guiding decision making and assessing the impact of actual risk events/decisions.

Integrity policy suite

Council approved a new Integrity policy suite encompassing integrity and accountability principles, fraud prevention, gifts and hospitality acceptance and declarations of Interest.

Council welcomed the streamlined and well-structured documentation comprising the new suite.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

In addition to 2022 reports noted above under 'Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University – Reports on 2022', Council considered:

- a report from the Chair of the Academic Board, Professor Chris Hickey on the Board meeting on 16 November 2022, including Board approval for the new suite of Admission policies for implementation from May 2023
- a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Alfred Deakin Professor Liz Johnson on academic integrity and robust measures to address to academic misconduct.

Council thanked Professors Hickey and Johnson for the quality and depth of reporting on academic activities and governance throughout 2022.

Council expressed its appreciation that this reporting demonstrates the maintenance of the highest standards in teaching and research at Deakin.

Honours and acknowledgements

Awarding of honorary doctorates

Council approved the awarding of nine Deakin Honorary Doctorates to individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community aligned to the University's objectives.

Acknowledgement of outgoing member of Council

Council acknowledged with acclamation the service of the student member of Council, Guleid Abdullahi during 2022. Council thanked Guleid for his contribution to the Council and to Deakin University, especially in his leadership positions with the Deakin University Student Association.

Conclusion of year's business

In concluding its business for the year Council expressed its deep appreciation of the work of University staff and students in 2022.

Council expressed its confidence that Deakin is emerging with a strong positive trajectory from the challenges of the Covid pandemic.