



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 7, 2016 – 8 DECEMBER 2016

At its meeting on 8 December 2016 Deakin University Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2016 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Council endorsed the University's initiative to deliver select postgraduate courses online to students all over the world on the *FutureLearn* platform from 2017.

Council was pleased to note:

- Deakin's world-leading ranking in sports science in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (AWRU) global ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments.
- Deakin's top three ranking in Australia for graduate employability by the Times Higher Education.

Council noted the progress of the workplace change process at the Warrnambool Campus.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council approved the University's 2017 budget and noted financial projections for 2018 and 2019.

Council noted the budget challenges facing all universities through low growth in student numbers, continuing uncertainty about future government funding and cost pressures.

Council noted the sound performance of the University's investments in terms of financial returns and environmental, social and governance (ESG) objectives.

Overseeing and reviewing University performance

Council reviewed University performance against targets for student numbers.

Council considered the progress of major projects underway and noted the pressure on the capital expenditure budget in future years.

Council noted that Deakin was awarded the 'Employer of Choice for Gender Equality' citation for the tenth consecutive year by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

Innovation and commercialisation

Council noted Deakin's results in recent National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) funding rounds, and initiatives to continue to increase the University's success rate in competitive grant funding rounds.

Council received an update on collaborative research between Deakin and Indian institutions.

Oversight and monitoring of academic activities

Council received end of year reports from the Academic Board, including on actions taken by the Board during 2016 to uphold academic freedom, standards and quality and on the independent review of academic governance undertaken during the year by Emeritus Professor Joan Campbell.

Council noted actions by the Board to:

- enhance academic integrity
- monitor and remediate academic risks
- achieve further improvement in academic governance by implementing actions arising from the independent review of academic governance, which endorsed the University's current arrangements and recommended a number of enhancements.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council received a report on the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's 2016 risk assessment of Deakin.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council received a report on Part B of the 2016 Council Review, being an assessment of compliance against the corporate governance section of the higher education threshold standards.

Council approved amendments to the terms of reference of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee and to the terms of reference and composition of the Honorary Degrees Committee.

Council received the end of year reports from Council and Council committees on activities during 2016 and noted that Council and its committees had fulfilled their business schedules and their statutory obligations.

Council received the updated register of delegations by Council and a report on how those delegations were exercised and reported in 2016.

Council appointed Ms Kathy Grigg as Deputy Chancellor from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Council received the list of Council committee memberships for 2017.

Honours and acknowledgements

Council noted with sadness the passing of two former members of Council, who made outstanding contributions to Deakin:

- Professor John Hay AC, Deakin's third Vice-Chancellor from 1992 until 1995, a period of significant development for the University
- Mr John Backhouse, Council member from 1980 to 1998 and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of the University in 1999.

Council recorded its appreciation of their important contributions and noted that the University had expressed its condolences to their families.

Council acknowledged with acclamation the service of Ms Helene Bender as outgoing Deputy Chancellor and noted with appreciation that she would continue as a member of Council and as Deputy Chair of the Legislation Committee.

Council received the 2016 review of honorary degrees awarded by the University, and approved the awarding of Deakin Honorary doctorates to named persons.

Council approved the naming of a significant walkway at the Melbourne Burwood Campus.