



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 2, 2023 – 18 MAY

Deakin University Council met on 18 May 2023 at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2023 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor covering the status of current matters including:

- student enrolment numbers, which are tracking to target for the year to date
- Australian Universities Accord and Government Policy
- staff Pulse survey conducted in March 2022; the Vice-Chancellor briefed Council on results, trends and the follow up program across the University.

Statement on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

Council added its support to the Statement on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament issued by the Vice-Chancellor to the University community on 27 March 2023.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

2022 Deakin University Annual Report

Council noted that the 2022 Deakin University Annual Report was tabled in the Victorian parliament on 2 May 2023. The Report is available at the [Deakin website](#).

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Financial Report incorporating Outlook 1 and noted monthly cash flow movements and projections. Council noted that financial performance was in line with budget and full year targets.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 March 2023 and noted:

- the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variation from targets
- the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund (VHESIF) portfolio is nearing completion, with nine of 11 projects completed and in operation. Council was pleased to note that the VHESIF portfolio will achieve overall budget, objectives and timelines, which is a good outcome under tight cost and timing pressures.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Risk reports

Council considered a suite of reports on risk management and audit outcomes, and reports on student complaints handling, health safety and wellbeing, Deakin's cyber security program.

Modern Slavery Statement

Council approved the University's 2022 Modern Slavery Statement. The Statement will be published on the University's website and the website of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Academic Board

The Chair of the Academic Board reported on the Board meeting held on 19 April 2023 and noted the Board's consideration of a range of academic governance matters.

Council noted advice from the Chair that the Academic Board is paying close attention to discussions between universities and accreditation bodies regarding online proctored assessment.

Council also noted the Board's hot topic presentation on reforms to secondary schools and Victoria and their impact on the University.

GIFT City International Branch Campus

Council approved expenditure for the establishment of Deakin's world-first international teaching campus in India, to be located in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

Council joined the Vice-Chancellor in commending the high level of coordination across the University on the business plan.

Council noted that:

- course offerings will initially be the Master of Cybersecurity (Professional) and Master of Business Analytics which align with the needs of the digital economy being established in GIFT City
- the campus will open as early as possible and by no later than mid-2024, the same year Deakin celebrates its 50th anniversary and 30 years in India
- the campus will operate under the same academic standards, higher education standards framework and policies followed in Australia and as set by the University and national accreditation body, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
- Deakin's presence in GIFT City will support GIFT's positioning and aspiration to deliver a supply of job-ready graduates to its target business segments and contribute to a lively financial ecosystem.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Investment Committee

Council approved the appointment of Kevin O'Sullivan to the Investment Committee as an external expert for an initial term from 22 May 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Council acknowledged with acclamation retired Investment Committee member Jane Simon's significant contribution to the Committee over her decade of service.

Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH) Governing Group

Council approved the appointment of Shaun Cox as Inaugural Chair of the Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH) Governing Group.

Council thanked Deputy Chancellor Carol Boyer-Spooner for her leadership as Interim Chair for the first part of 2023.

2023 Council Review

Council noted that the report on the 2023 Council Review by Boards Global will be presented for consideration at the next Council meeting on 6 July.