



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 1, 2023 – 16 MARCH

Deakin University Council met on 16 March 2023 at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2023 business schedule.

Acknowledgement of Country

Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation joined the meeting to give the Acknowledgement of Country and a presentation on Indigenous Strategy.

Professor Rose highlighted the importance of the coming year in reframing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and raising the voice and influence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Professor Rose provided Council with the latest information on the implementation of the Deakin Indigenous Strategy 2023-2028, which Council had welcomed at its meeting on 9 December 2022.

Council noted that the Strategy has been promulgated across Deakin and work is underway:

- on individual compacts with each Faculty to recognise the different levels of Indigenous participation and history associated with specific disciplines and to enable Faculties to set goals and targets to achieve University-wide improvements
- to equip all staff across the University with the competence to make the Strategy an integral part of their work, rather than having a heavy cultural load on a small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues
- to embed Indigenous Knowledges and perspectives in all Deakin courses so that all graduates are ready to drive progress in the workforce and the community.

Council thanked Professor Rose for his contribution to the meeting; reiterated its strong support for his work; and expressed eagerness for regular updates on the Strategy.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

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

- Trimester 1 enrolments
- campus life
- India teaching campus in Ahmedabad, India, following the Prime-Ministerial announcements on 9 March 2023
- reporting and governance arrangements, and industry partnership activities of the Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH).

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

Review of 2022

Council considered:

- the Strategic Key Performance Indicators Report including and noted performance against the full range of targets for 2022 and for student commencing enrolments for year-to-date 2023
- the Finance Report to 31 December 2022 and 2022 Financial Statements
- the University's 2022 Annual Report.

Approval of 2022 Annual Report

Council approved the 2022 Deakin University Annual Report, including 2022 Financial Statements, Report of Operations and compliance statements, including the University's Attestation Statement on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office had cleared the draft financial statements and will issue an unmodified audit opinion.

The Report will be forwarded to the Hon Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education and Minister for Agriculture for tabling in the Victorian Parliament in May 2023, after which it will be published on the University's website.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Finance and Major Projects Reports

Council considered the consolidated financial results for 2022 under the Annual Report.

Council also considered the Finance and Major Projects Report for the first reporting period of 2023 and noted that cash flow for the period was sound. In terms of major projects Council was advised that delays continued for several projects but that they were been dealt with. The University is in regular contact with funding bodies about this situation, and the Finance and Business Affairs Committee will examine management plans for these projects at its next meeting.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered a suite of reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including the status of actions to address headline risks and to ensure that the University's risk appetite statement is effectively implemented.

The University's Attestation of Compliance with the Victorian Government's Risk Management Framework is included in the University's Annual Report.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Academic Board

The Chair of the Academic Board, Professor Chris Hickey, reported on the Board meeting held on 20 February 2023 and on the internal audit report conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on Deakin's academic governance.

Council noted that the PwC report found that the University's academic governance arrangements are sound and that the work of the Academic Board and its committees is effective. No problem areas were identified. Recommendations relate to enhancing activities such as coordination with Faculty Boards.

Council also noted that Chairpersons of Academic Boards in Australia would provide collective input into the Australian Universities Accord, addressing issues such as ChatGPT, microcredentials and the relationship between work integrated learning and employment law.

Performance of University Research Institutes

Council considered the 2022 report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Alfred Deakin Professor Julie Owens, on the performance of University research institutes against their objectives.

Honours and appointments

Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor

Council approved the reappointment of Professor Iain Martin as Vice-Chancellor for a further five-year term, commencing May 2024.

Appointment of the Executive Dean Arts and Education

Council approved the appointment of Professor Simon Tormey as Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Education.

Appointment of the Interim Chair, Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH)

Council noted the Chancellor's approval on behalf of Council of the appointment of Carol Boyer-Spooner as the interim Chair of the Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH) Governing Group.

Council noted that this is an important appointment that will maintain the momentum of the REACH program and pave the way for the appointment of an ongoing Chair by Council at a future meeting.

Council's own affairs

Committee membership

Council approved the appointment of Stephen Bubb to the Audit and Risk Committee, effective 20 March 2023.

Dis-establishment of the Legislation Committee

Council approved the disestablishment of the Legislation Committee, effective 16 March 2023. This is on the basis that:

- the Committee has completed its work on the streamlining of the University Statute and Regulations and that this legislation is operating effectively and as intended
- arrangements are in place for continued oversight of University legislation and policy.

The Chancellor acknowledged the significant contribution of the Legislation Committee to the sound governance of the University.

Council expressed its appreciation to the Legislation Committee for its work, especially on improving the University Statute and Regulations and putting them in excellent shape for the future.