



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 5, 2023 – 28 SEPTEMBER

Deakin University Council met on 28 September 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 on Strategic Plan KPIs and objectives, including:

- student enrolment data, showing that international student enrolments continue to be strong, both by overall numbers and diversity of source countries
- good attendance at recent Open Days with 20,000 visitors attending across all campuses, an overall increase of seven percent compared to 2022
- Deakin's best ever ranking of 265 in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings - up 12 places from 2022 and 68 places from 2020
- ongoing submissions and discussions with the University Accord Panel ahead of the Panel's final report in late 2023.

Enterprise Agreement

Council was pleased to note that the new Enterprise Agreement (EA) had received a Yes vote from 98 per cent of staff who voted (67 per cent response rate).

Student safety and preventing sexual harm

Council discussed the University's ongoing programs to ensure student safety and to prevent sexual harm. In addition to Deakin-specific initiatives, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team is active in partnership work across the sector, and with the Victorian State Government on links between schools and universities, and also public transport.

International Branch Campuses

Council was pleased to note and to support progress on the University's international branch campuses in GIFT City Gujarat and Bandung Indonesia.

Legacy of Alfred Deakin University

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council that deep consideration had been given to the legacy of Alfred Deakin, working closely with Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation and the Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Advisory Committee. Work is underway on a "Tanderrum" ("safe passage") document to continue engagement with this important issue.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Finance Report for the period to 31 August 2023 incorporating Outlook 2. Year-to-date and forecast positions are consistent with the Financial Plan.

Council noted the Victorian Auditor-General's Report 'Results of 2022 Audits: Universities'.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 August 2023 and discussed the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variations from targets.

Council considered the post implementation review for the Waurm Ponds Renewable Energy Microgrid project and the progress report of the Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH).

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including the Quarter 2 report on Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board on the Board's meetings on 26 July 2023 and 27 September 2023.

Council received the 2022 annual report of the Institute for Frontier Materials.

Advancement update

Council received a presentation from Chief Advancement Officer Jimmy Buck about recent and upcoming advancement activities.

University policy

Council approved amendments to the [Commercial Activities and Entities policy](#).

Appointments and Council's own affairs

Appointment of the Executive Dean Faculty of Business and Law

Council approved the appointment of Professor Jenni Lightowlers as Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law.

Appointment of the Chair of the Bowater Trust

Council approved the appointment of Professor Amanda Pyman as the Chair of the Bowater Trust.

People and Culture Committee

Council approved the renaming of Council's 'Remuneration Committee' as 'People and Culture Committee' with updated terms of reference.

Next meeting at the Warrnambool Campus

Council's next meeting is at the Warrnambool Campus on 10 November 2023, preceded by an On Country Experience with Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation, and Traditional Owners.