



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2022 – 6 OCTOBER

Deakin University Council met on 6 October 2022 at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2022 business schedule.

Student Forum

Council held its 2022 Student Forum. Fifteen students from a range of courses, campuses and study levels presented their perspectives on four topics:

- reasons for choosing Deakin University
- main learning experiences and how this related to expectations at enrolment
- what Deakin can do to improve students' learning experiences including in the context of emerging from COVID-19
- how well students felt prepared for their future career or next career move.

Students spoke highly of Deakin's values and respectful and caring treatment of students. Students suggested a range of enhancements to matters such as assisting students to manage information overload, time pressures and competing priorities.

Issues and suggestions raised by students will be followed up and reported back to Forum participants before the end of the year.

Council expressed its deep appreciation to students for their contributions. Hearing directly from a range of students adds depth and detail to statistical information regularly considered by Council on student satisfaction, unit evaluations, graduate outcomes and other sources.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

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

- *India engagement*

Council welcomed the University's new engagement initiative in India, the Deakin University Hubs at OP Jindal Global University, Symbiosis International University and Chitkara University.

Council was pleased to note action by the Australian Government to fix delays in processing international student visa applications. The backlog of applications which built up in July has largely been cleared.

- *Student numbers and additional university places*

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the latest enrolment numbers and trends and on announcements by the Australian and Victorian governments about additional university places to tackle skills shortages and to enhance university opportunities for students from under-represented backgrounds. The University welcomes these announcements and will bid for additional places in targeted areas.

- *Student experience survey*

Council was pleased to observe that Deakin maintained its number one position in Victoria for overall student experience for the sixth consecutive year in the 2021 Student Experience Survey. Council expressed its appreciation to Deakin staff for this excellent achievement. The outcome resonated with the positive comments made by students in the Student Forum.

Campus and Digital Investment Plans

Council considered a presentation from Kean Selway, Executive Vice-President Futures on the Campus Infrastructure and Property Investment Plan 2023-2027 (CIPIP) and Digital and Information Technology Investment Plan 2023-2027 (DITIP). Together these plans provide an integrated approach to campus and digital planning and underpin Deakin's aim to be recognised as a university of choice for blending the best of on campus and online study and work.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Finance Report for the period to 31 August 2022 incorporating Outlook 2. Council noted that Outlook 2 represents an improved position compared to Outlook 1 due to an uplift in revenue and ongoing operational savings. Like other employers the University is experiencing delays and difficulties in filling vacant positions.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 August 2022. A noteworthy milestone during the period was the completion of ManuFutures 2 in the Geelong Future Economy Precinct. Importantly there has been immediate uptake by R&D tenants.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered a report from the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) on its meeting on 12 September 2022 including on comprehensive tracking of the implementation of audit recommendations, which is integral to a robust control system of control and accountability.

Cyber security

Council considered follow up to its session on cyber security held after the ARC meeting on 12 September. Since that time the high-profile Optus cyber breach had occurred.

Council emphasised its awareness of the cybersecurity threats facing all organisations and that cyber criminals are targeting the university sector. Council monitors the University's cyber security measures very carefully. Council discussed escalation and decision-making protocols for cyber incidents as part of the University's broader critical incident management processes.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board, Professor Chris Hickey, on the Board's two recent meetings. Council was pleased to be advised of the ongoing work across the University on academic integrity, discussed regularly by the Board.

Professor Hickey and Professor Liz Johnson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, outlined the features of the University's approach to academic integrity, strengthened by recent amendments to the Academic Integrity policy. Key components are:

- clear statements of the responsibilities of students and staff regarding upholding academic integrity and acting against misconduct
- consistency across Faculties and courses
- firm framework recognising the ascending scale from minor breaches addressed by an educative approach to recurring breaches and deliberate contract cheating dealt with by disciplinary measures
- development and deployment of sophisticated technology tools able to trace digital footprints to detect cheating.

Council expressed its appreciation for this information and requested ongoing updates.

Council agreed that a whole of University approach underpinned by the best possible data represents the strongest way to tackle this issue.

Council noted the importance of the work on academic integrity by the Deakin Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning (CRADLE). This work benefits not only Deakin but the university sector as a whole.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

Council congratulated Jonathan De La Pena on being elected as the student member of Council for 2023. Jonathan is an Arts/Law student.

Council approved amendments to the Council Operating Provisions and the Operating Provisions for Committees of Council.