



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 3, 2023 – 6 JULY

Deakin University Council met on 6 July 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 robust recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and in particular strong international student enrolments both by overall numbers and diversity of source countries
- sound performance in international rankings – 233 in the 2024 QS World University Rankings (up 33 places) and 42 in the 2023 Young University Rankings (up seven places)
- ranking second in Australia among comprehensive public universities in the most recent Student Experience Survey.

Council was pleased to note that overall Deakin is achieving its strategic objective for balanced excellence in teaching and research. This is a distinctive position compared to universities which perform highly for teaching or research, but rarely both.

Statement on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

With regard to advice from Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation and the Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Advisory Council, Council endorsed the Vice-Chancellor's Statement on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, including additions to express Council's support.

Establishment of Clinical Trials Hub

Council approved the establishment of the Deakin Clinical Trials Hub.

The Hub will build permanent centralised capacity and expertise at Deakin in running clinical trials. It will overcome the repeated learning and re-learning process associated with decentralised arrangements.

Other advantages of establishing the Hub include:

- enhanced risk management and compliance with rigorous regulatory requirements
- community outreach from the Hub to health networks to reduce barriers for some cohorts to benefit from participation in clinical trials, eg regional areas without major hospitals
- expansion opportunities to move into big data and powerful cohort studies and to consider commercially sponsored research.

Council welcomed this important initiative and approved funding for its initial years of operation.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Finance Report for the period to 31 May 2023 and noted cash flow movements and projections, which are generally consistent with previous reporting and outlook projections.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 30 April 2023 and noted the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variations from targets.

Council considered an update on the University's initiative to establish an International Branch Campus in Bandung Indonesia in partnership with Lancaster University and Navitas. Council noted continuing work across the University on this important project.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered a suite of reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including reports on the latest TEQSA risk assessment, risk management review of clinical trials, insurance renewal program, revisions to the strategic audit plan, and the Respect and Sexual Harm Prevention 2022 Annual Report.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

The Chair of the Academic Board reported on the Board meeting held on 7 June 2023.

Council noted that the Board continues to monitor important academic governance matters such as the use of artificial intelligence (especially ChatGPT), contract cheating, course offerings planned for international branch campuses and student feedback on units. The Board also maintains awareness of discussions with accreditation authorities on proctored online examinations.

Council noted the Academic Board's Statement on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Chair elaborated on the Board's attention to embedding Indigenous knowledges and perspectives in the curriculum through Graduate Learning Outcome (GLO) 8, Global citizenship: *engaging ethically and productively in the professional context, and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as diverse communities and cultures in a global context.*

Respect and Sexual Harm Prevention 2022 Annual Report

Council approved the Deakin University Respect and Sexual Harm Prevention 2022 Annual Report for publication on the University website. Publication is not required by any specific legislative obligation, but it is consistent with the University's commitment to transparency and responsible reporting.

Council welcomed the role that Deakin is playing with other Victorian universities on shared definitions for data reporting.

Council's own affairs, effectiveness and acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of retiring Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research

Council acknowledged with acclamation the service of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Alfred Deakin Professor Julie Owens who will retire from the University on 31 July 2023.

Council was pleased to note that Professor Owens has been appointed an Emeritus Professor of the University and will continue her involvement with Deakin.

2023 Council Review

Council considered the report on the 2023 Council Performance Review by BoardsGlobal.

The review concluded that Deakin Council is fulfilling its governance responsibilities effectively. Overall Council performance is in the top decile of university and corporate governance bodies.

The review found no material areas requiring improvement. It identified a series of enhancements to support continuing high performance and to meet challenges and opportunities arising from technological change, deeper global connectedness and increasing community expectations of governance bodies.

Council approved an action plan arising from the review for implementation in 2023-2024.