



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 2, 2024 – 23 MAY

Deakin University Council met on 23 May 2024 at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2024 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
- staff Pulse survey conducted in April 2024; the Vice-Chancellor briefed Council on results, trends and the follow up program across the University. The results were pleasing, with increases in favourable ratings across all four categories of engagement, enablement, empowerment and leadership. The favourable rating for engagement lifted significantly by 6% to 73%, the highest level to date. Council also discussed areas of ongoing work.

Council considered in detail issues related to the protest camp at the Melbourne Burwood Campus. Further to the updates circulated ahead of the meeting, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor reported on the latest developments at the University and in the sector. In its approach the University has been firm in placing primary importance on the safety of students, staff and campus users. The University has also emphasised its enduring commitment to freedom of speech.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

Council noted that the 2023 Deakin University Annual Report was [tabled](#) in the Victorian Parliament on 1 May 2024 and is available on the University's [website](#).

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Academic Board

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board on the Board's meeting held on 17 April 2024.

Further to the minutes of the meeting, Professor Currey reported that afterwards she had written to members regarding the Board's discussion of joint policies with Lancaster University on courses to be offered at the Bandung International Branch Campus. In her correspondence Professor Currey expressed her appreciation to Board members for their active engagement in the discussion and noted follow-up actions to the Board's endorsement of principle-based joint policies with Lancaster.

Professor Currey emphasised her appreciation of the diligence and engagement demonstrated by the Board. The Board brought a high level of consideration and expertise to its discussion, along with an understanding of the tight turn-around times to get the policy principles in place.

Professor Currey also commended the Dean of Student's annual report on academic integrity. It is particularly noteworthy that this report is published in a reader-friendly fashion on the University's website. It provides an open account of trends and outcomes from student academic misconduct cases.

Institute Annual Reports

Council received the 2023 annual report of the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT).

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Finances and major projects

Council reviewed the Outlook 1, 2024 Financial Report and noted that financial performance was in line with budget and full year targets.

Council also considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 March 2024 and progress reports on Deakin's International Branch Campuses at GIFT City, India and Bandung, Indonesia for the period to 30 April 2024.

Council also noted the significance of work commencing on planning the replacement of the Student Management System, which is nearing end of life. This is mission critical work and will be among the most expensive major projects ever undertaken by the University.

Investment policy

Council welcomed the University's updated Investment Policy and new Investment Management Procedure, approved by the Investment Committee. The policy documents have been enhanced with expanded sections on principles for responsible investment, encompassing environmental, sustainability and governance (ESG) objectives. They are published on the University's [policy library](#).

Respect and preventing sexual harm

Council considered a report on the University's approach to implementing compulsory respect and sexual harm training for all students.

Council noted that students will receive an introduction, in their first period of study, to respect and sexual harm prevention education via enhancements to the existing academic integrity unit, to ensure they are clear on their rights and responsibilities as a Deakin student. Deakin Residential Services will also continue to administer and require completion of a residential specific module to ensure compliance with accommodation-specific content.

The enhanced module will be a valuable addition to the University's overall program to prevent gender-based violence.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Risk reports

Council considered a suite of reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including reports on the handling of student complaints, health safety and wellbeing, foreign interference, fraud and corruption, headline risks, and Deakin's cyber security program.

Modern Slavery Statement

Council reviewed the University's Modern Slavery Statement and mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018.

Council approved the Statement for signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The Statement will be published on the University's website and the website of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.

Presentations

Indigenous strategy and 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 and progress on Indigenous programs and initiatives since his previous presentation to Council 2023.

Professor Rose highlighted:

- achievements of 2023 including the successful launch of the Deakin University Indigenous Strategy; on-country experience for Council at Budj Bim; creation of the Tanderrum *Clearing the way: Deakin University and the Alfred Deakin legacy*; and the 2023 Indigenous Oration with Stan Grant, distinguished journalist and Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi man
- initiatives to advance appreciation of Indigenous knowledge in Deakin courses, enabling students to gain cultural intelligence.

Council expressed its wholehearted appreciation of these important achievements and thanked Professor Rose for his contribution to the meeting and reiterated its strong support for his important work.

Recycling and Renewable Energy Commercialisation Hub

Council considered a presentation from Shaun Cox, Chair of the Recycling and Renewable Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH) Governing Board, and Amy Hunter, Executive Director, Research Business Engagement and Impact, on REACH progress, governance and strategy.

Council was pleased to note advice from the Chair that, following initial establishment work, governance arrangements are now streamlined and working well. The Governing Board comprises Shaun Cox as Chair, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Iain Martin, a further member of Council Carol Boyer-Spooner and three external experts, Professor Matthew Cuthbertson, Professor Michael Cardew-Hall and Karen Rouse.

Council expressed its support and appreciation of the work of the REACH Governing Board and executive leadership. Council welcomed early work on REACH legacy planning, building on the REACH ecosystem plan. An essential legacy is equipping students from a wide range of disciplines with the expertise, experience and networks to play leadership roles in the circular, clean energy economy.

Faculty of Arts and Education

Council considered a presentation on the Faculty of Arts and Education from Professor Simon Tormey, Executive Dean. Council thanked Professor Tormey for his engaging presentation and expressed its appreciation of the important and broad ranging program of work underway.

Deputy Chancellors

Council reappointed Carol Boyer-Spooner and Dr Lyn Roberts AO as Deputy Chancellors from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025.