



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 1, 2024 – 21 MARCH

Deakin University Council met on 21 March 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 on matters of strategic importance. Council was pleased to note that a range of measures demonstrate that Deakin continues to perform well in terms of delivering balanced excellent in teaching and research.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

Review of 2023

Council considered:

- the Strategic Key Performance Indicators Report including a deep dive on research and innovation indicators, and noted performance against the full range of targets for 2023
- the Finance Report to 31 December 2023 and 2023 Financial Statements
- the University's 2023 Annual Report.

Approval of 2023 Annual Report

Council approved the 2023 Deakin University Annual Report, comprising Report of Operations, audited Financial Statements, and compliance statements, including the University's Attestation Statement on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.

The Report will be forwarded to the Hon Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Skills and TAFE and Minister for Regional Development for tabling in the Victorian Parliament in May 2024, after which it will be published on the University's website.

Respect and preventing sexual harm

Council:

- received a report on Deakin actions addressing the National Action Plan Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education
- adopted, on behalf of Deakin, the Universities Australia Charter on Sexual Harm
- approved the Deakin University Respect and Sexual Harm Prevention 2023 Annual Report for publication on the University website
- approved updates to the University's Risk Appetite Statement to draw out sexual harm and prevention as a risk category in its own right, rather than as part of the broader Wellbeing, Safety and Security category.

Council welcomed the reports and action plans. In approving the updates to the Risk Appetite Statement Council recognised that incidences of sexual harm are under-reported throughout society. The University will regard an increase in reported incidences in a positive light where this indicates increasing awareness and confidence to report.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report from the Chair of the Academic Board on the Board's meeting held on 23 February 2024.

In regard to the establishment of the International Branch Campus in Bandung Indonesia, Council noted significant progress on course approvals and a joint policy framework between Deakin and Lancaster University ahead of the courses being delivered at the Campus from 2025.

Council was also interested to receive a report from the Chair on issues arising from the recent meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates in Australia, in particular discussion on Higher Education Standard 2.3 concerning student wellbeing and safety. This is an important governance issue and the subject of concerted follow up from the Universities Accord Report.

Overseeing finances and risk management

Council discussed the year-to-date progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variations from targets. This included reports on major current initiatives:

- the Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH)
- Deakin's International Branch Campuses at GIFT City, India and Bandung, Indonesia.

Council also considered reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including the 2023 annual/Quarter 4 report on Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

University policy

Council approved:

- amendments to the [Delegations Policy](#)
- a new [Controlled Entities Oversight and Reporting Procedure](#) and the revocation of the 'Charter for Boards of Deakin University Controlled Entities' and 'Reporting Requirements for Deakin University Controlled Entities'.

Renaming of the Alfred Deakin Professor title

Following approval of the statement [Clearing the Way, Deakin University and the Legacy of Alfred Deakin: a Tanderrum](#) at its previous meeting, Council discussed a proposal to change the title 'Alfred Deakin Professor' to 'Deakin Distinguished Professor'. Following full discussion Council approved the proposal.

Council considered that the new name reflects pride in the University's own standing and distinction and the history it has made as a university.

The new name will be implemented from the 2024 academic promotion round. The title of 'Deakin Distinguished Professor' will be conferred on all new recipients. Previously bestowed recipients will be given the option to retain the former title or to adopt the new title.

Council's own affairs

Appointment of a Council member

Council approved the reappointment of [Dianne Angus](#) to Council for a further term to 30 June 2027.

Committee terms of reference

Council approved updates to the terms of reference of the People and Culture Committee and the Finance and Business Affairs Committee to reflect their current operations and best governance practice.