



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 3, 2021 – 1 JULY

Deakin University Council met on 1 July 2021 and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2021 business schedule.

Overseeing University performance

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

Staff ideas and survey

- staff input into the Ideas Hubs for the Deakin Reimagined program
- staff responses to the first instalment of the shorter, more frequent staff survey (Pulse survey)

Student enrolments

- Trimester 2 enrolment numbers, which are slightly down compared to 2020 due to the winding back of the Commonwealth subsidised short course program, but which are in line with forecast levels for the year
- impact of continuing border closure on international student recruitment and on Australia's standing as a destination for international students

Foreign relations

- reporting to the Commonwealth Government in accordance with the requirements of the Foreign Arrangements Scheme and issues raised in the Human Rights Report "They Don't Understand the Fear We Have" (June 2021)

Clean energy initiatives

- the launch of BatTRI-HUB 2.0 and the Hycel Technology Hub with support from the Victorian and Australian governments. Council welcomed these initiatives as important contributions to the Deakin Energy program alongside projects such as the Waurin Ponds Microgrid.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Finance Report for the period to 31 May 2021 and noted monthly cash flow movements and projections.

Council considered a report from the Investment Committee on the University's Responsible Investment Statement and endorsed updates to the Statement.

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 May 2021 and noted the status of each project against budget, scope and timeline KPIs. Council noted that the project to expand the facilities of the Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus was completed during the reporting period.

Overseeing academic activities

Council received the minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 9 June 2021 and considered an oral report from the Chair of the Board about the range of issues addressed by the Board:

Employability

- the Board received a presentation from the Pro-Vice Chancellor Graduate Employment on updates to programs to support students into employment during and after university focussing on (i) early and pre-professional employment opportunities to open the way to further opportunities and lasting career development and (ii) embedding employability components in generic courses without specific career pathways, whereby students gain exposure to different career options from the commencement of study

Regional access scheme

- the Board approved a pilot program to provide enrolment opportunities for regional students using criteria other than the ATAR ranking ('Alternative Offer Regional Access Scheme'). The selection methodology is similar to that for the Indigenous Access Scheme. The pilot involves specific courses selected by Faculties and offered at regional campuses. The pilot will be evaluated after a year

Discontinuation of higher doctorates

- the Board approved the discontinuation of higher doctorates (eg Doctorate of Letters) because they have been superseded by doctorates by publication and honorary doctorates

University Appeals Committee Annual Trend Report

- the Board considered the 2021 Trend Report from the University Appeals Committee. The Report demonstrated consistency with previous years. COVID-19 and wholly online study in 2020 did not give rise to any significant increase in appeals. The types of appeals also remained consistent. Academic integrity remains the dominant category.

Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

Council noted the University's progress towards the adoption of an overarching Code for the Protection of Freedom of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom. Following consultation across the University the approval steps to finalise and adopt the Code are: Legislation Committee meeting 20 July 2021, Academic Board meeting 28 July 2021 and Council meeting on 5 August 2021.

The Code fulfils the requirements of the Model Code developed by Justice Robert French and will be the subject of reporting each year in the University's Annual Report.

Council's own affairs

Council welcomed Ms Di Angus as a new member of Council from 1 July 2021. Ms Angus will also join the Finance and Business Affairs Committee.

Council appointed Mr Ryan Leemon to the Investment Committee as its Deputy Chair.

Council noted the process and timelines for the 2021 Council review, in which all Council members will participate.