



## **OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 5, 2021 – 30 SEPTEMBER**

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Deakin University Council met on 30 September 2021 by videoconference in accordance with the provisions for approved methods of communication for Council meetings under the *Deakin University Act 2009*. Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2021 business schedule.

### **Setting the strategic direction of the University**

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

- **Deakin Reimagined program**  
The consultation period on the change program was extended to provide further time for feedback. This a genuine opportunity for staff to provide input into the development of Deakin Reimagined. Significant feedback has been received from staff and will be used to inform decision-making.
- **Research developments**  
The University enjoyed significant success in the recent ARC Early Career Research grant round, which augurs well for the future of the research program since the successful researchers are at the start of their careers.
- **Student recruitment**  
Domestic recruitment is strong. Council noted the prospects for, and impediments to, the resumption of international student arrivals.
- **Campus reactivation**  
The Vice-Chancellor advised that he would imminently issue university-wide communications on the University's course to safely reopen campuses including vaccination requirements. Council noted that there would be numerous complexities to deal with but that all organisations were grappling with these issues and a community wide approach may crystallise over time.  
In the coming months the University will continue its positive messages in favour of vaccination and provide detailed information at each stage of campus reactivation.

### **Overseeing the management and control of finances**

#### *Financial Report*

Council considered the Finance Report for the period to 31 August 2021, incorporating Outlook 2 and noted cash flow movements and projections.

#### *Financial Plan 2022-2024*

Council noted the key parameters, income assumptions and cost drivers informing the development of the Financial Plan 2022-2024.

#### *Major projects*

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 August 2021 and noted that most current projects are close to completion. The major ongoing project is Streamline to improve the effectiveness and coordination of research analytics, administration and support.

### **Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability**

#### *Risk Management*

Council considered a review of the University's Risk Appetite Statement and approved amendments to that Statement. The amendments align with changes in the risk and regulatory environment, most notably the introduction of the Commonwealth Government's foreign interference legislation.

Council considered the draft minutes and an oral report from the Chair on the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 September 2021. Council noted advice from the Committee of the

positive assessment of the University's fraud and corruption prevention systems as benchmarked against IBAC's best practice principles.

#### *Occupational Health and Safety*

Council received a report on amendments to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2014* (Vic). Council emphasised its determination to ensure that the University continues to provide a safe and healthy environment for staff, students and visitors to campus.

### **Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities**

#### *Academic Board report and policy*

The Chair of the Academic Board reported on the Board meetings on 28 July and 22 September, 2021 and the Board's consideration of a range of academic governance matters, including 'stackable' credentials. Council supported a continuation of the University's approach to stackable and micro-credentials which emphasises the maintenance of strong academic rigour, auspiced by the Academic Board, and offering credentials for which there is demonstrated industry and student demand.

### **Adoption of University Chancellors Council instruments**

Council approved resolutions for the University to adopt instruments approved by the Australian University Chancellors Council:

- the Australian Universities Vice-Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration Code
- the template Attestation Statement for compliance with the Code for Upholding Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.

### **Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University**

#### *Presentation on the Faculty of Arts and Education*

Council considered a presentation from Professor Vanessa Lemm, Executive Dean Faculty of Arts and Education on the Faculty's teaching and research programs in line with the *Deakin 2030: Ideas to Impact* strategic plan, including:

- strong teacher education program for primary and secondary school jobs, including fast-track postgraduate courses delivering key components of the Victorian Government's *Teach the future* program
- Indigenous teaching and research programs in the National Indigenous Knowledges Research Education and Innovation Institute (NIKERI)
- use of unique high-tech facilities - Nyaal Immersive Precinct and Deakin Motion Lab – to combine arts and technology
- vibrant research program and strong increase in higher degree by research student numbers.

#### *Presentation on Indigenous programs and initiatives*

Council considered a presentation from Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation on progress on Indigenous programs, including initiatives to advance appreciation of Indigenous knowledge in Deakin courses, enabling students to gain cultural intelligence and the establishment of the Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Advisory Council to provide ongoing advice on Indigenous education and initiatives.

Council thanked Professor Lemm and Professor Rose for their informative presentations and expressed its appreciation of the important and broad ranging work underway.

### **Gender Equity Report**

Council received the University's Gender Equity Report 2021, which will inform the refresh of the University's existing Gender Equality Action Plan. Council noted increased reporting requirements on gender equity arising from the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (Vic).

### **Council's own affairs**

Council conveyed its congratulations to Guleid Abdullahi, Bachelor of Information Technology and Information Systems student, on being elected as the student member of Council for 2022.

Council approved the action plan arising from the 2021 Council Review.