



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 4, 2022 – 8 JULY

Deakin University Council met on 8 July 2022 at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2022 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Strategic updates and planning

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

- Trimester 2 enrolments
- student engagement, campus life and graduations
- Strategic Plan KPIs
- engagement with Indonesia
- appointment of the Executive Dean Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment.

Presentation from the Chief Scientist, CSIRO

Council considered a presentation from Professor Bronwyn Fox, Chief Scientist, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on CSIRO's strategic priorities, interaction with universities and areas of existing and potential collaboration with Deakin.

Council thanked Professor Fox for her engaging and informative information and expressed its enthusiasm for continuing collaboration and information exchange between Deakin and CSIRO.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

2021 Modern Slavery Statement

Council noted that in accordance with the resolution of Council at its meeting on 20 May 2022 the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor signed the University's 2021 Modern Slavery Statement and it was lodged with the Australian Border Force in accordance with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and is published on the [modern slavery register](#).

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Finance Report for the period to 31 May 2022 and noted cash flow movements and projections; operating income is in line with the forecast at Outlook 1 (OL1) whilst operating expenditure is below the OL1 forecast. The main contributor to below forecast expenditure is difficulty and delay in filling vacancies due to the tight employment market.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 May 2022 and noted:

- the status of each project against budget, scope and schedule
- two major projects are at completion phase
- ongoing major projects include the Streamline Program and projects under the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund.

Investments

Council considered a report from the Investment Committee on its review of the Investment Governance Framework. The Committee will present recommendations to Council at its meeting on 6 October 2022. The updated Framework will incorporate the outcomes of Council's Investment Governance Workshop and the Committee's discussion of Responsible Investment Principles aligned to the University's values.

Council discussed the Endowment Fund, which is a component of the Future Fund. The Endowment Fund is small but growing and the Committee will report on it as a discrete item from time to time at future meetings to provide Council with visibility of this Fund.

University legislation and policy

Governance oversight of policy

Council noted the Legislation Committee had reviewed a report on governance oversight of policy. This report will be forthcoming to Council at regular intervals to track progress, especially on streamlining and consolidating policy.

Approval of policies

Council approved three new or amended policies and the associated revocation of superseded and redundant policies and associated information:

International Relations Regulation policy

Council recalled its discussion at the meeting on 18 March 2022 of the importance of proactively addressing the University's increased obligations under recent Commonwealth legislation on foreign relations and critical infrastructure. Council welcomed the new policy as a comprehensive document addressing these obligations. Council noted that the policy was supported by a robust implementation plan and online resources developed by the Office of the General Counsel.

External Relationships and Partnerships policy

Council approved a new version of the External Relationships and Partnerships policy which is closely related to the International Relations Regulation policy noted above, and which consolidates the content of two existing, overlapping policies (the External Relationships policy and Partnership policy).

Naming of University Facilities and Entities policy.

Council approved a new version of the Naming of University Facilities and Entities policy, which foregrounds the University's values and commitment to Indigenous knowledges.

Council noted that the Legislation Committee had endorsed the policy. The Committee supported the fact that the policy set out a comprehensive University-wide framework for naming and encouraged increased diversity on naming proposals.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

The Chair of the Academic Board reported on the Board meeting held on 8 June 2022 and noted the Board's consideration of a range of academic governance matters.

Council noted the Board's discussion of copyright and open access issues. It is increasingly expected that academic staff will publish their research on open access sites but there are costs associated with such publication which are accumulating. These costs are not covered by research grants and are not offset by any reduced costs for journals. Through the University Librarian, Hero Macdonald, Deakin is playing a leading role in discussions about these issues with other universities. Council noted that various research groups across the University are discussing the impact of copyright and open access issues in their disciplines and there is benefit in bringing these various discussions together in a concerted approach.

Council also discussed the increased use of online assessment in recent years. In part this reflected the exigencies of the COVID-19 situation but more broadly there is a trend away from exams to authentic assessment. This has supported enhanced student learning experiences and outcomes. Online assessment will continue to be an important component of learning and can be expected to become increasingly sophisticated.

Honours and acknowledgements

Tribute to Emeritus Professor Malcolm Skilbeck AO

Council joined the Vice-Chancellor in expressing the University community's sadness at the passing of Emeritus Professor Malcolm Skilbeck AO on 17 June 2022.

Council paid tribute to Professor Skilbeck's significant and enduring contribution to Deakin as Vice-Chancellor from 1986 to 1991 and to the Australian and international education sectors more broadly.