



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 2, 2021 – 20 MAY

Deakin University Council met at the Warrnambool Campus on 20 May 2021 and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2021 business schedule.

Tour of the Warrnambool Campus

Council toured parts of the Warrnambool Campus and viewed research projects underway at the Campus, notably in aquaculture.

Presentation on Great South Coast Economic Futures

Council received a presentation from Ms Lisa Dwyer, Chairperson of the Great South Coast Regional Partnership about economic perspectives for the region focusing on water resources and agriculture, tourism, and clean energy. Ms Dwyer spoke about how tripartite partnerships involving business, government educational bodies are integral to realising the economic potential of the region.

Council expressed its appreciation to Ms Dwyer for her engaging presentation and her significant role in articulating a positive vision for partnerships and the economic future of the region.

Strategic planning

Council approved the Strategic Plan KPI Dashboard to measure progress against the objectives of *Deakin 2030: Ideas to Impact*. Council agreed that the Dashboard will provide a coherent and valuable analysis of progress against Strategic Plan objectives.

Overseeing University performance – current matters

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor on current matters:

- staff input into the Ideas Hubs for the Deakin Reimagined program
- campus reactivation
- reporting to the Commonwealth Government in accordance with the requirements of the Foreign Arrangements Scheme
- funding for the National Network in Mental Health Research led by Deakin which brings together groups engaged with mental health research and care to develop, implement and evaluate new treatments.

Council joined the Vice-Chancellor in expressing deep sadness at the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Council noted that Deakin has joined with Indian partners including Tata Trusts to support the pandemic response in India.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the finance report for the period to 31 March 2021.

In the context of the anticipated very slow recovery of international student fee revenue, Council carefully considered cash flow projections and project spending commitments.

Council will continue to monitor that the University's cash position remains sound and that project spending is being carefully managed.

The University has partnered with the Victorian Government to deliver a number of high priority projects under the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund initiative, including the next stage of the ManuFutures facility at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus and further development of the Queenscliff Marine Science Centre.

Council considered a report on the financial position of the Deakin University Student Association and noted that its cash position is strong.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered the Headline Risk Report for Q1, 2021 and noted areas particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, notably student recruitment and graduate employment. Council noted additional actions being implemented to address and ameliorate these risks.

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.

Health, safety and wellbeing

Council approved arrangements for more frequent reporting on health safety and wellbeing to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council. Council expressed its determination that the University continue to build on its good health and safety record. The approved reporting arrangements emphasise early identification and action when new risks or trends emerge.

Working from home arrangements

Council considered a report on initiatives to support staff members' physical and mental safety and wellbeing when working from home, including ergonomic assessment tools and the Home Workspace Equipment Contribution Payment. Council noted that a review by Internal Audit found that Deakin benchmarked well against other organisations in the adoption of working from home practices.

University legislation and policy

Freedom of Speech

Council noted the Academic Board's continuing work following the 2020 Walker Review into compliance with the French Model Code on Freedom of Speech in Australian higher education providers.

A Working Party of the Board has developed an overarching Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom which reflects that freedom of speech is of utmost importance to Deakin and the University places great importance on providing an environment where ideas are pursued with passion and where they can be challenged freely. The Code is currently out for consultation and will be considered by the Legislation Committee and Council at future meetings. It will be an authoritative document and other policies will be amended as required to align with its language and intent.

English language proficiency

Council noted amendments made by the Academic Board to the English Language Proficiency procedure, noting that the amendments are minor in nature but part of ongoing attention to maintain high standards and keep relevant documentation up to date.

Council's own affairs

Appointment of Deputy Chancellors

Council approved the appointments of the following members to succeed Ms Kathy Grigg and Ms Philippa Kelly as Deputy Chancellors from 1 July 2021 and 1 January 2022 respectively:

- Ms Carol Boyer-Spooner for a term from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024
- Dr Lyn Roberts AO for a term from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.

Council congratulated Ms Boyer-Spooner and Dr Roberts on their appointments.

Committee appointments

Council approved two appointments to Committees for a term from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021:

- Mr Ryan Leemon as Deputy Chair of the Investment Committee
- Ms Dianne Angus as member of the Finance and Business Affairs Committee when she joins Council on 1 July 2021.

2022 Council meeting schedule

Council endorsed its 2022 meeting schedule.

Tribute and acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of service – Ms Kathy Grigg

Council acknowledged with acclamation the service to Deakin of Ms Grigg at her final meeting of Council.

Ms Grigg served Council with distinction for the maximum term of twelve years from 2009 to 2021 and as a Deputy Chancellor from 2017 to 2021.

Council expressed its appreciation to Ms Grigg and its wish that she continue close contact with the University.

Tribute to Frank Costa AO

Council expressed its sadness at the passing of Frank Costa AO on 2 May 2021.

Council paid tribute to Frank Costa as a generous benefactor to Deakin, an enthusiastic advocate of the University and a great contributor to the Geelong community. His legacy lives on in the name of Costa Hall, which is at the heart of the Geelong Waterfront Campus.