



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 4, 2021 – 5 AUGUST

Deakin University Council met on 5 August 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:

- the Deakin Reimagined program
- Deakin Enterprise Agreement
- student recruitment
- campus reactivation.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University's current Enterprise Agreement notionally expired on 28 June 2021 but its terms and conditions continue to apply until a new Agreement comes into force. In the meantime a 1.5% salary increase has been provided to staff to preserve the value of pay packets in line with the Reserve Bank estimate of CPI for the year to December 2021.

Council acknowledged the dedication and resilience of staff and students in these challenging circumstances and especially the thoroughly professional handling of a COVID-19 positive case at the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus.

Council also acknowledged the dedicated work of Ms Ravneet Pawha, CEO South Asia and her office in India to ensure that the Deakin brand remains strong in South Asia.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University

Strategic planning

Council considered the Strategic Plan KPI Dashboard to measure progress against the objectives of *Deakin 2030: Ideas to Impact* for the period to Trimester 1, 2021. Council noted in particular that domestic student enrolments are strong; Deakin has established itself as Australia's largest educator of domestic students in Commonwealth funded places.

Presentation on research commercialisation and translation

Council considered a presentation from Alfred Deakin Professor Julie Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research on research commercialisation and translation.

Professor Owens placed research commercialisation and translation in the context of a broad-based knowledge exchange value chain in which the University creates intellectual property, builds strategic partnerships and provides project management support for research translation and commercialisation projects. This frames the University's model for commercialisation with outputs being job creation, research and R&D income and enhanced reputation for achieving impact.

Council recalled that the University's strategic plan KPIs presented by the Vice-Chancellor include measures for research income, industry funding, research student numbers and research impact. Professor Owens explained strategies to continue to lift performance in these areas including through industry partnerships and internships and royalty and equity arrangements. Council noted that the University has performed strongly in terms of research income despite the COVID-19 circumstances and is strengthening its cohort of higher degree by research students.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Finance Report for the period to 30 June 2021 and noted cash flow movements and projections.

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 30 June 2021 and noted the status of each project against budget, scope and timeline KPIs.

Council considered a presentation on the comparative financial results of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) 2020 audits of Victorian universities. Council noted that the financial performance across the sector had been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council noted the performance of controlled entities for quarter 2, 2021.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered reports covering various risk management matters including student complaints handling; health, safety and wellbeing; insurance, amendments to the 2021 Internal Audit Plan, headline risks, and sexual harm.

University legislation and policy

Code for Upholding Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

Council approved the Deakin University Code for Upholding Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom, which gives expression to the University's abiding commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom and supersedes separate policies on academic freedom and freedom of speech. It also incorporates the definition of academic freedom inserted into the *Higher Education Support Act* in 2021.

Council also approved an action plan for implementation of the Code, which includes an annual compliance attestation to be overseen by Council and published in the University's Annual Report.

Policy Framework

Council approved amendments to the University's Policy Framework to align with the Code for Upholding Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom and to streamline the policy hierarchy.

Honours and acknowledgements

Council acknowledged with acclamation the service of Professor Gary Smith who will retire on 31 August 2021 as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Engagement. Council paid tribute to Professor Smith's many achievements in his portfolio spanning domestic and international recruitment and engagement strategies and the DeakinTalent initiative. The Chancellor emphasised Council's appreciation of Professor Smith's contribution to the University's global standing, and Council was pleased to see that Professor Smith will continue his association with Deakin through appointment as an Emeritus Professor.