



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 1, 2022 – 18 MARCH

Deakin University Council met on 18 March 2022 at the Melbourne Burwood Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2022 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

University strategy

Council considered an update from the Vice-Chancellor on current issues and noted that:

- it is pleasing that campuses have reopened and are lively; the University has comprehensive arrangements to support COVID-safe operations
- student enrolments for 2022 are shaping up well; domestic enrolment numbers are generally in line with enrolment plan targets and the return of international student arrivals is very positive
- the University's Senior Leadership Team was able to hold its first meeting in person at Deakin Downtown to inform the development of the People and Culture Plan.

Council noted criticism of the university sector for the underpayment of staff members. Council recalled that a series of audits at Deakin had confirmed the integrity of the University's past and present payment arrangements. The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the University is committed to continuing to ensure accurate and timely payment to all casual professional and sessional academic staff.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

Review of 2021

Council considered:

- the Strategic Key Performance Indicators Report including available full year 2021 metrics
- the Finance Report to 31 December 2021 and 2021 Financial Statements
- the University's 2021 Annual Report.

Approval of 2021 Annual Report

Council approved the 2021 Deakin University Annual Report, including 2021 Financial Statements, Report of Operations and compliance statements, including the University's Attestation Statement on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office had cleared the draft financial statements and would issue an unmodified audit opinion.

Council strongly supported the Chancellor's and Vice-Chancellor's Messages in which they thanked staff, students and community partners for their invaluable contributions to Deakin over the year and their resilience through the protracted COVID-10 situation.

The Report will be forwarded to the Hon Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education for tabling in the Victorian Parliament in May 2022, after which it will be published on the University's website.

Faculty of Health presentation and tour

Council received a presentation from Professor Rachel Huxley, Executive Dean Faculty of Health, followed by a tour of Faculty teaching and research facilities at the Burwood Campus.

Council warmly thanked the Faculty for the excellent information. Council particularly paid tribute to the strong focus on student needs, authentic assessment and research partnerships to advance knowledge and to deliver significant benefits to the community.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Council considered the Finance and Major Projects Report for the first reporting period of 2022 and noted that cash flow for the period was sound. In terms of major projects Council was advised that supply chain bottlenecks and shortages are affecting the progress of several projects and instances of delayed completion are to be expected. The University is in regular contact with funding bodies about this situation.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Council considered a suite of reports on risk management and audit outcomes, including the status of actions to address headline risks and to ensure that the University's risk appetite statement is effectively implemented.

The University's Attestation of Compliance with the Victorian Government's Risk Management Framework is included in the University's Annual Report.

University legislation and policy

Council considered a report on the implementation of actions under the University Foreign Interference Taskforce Guidelines and issues arising for the University under the *Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Act 2021*. Council noted that both these factors will have a bearing on the upcoming review of the University's External Relationships Policy.

Council received a report on Council approved policies scheduled for review in 2022 as part of Council's oversight of University policy.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

Council considered a report on the Academic Board's first meeting for the year and noted that the Board had engaged with a 'hot topic' presentation on engagement with students entering Deakin Residential Services. All incoming residential students complete an induction program explaining expectations of their conduct and providing information about the availability of support services in times of need, especially mental health services.

Council noted that the Board had considered and approved:

- a coordinated series of updates to policies resulting from the Stackable Learning project, including to the Hallmarks and Micro-credential policies
- a number of updates to courses and units arising from the regular course review cycle.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

New members

Council welcomed three new members: [Guleid Abdullahi](#) (elected student member) and [Anoushka Gungadin](#) and [Georgina Williams](#) (appointed members).

Council approved the appointment of Anoushka Gungadin to the Audit and Risk Committee.