



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2021 – 4 NOVEMBER

Deakin University Council met on 4 November 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*

Council considered an update on implementation of the Deakin Reimagined Program. Council noted that the:

- consultation phase on the major workplace change proposals has concluded and led to a number of modifications to the proposals
- implementation phase has commenced, initially with recruitment to senior management positions, with the new structure taking effect from 14 February 2022
- priority over the coming months will be to build stability following the major change process to support the *Embed and improve* phase of Deakin Reimagined from 2022.

- *Student recruitment*

Council considered an update on student recruitment, particularly on international student pathways. Council noted the prospects for, and impediments to, the resumption of international student arrivals.

- *Campus reactivation*

Council discussed campus reactivation and the University's approach to mandating COVID-19 vaccination, acknowledging the difficulties of the evolving situation.

The University has continued its positive messages in favour of vaccination and provided detailed information at each stage of campus reactivation. Deakin's roadmap to reopening and a new process for submitting vaccination evidence through Service Now will be communicated to staff and students shortly.

Teaching in Trimester 3, 2021 will continue as a hybrid approach – online classes with the introduction of laboratories etc where possible. This is appropriate given the preparation time required to release the University timetable and to ensure students can be fully vaccinated to attend campus.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that 31 January 2022 will be a milestone date, which the University will flag as the day for the university community to be back on re-opened campuses.

- *Student satisfaction survey results*

Council noted that Deakin has maintained its number one position in Victoria for overall student satisfaction among both undergraduates (12 consecutive years) and postgraduates (two consecutive years) in the Graduate Outcomes Survey 2021.

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the professionalism and dedication of Deakin's teaching staff in achieving this sustained State-leading position.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial Plan 2022-2024

Council considered the University's 2022-2024 Financial Plan and a presentation on the Plan by the Chief Financial Officer. The Plan comprises the 2022 budget and projections for 2023 and 2024.

Council noted that the 2022 and 2023 deficits as currently projected will be reassessed in mid-2022, including to take into account whether there has been any resumption of international student arrivals by that point.

Council approved the 2022 budget and noted the budget projections for 2023 and 2024 and that these projections will be revised and updated in the context of the review in mid-2022.

Council noted that, alongside regular finance reports reviewed at each Council meeting, the budget and the projections for future years would be kept under review because there are significant areas of uncertainty, particularly bearing on the future years.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 30 September 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.

Campus Infrastructure and Property Strategy

Council received an update via the Finance and Business Affairs Committee on the Campus Infrastructure and Property Strategy 2022-2026. The Strategy aims to reshape and develop campus environments to advance Deakin as a world-leading 'blended' University, with infrastructure demands driven by experience, research and industry opportunities, rather than solely through student and staff growth.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University

Presentation on the Faculty of Business and Law

Council considered a presentation from Executive Dean, Alfred Deakin Professor Mike Ewing on the Faculty of Business and Law.

Council noted Faculty initiatives, key metrics, achievements and challenges, including:

- successes with uplifting research income, ERA outcomes and publication in top journals, and in improving gender equity in leadership within the Faculty
- placing in the top 1% in the world to have been double accredited by AACSB and EQUIS
- ongoing efforts to enhance philanthropy and Indigenous programs
- opportunities for furthering alumni engagement, building closer collaborations with DeakinCo, and providing more experiential/clinical learning within the Business and Law Schools.

Council acknowledged with acclamation the dedicated work of the Faculty leadership and Faculty staff through the challenges of the past two years.

Presentation on Deakin Advancement

Council considered a presentation from Jimmy Buck, Chief Advancement Officer focussing on the new Deakin Advancement Plan, which takes its lead from the *Deakin 2030: Ideas to Impact* strategic plan and covers the same ten-year period. The 2022-2024 phase (*Strengthen*) involves activities to build philanthropic relations and income, expand the donor base and expand and strengthen alumni engagement. The subsequent phases are *Scale* (2025-2027) and *Sustain* (2028-2029).

Council expressed its support for the Advancement Plan and in particular its emphasis on long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between the University, alumni and stakeholders. This will underpin relationships underpinning sustained shared success.

Council's own affairs

Appointments to Council

Council approved the reappointment of the following Council members for a further term:

- Ms Carol Boyer-Spooner for a term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024
- Mr Stuart Hamilton for a term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024
- Mr Stephen Bubb for a term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023
- Mr Richard Carr for a term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.

Special acknowledgement

Council paid tribute to Professor Catherine Bennett, Chair in Epidemiology for the outstanding contributions she has made to Deakin and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, in research, teaching, analysis, media commentary and on providing advice to Government on the management of COVID-19 in Australia.