



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 7, 2022 – 10 NOVEMBER

Deakin University Council met on 10 November 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

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

- *Student recruitment*

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the latest enrolment numbers and early indicators of demand from international and domestic students in 2023. The Vice-Chancellor also confirmed that Deakin had been pleased to obtain Commonwealth Government support for additional student places in areas where the University is strongly placed to meet national skills needs and priorities, including health, education and ICT.

- *Trailblazer Universities Program*

Council was pleased that funding for the Trailblazer Universities program was confirmed in the October 2022 Commonwealth Budget. Under the program the University will establish the Deakin University Recycling and Renewable Energy Commercialisation Hub (REaCH), which will drive research and deepen partnerships with industry in this National Manufacturing Priority Area.

- *Staff (Pulse) Survey and Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators*

Council considered the University-wide results from the September 2022 Staff (Pulse) Survey and the latest Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators Dashboard Report. Council discussed trends and movements in the measures.

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial Plan 2023-2025

Council considered the University's 2023-2025 Financial Plan and a presentation on the Plan by the Chief Financial Officer. The Plan comprises the 2023 budget and projections for 2024 and 2025.

Council approved the 2023 budget and noted the budget projections for 2024 and 2025 as set out in the Plan; and that these projections will be closely monitored and revised as/if circumstances change.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 30 September 2022. Council noted the range of important projects underway, including Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund (VHESIF) projects, Research Streamline major project and the upcoming Trailblazer funded REaCH.

Council considered the progress of projects against budget, scope and timing KPIs.

Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University

Presentation on Deakin's India strategy

Council considered a presentation from Ravneet Pawha, Vice President (Global Engagement) and CEO (South Asia) on Deakin's India strategy.

Council noted key initiatives, achievements, opportunities and challenges for Deakin in India, including:

- Deakin's strong brand position within the Indian community, business and Government
- the establishment of four Deakin hubs at private universities
- several options to increase activity in India and potential industry and Government partners
- other Australian and international universities were equally considering options for increasing their presence in India.

Council conveyed its appreciation to Ms Pawha for her presentation and for the work she is leading in India.

Presentation on Teacher education programs

Council received a presentation from Professor Damian Blake, Head of the School of Education. Council expressed its appreciation of the strength of Deakin's teacher education programs and partnerships with schools and the Victorian Department of Education. Council was impressed by the innovative measures Deakin has developed to address the teacher shortage, develop new pathways into teaching degrees, broaden teacher diversity, enhance teaching degree completion rates and adapt teacher education to the changing learning environment.

National Conference on University Governance

Council members reflected on issues canvassed at the National Conference on University Governance held 11-13 October 2022. Council expressed its appreciation of Deakin's central role in the National Conference, especially the work of the Chancellor John Stanhope as Conference Chair.

Council Employer Forum

Council members reflected on Council's Employer Forum held on 28 October 2022 at Deakin Downtown. The industry focus of this Forum was commerce and law. Council took up the issue from the Forum of students and graduates translating their life skills into employability credentials, alongside academic credentials. Council noted that Deakin attracts students and staff with a rich diversity of life experiences and there is an opportunity to build on this as an employability advantage in a market where employers are looking for resilient and well-rounded employees.

Welcome to incoming Dean SEBE

Council welcomed Professor Nick Birbilis as the newly commenced Executive Dean Science Engineering and Built Environment. Professor Birbilis expressed his enthusiasm at leading a Faculty with programs covering all STEM areas and with cutting edge research in a wide range of areas.