



## **OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 6, 2023 – 10 NOVEMBER**

---

Deakin University Council met on 10 November 2023 at the Warrnambool Campus.

On the day prior to the meeting, members of Council and the Senior Executive Team participated in a cultural tour with Gunditjmara guides at Budj Bim Cultural Landscape. Council thanked all those involved in organising and providing the tour and expressed its appreciation of the knowledge imparted by Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation and Professor Richard Frankland, Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts.

At its meeting Council dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2023 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 2024. The most recent period has continued the trend seen in student recruitment throughout the year. Domestic demand has weakened but international demand has increased and diversified across source countries.

- ***International branch campuses***

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the establishment of branch campuses in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City India (GIFT City) and Bandung Indonesia is proceeding to plan. Excellent progress is being made in India in terms of infrastructure, employment of suitably credentialed leadership personnel and marketing. The Vice-Chancellor advised Council that the Deakin brand in India is exceptionally strong, as he experienced on a visit to India immediately prior to the meeting.

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

Council considered the University-wide results from the October 2023 Staff (Pulse) Survey and the latest Strategic Plan KPIs Dashboard Report. Council discussed trends and movements in the measures. Pleasingly the Strategic Plan KPIs continue to show that Deakin performs well in both teaching and research.

- ***Australian Universities Accord***

Council discussed submissions to the Australian Universities Accord by the University and the University Chancellors Council, especially regarding university governance.

### **Overseeing the management and control of finances**

#### ***Financial Plan 2024-2026***

Council considered the University's 2024-2026 Financial Plan and a presentation on the Plan by the Chief Financial Officer. The Plan comprises the 2024 budget and projections for 2025 and 2026.

Council approved the 2024 budget. Council noted the projections for 2025 and 2026 and that these projections will be closely monitored and revised as/if circumstances change.

Council acknowledged the work of staff across the University in bringing the Financial Plan to fruition. The Plan continues the University's financial recover from the steep drop in income caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Major projects**

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 30 September 2023 and discussed the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variations from targets.

### **Treasury Management Procedure**

Council approved the new Treasury Management Procedure, which has been published on the Policy Library.

## **Overseeing and reviewing the performance of the University**

### **Presentation on student success and satisfaction metrics**

Council considered a presentation from Alfred Deakin Professor Liz Johnson, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, on student success and satisfaction. Council noted key student success and satisfaction trends, achievements and opportunities including:

- trends in course progression rates and student retention statistics
- improving success rates across the board in 2023 and significant retention and success uplift for online students, who are now more closely aligned with on campus student retention and success
- Deakin's ongoing sector leadership in student experience, learning resources, overall undergraduate student satisfaction
- opportunities for improvement in the learner engagement space.

Council noted Deakin's student success and satisfaction KPIs were ambitious and included stretch targets. Council considered the KPIs were appropriate and it was crucial to be aspirational for student success and satisfaction.

### **Student Forum Report**

Council considered the Student Forum Report arising from the discussion held with students on 17 August 2023 and, in particular, noted the learning experiences and connections that students sought through work integrated learning (WIL), internships and placements.

Council further noted that increasing engagement with industry and WIL opportunities is a priority not only at Deakin but across universities and other parts of the economy. Similarly it is a priority action for universities and other organisations to address the 'placement poverty' experienced by students who lose income and incur expenses to undertake internships or placements to meet accreditation requirements.

### **Presentation on the Warrnambool Campus**

Council considered a presentation from Grant Sutherland, CEO South-West Victoria and Alistair Mccosh, Director, Warrnambool Campus, on recent developments at the Warrnambool Campus.

Council noted key initiatives, achievements and opportunities for the Deakin Warrnambool Campus including new course offerings in 2024 in health, business and social work; and strong engagement between the Campus and the South-West region community, government, industry and other organisations.

## **Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities**

### **Academic Board**

Council received the minutes of the Academic Board meeting on 27 September 2023. At that meeting the Board approved the academic programs to be offered at the GIFT City Campus from 2024.

The Chair of the Academic Board briefed Council on principal areas of discussion at the recent national meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates. These included artificial intelligence, microcredentials and the Accord interim report, most notably its recommendations on university governance and widening participation at university among under-represented groups.

### ***Institute Annual Reports***

Council received the 2022 annual report of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Institute for Health Transformation, and National Indigenous Knowledges Education Research and Innovation Institute (NIKERI).

## **Appointments and Council's own affairs**

### ***Appointment of a Deputy Chancellor***

Council approved the reappointment of Dr Lyn Roberts AO as Deputy Chancellor for a further six-month term to 30 June 2024.

### ***Appointment of Council members***

Council approved the reappointment of Stephen Bubb and Richard Carr to Council for a further term to 31 December 2026.

### ***Appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation***

Council congratulated Alfred Deakin Professor Matthew Clarke on his appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation.

### ***Council and Committee Operating Provisions***

Council approved amendments to the Council Operating Provisions and the Operating Provisions for Committees of Council.

### ***Council Members Appointment and Remuneration Procedure***

Council approved amendments to the Council Members Appointment and Remuneration Procedure.

## **Acknowledgements**

### ***Deakin ASCEND***

Council noted the completion of the marathon journey by the Deakin ASCEND solar car team in the 2023 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge. The team won two awards: *E8 Commitment Award* and the *PR and Media Award*.