



## Non-confidential Minutes for Council meeting 21 April 2022

21/04/2022 | 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM - AEST

Vice Chancellor's Boardroom, Lismore campus and via Zoom

### Attendees (9)

Sandra McPhee AM, Chancellor  
Professor Tyrone Carlin, Vice Chancellor  
Dr Austin Curtin AM  
Murray d'Almeida, Deputy Chancellor (by Zoom)  
Julie Granger (by Zoom)  
Graham Lancaster  
Professor Andrew Rose, Chair, Academic Board  
Jonathan Rourke  
Gurpreet Singh

### In Attendance

Belinda Atkinson, Council Secretary  
Sharon Farquhar, Director, Human Resources - part (by Zoom)  
Dean Gould, Chief Marketing Officer (by Zoom)  
Richard Jones, Director, Financial Services - part (by Zoom)  
Tracy Manning, Administrative Officer, Governance Services - Minutes  
Jack Williamson, Vice President (Strategy and Implementation) - part

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The presence of a quorum was confirmed.

### 1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

On behalf of Council, the Chancellor acknowledged and paid respect to the ancestors, Elders and descendants of the Lands upon which the meeting was being held.

### 1.2 Chancellor's Introductory Remarks

The Chancellor commended Management on the actions taken by the University in the face of the flood emergency.

### 1.3 Apologies and Leaves of Absence

#### 1.3.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following Council members:

- Associate Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau
- Scott Noble

#### 1.3.2 Leave of Absence

It was resolved:

**Council approved** a leave of absence for Dr Alessandro Pelizzon from the Council meeting held on 21 April 2022.

## 1.4 Previous Meetings

### 1.4.1 Meeting held 19 November 2021

It was resolved:

(a) **Council agreed** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held 19 November 2021 be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting; and

(b) **Council approved** the uploading of a Council Minuted Resolutions Report on items of open business of the Council meeting held on 19 November 2021 to the University Council website.

### 1.4.2 Meeting held 28 February 2022

It was resolved:

**Council agreed** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held 28 February 2022 be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### 1.4.3 Meeting held 9 March 2022

It was resolved:

**Council agreed** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held 9 March 2022 be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### 1.4.4 Matters arising

None.

### 1.4.5 Action items

Council discussed the action items and asked that action not be recorded as ongoing. Council asked that all actions have a due date within six months of the date of the relevant meeting.

## 1.5 Declarations of Interest

None.

## 1.6 Agenda

### 1.6.1 Starring of items

The following additional items were starred for discussion:

- 6.2 Commercial Activities Policy
- 7.1 2021 Southern Cross University Annual Report
- 7.2 Council Schedule of Business

It was resolved:

**Council agreed** that all unstarred items be noted or approved in accordance with the relevant draft resolutions.

### 1.6.2 Arrangement of Agenda

Council discussed item 3.2 and item 4.1 before item 2.1, and discussed item 2.4 before item 2.3.

## **2. KEY ROUTINE ITEMS**

### **2.1 \*Annual Health, Safety and Injury Management Report 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021**

The report was taken as read.

Council discussed:

- The impact of staff working from home.
- The inclusion of data points in future reports to show trends, including in relation to management of workers compensation claims.
- Changes to the format of the report and the use of indicators which could include, but would not be limited to:
  - lead indicators and lag indicators; and
  - reporting based on percentages rather than the number of people.

### **2.2 \*Confidential: Work, Health and Safety Report**

### **2.3 \*Confidential: Vice Chancellor's Report to Council**

### **2.4 \*Report from the Chair of Academic Board**

The report was taken as read.

Council discussed:

- The improved quality of reporting on student data to Academic Board and its subcommittees.
- The link between attrition rates and student success.
- The exit interview process for students who did not complete their course.
- Providing opportunities for students to exit with a lower award.
- Attrition rates for Indigenous students.
- Increased student success and identifying whether this was due to improved performance or decreased academic quality. Council was informed of the quality assurance measures which were in place at the University.
- Student performance and graduate employment outcomes. Council was informed that the annual Graduate Employment Outcomes survey and the newly established National Priorities and Industry Linkages Fund (NPIFL) both related to this issue.

## **3. KEY TRANSFORMATION MATTERS**

### **3.1 \*Confidential: Update on Strategic Directions**

### **3.2 \*Confidential: Investment Framework**

It was resolved:

**Council approved:**

- (a) the amendments to the Treasury Policy as outlined in Appendix 1 to the briefing paper;
- (b) amending the Finance Committee Terms of Reference to provide for two independent external attendees with investment expertise to attend Finance Committee meetings and provide input in relation to investment items;
- (c) the Investment Strategy outlined in Appendix 2; and

(d) the grandfathering of the existing investment portfolio as set out in Appendix 3, in order to exclude it from compliance with the asset allocation framework, until such time as those funds are reinvested under the new investment strategy.

## 4. KEY REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

### 4.1 \*2021 Audited Financial Statements

It was resolved:

**Council:**

(a) **noted:**

- (i) the Engagement Closing Report for Southern Cross University and its controlled entity issued by the Audit Office of New South Wales on 7 April 2022; and
- (ii) the Financial Statements for Southern Cross University and its controlled entity, Southern Cross Campus Services Limited, for the 2021 Reporting Period,

(b) **resolved** that, in their opinion:

- (i) the financial statements of the University have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and all other requirements specified in the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW), the *Government Sector Finance Regulations 2018* (NSW) and the Treasurer's directions;
- (ii) the financial statements of the University present fairly the University's financial position as at 31 December 2021, financial performance for the financial year ending on that date and cash flows;
- (iii) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the University is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (iv) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth).

(c) **authorised** the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor to sign the audited financial statements of the University.

### 4.2 \*Australian Universities Vice Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration Code

The briefing paper was taken as read.

It was resolved:

**Council adopted** the Australian Universities and Senior Staff Remuneration Code.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 5.1 \*Finance Committee

### 5.2 \*Audit and Risk Management Committee

### 5.3 \*People and Culture Committee

## 6. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 6.1 Delegation - Approval of Funding Agreements

It was resolved:

**Council delegated** authority to the Vice Chancellor to approve and sign agreements where the University will be receiving funds for a specified purpose and will not be contributing any additional University funds.

## 6.2 \*Commercial Activities Policy

Council discussed the amendment which would mean that activities with a low monetary value did not need to be treated as a Commercial Activity.

Council agreed that the monetary limit should be set at \$100,000 per annum.

It was resolved:

Subject to the agreed change to the monetary limit, Council approved amendments to the Commercial Activities Policy as set out in Appendix A.

## 6.3 Student Misconduct: Investigation/Determination Timelines

It was resolved:

Council approved amendments to the Student Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct Rules.

## 6.4 Confidential: Chancellor's Committee Business

It was resolved:

Council ratified the following resolutions of the Chancellor's Committee:

### **Conferral List, 11 December 2020**

Chancellor's Committee approved the list of graduands included in the Conferral List dated 11 December 2020, on whom awards and degrees are to be conferred.

### **Southern Cross University Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Attestation Statement 2021**

Chancellor's Committee endorsed the Southern Cross University Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Attestation Statement 2021.

### **Nomination for Emeritus Professor – Dr Daniel Bucher**

Chancellor's Committee approved the offer of the title of Emeritus Professor to Dr Daniel Bucher in the category of being a former Professor of the University who has made a distinguished contribution to teaching, research, scholarship, or the arts, or to service to the University.

### **Nomination for Emeritus Professor – Professor Nanette Bahr**

Chancellor's Committee approved the offer of the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor Nan Bahr in the category of being a former Professor of the University who has made a distinguished contribution to teaching, research, scholarship, or the arts, or to service to the University.

### **Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program**

Chancellor's Committee approved the Vice Chancellor executing the Official Order dated 14 March 2022 issued under the Deed of Standing Offer for Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program – Service Provider Panel.

## 7. MATTERS FOR NOTING

### 7.1 \*2021 Southern Cross University Annual Report

Council discussed:

- Starring the Annual Report for discussion by Council in future years.
- Inclusion of an introductory statement in the Report.

### 7.2 Council Schedule of Business 2022

Council was advised that the proposed Schedule of Business was a starting point and could be added to if required.

### **7.3 Policy Library Report**

### **7.4 Confidential: Budgeted expenditure greater than \$1 million**

### **7.5 Confidential: Use of the University seal**

### **7.6 Course Approvals and Removals Report**

## **8. CLOSING BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Other Business**

None.

### **8.2 Confidential: Determination of matters for public disclosure**

### **8.3 Meeting Evaluation**

The Chancellor invited Professor Rose to evaluate the meeting.

Professor Rose noted the following:

- The meeting papers were clear and concise.
- Council had evolved into a cohesive group that was willing to tackle issues and challenge each other in a respectful manner.
- The engaging facilitation by the Chancellor as Chair.
- Attendance by some members by phone was not ideal.
- Increasing time for Council's consideration of strategy.

Council discussed:

- Options to extend future meetings by an hour with a break for lunch.
- Inviting Executive Deans and other Department Heads to speak at Council meetings.
- The student voice at Council.

### **8.4 Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Friday, 3 June 2022.

The meeting closed at 1.33 pm.

**Belinda Atkinson**  
**Council Secretary**

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting:

**Sandra McPhee AM**  
**Chancellor**