

Non-confidential Minutes for Council meeting

14/02/2023 10:10 AM | AESDT
Vice Chancellor's Boardroom, Lismore campus

Members Present (11)

Sandra McPhee AM, Chancellor (Chair)
Prue Berry
Professor Tyrone Carlin, Vice Chancellor
Dr Austin Curtin AM
Julie Granger*
Associate Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau
Scott Noble* (via Zoom)
Olivia Noffke
Professor Andrew Rose (Chair of Academic Board)
Lucy Shinnars
Geoff Stalley

** Scott Noble left the meeting during the discussion of item 13, and Julie Granger left the meeting prior to the discussion of item 29.*

In Attendance

Belinda Atkinson, Council Secretary
Sharlene King, Media Officer
Tracy Manning, Governance Services (Secretariat)
Brendon Nelson, Vice President (Students) and Registrar – item 16
Professor Thomas Roche, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Quality) – item 15
Jack Williamson, Vice President (Strategy and Implementation) – item 14
Professor Erica Wilson, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Integrity) – item 15

IN-CAMERA COUNCIL ONLY DISCUSSION

Council met in-camera at the commencement of the meeting without the Vice Chancellor or other attendees.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Acknowledgement of Country

On behalf of Council, the Chancellor provided an acknowledgment of Country.

2. Apologies and Leaves of Absence

2.1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Deputy Chancellor Murray d'Almeida and Jonathan Rourke.

2.2. Leave of Absence

None.

3. Chancellor's Introductory Remarks

The Chancellor:

- discussed the campus familiarisation tour taken by Council members prior to the meeting.

- reflected on the challenges and opportunities the University faced in 2022.
- discussed embedding the University's purpose and values within the University's operations.
- discussed the importance of the University's ambitious but realistic strategy.

4. Previous Meetings

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Council meeting, 24 November 2022

It was resolved:

Council:

- agreed** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2022 be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting; and
- approved** the uploading of a Council Minuted Resolutions Report on items of open business of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2022 to the University Council website.

4.2 Matters Arising

Professor Andrew Rose, Chair of Academic Board, referred to the Policy Report presented to the 28 November 2022 Council meeting, which had been starred for discussion but deferred due to time constraints. Professor Rose informed Council that since the November Council meeting, he had discussed the new Academic Promotions (Out of Rounds) Policy with the Vice Chancellor and proposed a reporting framework for out-of-round academic promotions. The Vice Chancellor indicated his support for the proposed amendment.

4.3 Action Items

5. Councillors' Business

None.

6. Declarations of Interest

None.

7. Agenda

7.1 Starring of Items

Agenda Item 19 Voluntary Code of Best Practice was additionally starred.

It was resolved:

Council agreed to approve or note all unstarred items in accordance with the draft resolutions and without further discussion.

7.2 Arrangement of Agenda

Item 17 - People and Culture Committee Report was discussed before item 16 - 2023 Student Consultation Process.

The remainder of the agenda was discussed in the order presented.

KEY REPORTS

8. *Confidential: Work Health and Safety Report

9. *Confidential: Vice Chancellor's Report

10. *Report from Chair, Academic Board

Council congratulated Professor Andrew Rose on his re-election as Chair of Academic Board.

The report was taken as read. Council discussed the use of generative artificial intelligence such as the new platform ChatGP, including:

- how this technology may impact the University both in relation to learning and teaching and research, and for improving the University's operational business processes.
- the importance of providing clarity to staff and students about how this new technology could be used in teaching and learning practice and embedding guidelines and principles in policy as soon as possible.

Professor Rose undertook to keep Council apprised of any developments in this area.

KEY GOVERNANCE MATTERS

11. *Confidential: Council Self-Evaluation 2022

12. *Relationship between Council and its Committees

The briefing paper was taken as read.

Council discussed:

- the format of reports from Council Committee chairs and the preference for written reports.
- the ability for Council members to seek approval from the relevant committee chair to attend meetings of that committee and the management of any confidentiality issues.

13. *Confidential: Vice Chancellor's 2023 Key Focus Areas

KEY TRANSFORMATION MATTERS

14. *Confidential: Strategic Directions – Update

15. *Confidential: Teaching and Learning Report

KEY REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

16. *2023 Student Consultation process

The briefing paper was taken as read.

Council discussed student satisfaction remaining a focus of Council.

It was resolved:

Pursuant to section 13(2) and 19(1) of the Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines 2022 (Cth), **Council approved** the process by which students enrolled at Southern Cross University are consulted, including consultation regarding the specific uses of the proceeds from compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

17. *People and Culture Committee

OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION

18. Confidential: Chancellor's Committee Business

It was resolved:

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

18.1 Modern Slavery Act Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021

Chancellor's Committee:

- (a) approved the Modern Slavery Statement for the year ended 30 December 2021; and
- (b) authorised the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor to sign the Modern Slavery Statement.

18.2 Bank Account Opening Authority

Chancellor's Committee appointed Travis Ingram Walker, Vice President (Finance) and Richard John Jones, Director, Financial Services, as the Authorised Signatories and authorised them to take the following actions, for and on behalf of SCU in connection with the Account Operations and any Ancillary Matters:

- (a) open, maintain, operate and close bank accounts;
- (b) negotiate automatic and manual transfers of funds facilities;
- (c) request the operation of any service to any account;
- (d) act as, or authorise, the act of Authorised Person/Verifying Officer in relation to accounts;
- (e) issue instructions to a bank regarding manual payments, safe custody or security procedures;
- (f) negotiate and execute facilities or limits required to optimise bank account structure;
- (g) negotiate and execute agreements to facilitate the implementation of risk management strategies; and
- (h) execute any legally binding agreement (and any associated documents) to novate hedging or trade finance arrangements to or from the University
- (i) sign and execute all account opening documents inclusive tax related forms and do all act on behalf of the University to affect the account opening.

19. *Annual review of Southern Cross University's Standing against the Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities

The Council noted the report and discussed the importance of Council giving adequate consideration to governance matters.

It was resolved:

Council endorsed:

- (a) the Council Secretary's report on the University's standing against the revised Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities for 2022.
- (b) a statement as set out in the briefing paper being included in the University's 2022 Annual Report.

20. Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Attestation Statement 2022

It was resolved:

Council endorsed the Southern Cross University Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Attestation Statement 2022.

21. Student Misconduct Appeals Committee – Membership

It was resolved:

Council approved an amendment to the Student Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct Rules, clauses (47) and (49).

OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

22. Academic Quality Assurance Framework involving Academic Board and its subcommittees

The briefing paper was noted.

23. Campus Services 2022 Financial Summary

The briefing paper was noted.

24. Policy Report

The report was noted.

25. Confidential: Budgeted expenditure greater than \$1 million

The report was noted.

26. Course Approval and Removal Report

The reports were noted.

27. Confidential: Use of the University Seal

The report was noted.

CLOSING BUSINESS

28. Confidential: Determination of Matters for Public Disclosure

No additional agenda items were identified as being confidential.

29. Meeting Evaluation

The Chancellor invited Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau to evaluate the meeting.

Professor Joannes-Boyau highlighted the following:

- the agenda documentation was well informed and allowed a focused and meaningful discussion.
- the importance of Council's discussed about Indigenous representation or input on Council's deliberations.

30. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at the Coffs Harbour campus.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Belinda Atkinson
Council Secretary

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting:

Ms Sandra McPhee AM
Chancellor