Non-Confidential Minutes for Council meeting 15 August 2023

15/08/2023 | 10:00 AM - AEST

VC Boardroom, Lismore campus.

Attendees (11)

Sandra McPhee AM, Chancellor (Chair)
Prue Berry
Professor Tyrone Carlin, Vice Chancellor
Dr Austin Curtin AM
Murray d'Almeida, Deputy Chancellor
Julie Granger
Associate Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau
Professor Andrew Rose, Chair of Academic Board
Jonathan Rourke
Lucy Shinners
Geoff Stalley

In attendance

Belinda Atkinson, Council Secretary
Shaun Brown, Manager, Workplace Health & Safety – item 10
Dean Gould, Acting Vice President (Engagement)
Tracy Manning, Administrative Officer, Governance Services
Brendon Nelson, Vice President (Students) & Registrar – item 13
Assoc. Professor Michele Neumann, Faculty of Education – item 9
Travis Walker, Vice President (Finance) – item 15
Jack Williamson, Vice President (Strategy & Implementation) – Item 14

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**

   The Chancellor gave an acknowledgement of Country.

2. **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

   2.1 Apologies

   An apology was received from Scott Noble. Council was advised that Olivia Noffke was overseas.

   2.2 Leave of Absence

   No requests for a leave of absence were received.

3. **Chancellor's Introductory Remarks**

   The Chancellor discussed:

   ● the forthcoming Council and Executive Strategy Day scheduled on Monday, 25 September 2023.

- the disappointing student experience survey results and the plan for improving future student outcomes.

4. Previous Meetings

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

It was resolved:

Council:

(a) **agreed** that, subject to incorporation of the amendments discussed, the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 June 2023 could be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting; and

(b) **approved** the uploading of a Non-Confidential Council Minutes on items of open business of the Council meeting held on 16 June 2023 to the University Council webpage.

4.2 Matters Arising

None.

4.3 Action Items

None.

5. Councillors' Business

None.

6. Declarations of Interest

Geoff Stalley advised an additional declaration of material personal interest.

7. Agenda

7.1 Starring of Items

It was resolved:

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

7.2 Arrangement of Agenda

The agenda was discussed in the order presented.

8. Safety Matters

Council noted the emergency procedures for the Lismore campus

STAFF CONVERSATION

9. *Presentation: Bringing Social Robots to Preschool: Transformation or Disruption?

Professor Michele Neumann gave a presentation on her early childhood education research into the interaction between children in the classroom and robots. The presentation included a demonstration of a humanoid social robot named Nao.

Council discussed:

- robot interaction with children experiencing learning difficulties and how this could assist in improving their social skills.

- the role robots could play in aged care settings or to help older people to stay longer in their own home.

- exploring opportunities for interdisciplinary research across the University.

- the use of artificial intelligence to assist in data analysis.

KEY REPORTS

10. *Work Health and Safety - 100 days first impressions

The presentation was taken as read. Shaun Brown, Manager, Workplace Health and Safety, spoke about his initial observations since commencing in the role, areas of good practice, and his action plans for areas of improvement for work health and safety (WHS).

11. *Confidential: Vice Chancellor's Report

12. *Report from Chair, Academic Board

The report was taken as read. Professor Andrew Rose, Chair, Academic Board, noted that Academic Board had not met since the last Council meeting. He discussed the planned workshops on Generative AI (GenAI).

Council discussed the University's approach to plagiarism and GenAI. Council was advised that:

● policies regarding academic integrity were already in place and the library had developed additional resources relating to GenAI.

● the Turnitin program included a module that detected GenAI.

KEY TRANSFORMATION MATTERS

13. *Confidential: 2022 Student Experience Survey

14. *Confidential: Enterprise Performance Dashboard

15. *Confidential: Financial Outlook

KEY REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

16. *Corporate and Academic Governance Review

The briefing paper was taken as read. The Vice Chancellor thanked Council members for their feedback in the preparation of the report.

Belinda Atkinson, Council Secretary, noted the report formed an important part of the University's re-registration process with TEQSA. Progress on implementation of the recommendations would be reported back to Council.

Council discussed:

● providing more granularity about Management's response to each component of a recommendation and who was responsible via a dashboard tool.

● the University providing evidence to satisfy TEQSA of its implementation of the recommendations.

It was resolved:

Council endorsed the management response to the Corporate and Academic Governance Review.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION

17. Honorary Awards and Titles Policy

It was resolved:

Council approved amendments to the Honorary Awards and Titles Policy in relation to:

(a) the title for Honorary and Ad Eundum Gradum Degrees

(b) remove the requirements for staff departing the University to be retiring in order to be eligible for an Ad Eundum Gradum Degree.

18. **Chancellor's Committee Business**

It was resolved:

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

18.1 Confidential: Chancellor's Committee flying minute – Honorary Degree

Chancellor's Committee approved the award of an Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Community Welfare to Shelley Odewahn for distinguished achievement.

OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

19. **Confidential: People and Performance Report**

20. **Policy Report**

The report was noted.

21. **Confidential: Budgeted expenditure greater than $1 million**

22. **Confidential: Use of the University Seal**

CLOSING BUSINESS

23. **Other Business**

Council discussed the representation of indigenous interests on Council and agreed that this should be considered further by the People and Culture Committee.

Retirement of Austin Curtin AM

The Chancellor noted that Dr Austin Curtin AM was attending his final Council meeting. She thanked him for his contributions to Council and to the Audit and Risk Management Committee and Honorary Awards Committee over the last nine years.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his sincere gratitude for Dr Curtin's interactions with the executive group over matters particularly relating to health.

24. **Confidential: Determination of Matters for Public Disclosure**

No additional matters were deemed to be confidential.

25. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Chancellor invited Lucy Shinners to provide an evaluation of the meeting.

Ms Shinners commented on:

● how Council's discussion were slowly building a picture of the organisation.
● the tour of the laboratory prior to the meeting and Professor Naumann's research presentation as being particular highlights.
● her deep respect for what she learned at Council meetings.

26. **Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at the Gold Coast campus.

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.

Belinda Atkinson
Council Secretary