



## Non-Confidential Minutes for Council meeting, 11 June 2024

11/06/2024 11:00 AM | AEST  
GCB-C6.16-17, Gold Coast campus

### Members Present (13)

Sandra McPhee AM, Chancellor (Chair)  
Prue Berry  
Professor Tyrone Carlin, Vice Chancellor  
Murray d'Almeida, Deputy Chancellor  
Julie Granger, Chair, Audit and Risk Management Committee  
Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau, via Zoom  
Associate Professor Desiree Kozlowski, Chair, Academic Board  
Peter Lewis, via Zoom  
Scott Noble, via Zoom  
Jonathan Rourke, Chair, Finance and Investment Committee  
Dr Lucy Shinnars  
Gurpreet Singh  
Geoff Stalley, via Zoom

### In Attendance

Shaun Brown, Manager, Workplace Health and Safety - item 14, via Zoom  
Mark Dixon, Council Secretary (Acting)  
Kim Franks, Vice President (People and Culture)  
Nick Hyde, Executive General Manager, SCU Ventures - Item 16, via Zoom  
Tracy Manning, Administrative Officer, Governance Services  
Professor Thomas Roche, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Quality) - Items 17, 18 and 19, via Zoom  
Jack Williamson, Vice President (Strategy and Implementation), Items 12 and 13  
Travis Walker, Vice President (Finance), Items 14 and 15

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## IN-CAMERA COUNCIL ONLY DISCUSSIONS

Council met in-camera at the commencement of the meeting without the Chancellor, Sandra McPhee. Mark Dixon and Tracy Manning were in attendance.

Council discussed the reappointment of Sandra for a second term. Council unanimously agreed to offer a further four-year term.

Council then met in-camera with Sandra McPhee without the Vice Chancellor, Tyrone Carlin, or other attendees.

## PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1. Welcome, Apologies, and Leave of Absence

Sandra McPhee the Chancellor gave an Acknowledgment of Country.

There were no apologies or requests for a leave of absence.

### 2. Chancellor's Introductory Remarks

Sandra McPhee noted:

- Scott Noble's reappointment as Graduate member of Council for a further two years.

- her recent meeting with the New South Wales Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan, to discuss the Ministerial Appointment to Council.

Council discussed benchmarking the length of office for elected members of Council compared with the sector.

***ACTION: Benchmark the term of office for elected members of Council against other universities. (Assignee(s): Mark Dixon; Due Date: 12/09/2024)***

### **3. Previous Meetings**

#### **3.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 18 April 2024**

It was resolved:

- (a) **agrees** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2024 be signed by the Chancellor as a true and correct record of the meeting; and
- (b) **approves** the uploading of a Non-Confidential Council Minutes on items of open business of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2024 on the University Council website.

#### **3.2 Matters Arising**

None.

#### **3.3 Action Items**

There were no open action items.

### **4. Councillors' Business**

None.

### **5. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **6. Agenda**

#### **6.1 Starring of Items**

Council starred item 12 Enterprise Performance Dashboard.

It was resolved:

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

#### **6.2 Arrangement of Agenda**

Council discussed item 21 (Modern Slavery Act Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023) before item 17 (Confidential SCU Ventures Report) and item 22 (Confidential Audit and Risk Management Committee Report) before item 18 (Annual Student Outcomes Report). The remainder of the agenda was discussed in the order presented.

### **7. Safety Matters**

Council noted the emergency procedures for the Gold Coast campus.

## **KEY REPORTS**

#### **8. \*Confidential: Vice Chancellor's Report**

#### **9. \*Confidential: People and Performance Report - Q1/2024 (January to March)**

#### **10. \*Confidential: Work Health Safety Report - Q1/2024 (January to March)**

#### **11. \*Report from Chair, Academic Board**

Desiree Kozlowski highlighted:

- the improved access to benchmarking data and dashboards and the increased focus on student experience.
- the Advanced Standing project is gaining momentum, and the group meets weekly.
- the research quality, standards, and integrity project will come to fruition in the coming months under the oversight of Mary Spongberg.

Council discussed:

- the Student Satisfaction Survey which takes place in August.
- the Australian Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (OZCABS) Academic Risk Working Group. Council discussed how TEQSA's view of commercial risk and academic risk compares to the University's Enterprise Risk Management Framework. Council will receive an update regarding the benefits of these being aligned.
- academic integrity and cheating. Council was advised that the University was taking a multi-pronged approach that included assessment design and assessment policy.

Council discussed receiving a briefing about this in the future.

## KEY TRANSFORMATION MATTERS

12. **\*Confidential: Enterprise Performance Dashboard**
13. **\*Confidential: Technology Strategy**
14. **\*Confidential: Financial Outlook**
15. **\*Confidential: Updated 2024 Forecast**
16. **\*Confidential: Report on Indigenous Strategies and Outcomes**
17. **\*Confidential: SCU Ventures Report**
18. **\*Annual Student Outcomes Report (Late item)**

Thomas Roche highlighted:

- the success rates. Students were doing better compared to the benchmark at 88.4% and also outperforming the Table A benchmark of 86.4%.
- compared to 2019 (excluding the Covid years), the University has improved retention and was above the Regional Universities Network (RUN) benchmark. However, the full impact of the Southern Cross Model will not be known until the end of 2024.
- course satisfaction (reported by an externally administered student survey) has improved on the previous year.
- unit satisfaction had improved slightly on the prior year, and teaching satisfaction remained relatively steady.
- the locations data indicates that the University's main campuses outperformed its partner locations.

Council discussed the downward trajectory in satisfactory responses for the Gold Coast campus. Management suggested this was likely due to the timing of the transition for health students to the Southern Cross Model.

## KEY REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

19. **\*Confidential: Confidential: Regulatory Update**
20. **\*Confidential: Educational Partners Report**
21. **\*Modern Slavery Act Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Julie Granger highlighted that the statement was part of the University's regulatory requirements. Questions were raised by the Audit and Risk Management Committee about how the University continually improves its processes, particularly for its partners. The Committee recommended the statement be approved.

Council was advised that student-facing international matters will be looked at more closely moving forward.

It was resolved:

**Council:**

- (a) **approves** the Modern Slavery Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023; and
- (b) **authorises** the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor to sign the Modern Slavery Statement 2023.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

22. **\*Confidential: Audit and Risk Management Committee**
23. **\*Confidential: Finance and Investment Committee**
24. **\*Confidential: People and Culture Committee**

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

25. **Corporate and Academic Governance Review - Update on Actions**

The report was noted.

26. **People and Culture Committee - Terms of Reference**

It was resolved:

**Council approves** the amendment to the People and Culture Committee Terms of Reference (Composition) to remove the Chancellor as the Committee's Chair as detailed in Attachment A.

27. **Appointment of Chair, Finance and Investment Committee**

The briefing paper was noted.

## OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION

28. **Confidential: Chancellor's Committee Business**

29. **Updated Risk Appetite Statements**

It was resolved:

**Council approves** the updated Risk Appetite Statements as detailed in Attachment A.

30. **Delegations – Amendments to Finance Category**

It was resolved:

**Council approves** the amendments to the Delegations Register (Finance Category) as set out in Attachment A.

## OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

### 31. **Controlled Entities Report - Campus Services 2023**

The report was noted.

### 32. **Annual Conferral Report**

The report was noted.

### 33. **Policy Report**

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

### 35. **Confidential: Use of the University Seal**

The report was noted.

## CLOSING BUSINESS

### 36. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### 37. **Confidential: Determination of Matters for Public Disclosure**

No additional agenda items were identified as being confidential.

### 38. **Meeting Evaluation**

Julie Granger provided the meeting evaluation, noting:

- the quality of papers – focusing on what matters, comparing trends against budget; accountability and highlighting where deadlines have been missed.
- the need to keep Council informed about how a matter previously advised to Council may be progressing regardless of whether there had been any progress, such as lodging applications for grants or the OZCABS working group for academic risk.

Council discussed how to usefully note matters to be updated on within the minutes as opposed to action items.

### 39. **Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled for Thursday, 26 September 2024 at the Gold Coast campus.

The meeting concluded at 3.13 pm.

**Mark Dixon**  
**Council Secretary (Acting)**