



Non-Confidential Minutes for Council meeting, 26 September 2024

26/09/2024 9:30 AM | AEST
GCB-C5.16-5.17, Gold Coast campus

Members Present (10)

Sandra McPhee AM, Chancellor (Chair)
Prue Berry
Professor Tyrone Carlin, Vice-Chancellor
Murray d'Almeida, Deputy Chancellor
Dr Georgina Dimopoulos
Julie Granger, Chair, Audit and Risk Management Committee
Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau – by Zoom
Associate Professor Desiree Kozlowski, Chair, Academic Board
Peter Lewis
Jonathan Rourke, Chair, Finance and Investment Committee

In Attendance

Shaun Brown, Manager, Work Health and Safety, Item 15
Mark Dixon, Director, Governance Services (Council Secretary and General Counsel)
Kim Franks, Vice President (People and Culture)
Tracy Manning, Senior Governance Officer (Council Committees - minutes)
Professor Thomas Roche, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Quality), item 20 – by Zoom
Professor Mary Spongberg, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Item 13
Travis Walker, Vice President (Finance), Items 17, 18 and 19
Jack Williamson, Vice President (Strategy and Implementation), part
Nick Hyde, Executive General Manager, SCU Ventures, part
Brendan Pearce, Director, Workplace Relations, part
Belinda Imbriano, Workplace Relations Specialist, part
Keely Elliott, Workplace Relations Specialist, part

IN-CAMERA COUNCIL ONLY DISCUSSION

Council met in-camera at the commencement of the meeting without the Vice-Chancellor. The University Secretary remained present.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Leave of Absences, introductions

1.1 Welcome

Sandra McPhee

- gave an acknowledgment of country.
- welcomed newly elected Council member, Dr Georgina Dimopoulos and noted Grace Redden's election as student member.
- congratulated Professor Renaud Johannes-Boyau and Prue Berry on their re-election to Council for a further term.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Scott Noble, Grace Redden and Geoff Stalley.

1.3 Leave of Absence

None.

1.4 Chancellor's Introductory remarks

Sandra McPhee highlighted:

- a walk-around at Gold Coast campus the day prior to the meeting during which she had met students and staff from the Faculty of Health and the Future Students Team.
- the revised format of the Council agenda to align with the University's strategic pillars.
- this meeting marked Julie Granger's final Council meeting. Julie first joined Council in 2012 as a graduate member and then continued as a Council appointed member. Julie served on several Council committees, and notably as Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee since 2021. Julie was applauded and thanked for her outstanding contribution.

2. Previous Meetings

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Council meeting, 11 June 2024

It was resolved:

Council:

- (a) **agrees** that the draft Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 June 2024 can 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 11 June 2024 to the University Council webpage.

2.2 Matters Arising

Council discussed:

- applications for capital works funding from the Commonwealth. Management advised that no responses have been received, and noted upcoming federal elections may delay responses and present other opportunities.
- the University's diving operations. A comprehensive review is being undertaken for diving operations in accordance with Australian Institute for Marine Science (AIMS) protocols.

2.3 Action Items

Mark Dixon reported:

- NSW University by-laws have been reviewed, two-year terms for elected members of Council is sector standard. This action item was closed.
- the annual review of delegations will incorporate Finance and Investment Committee's considerations relating to budget and forecast reporting.

3. Councillors' Business

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Safety Matters

Council noted the emergency procedures for the Gold Coast campus and emergency exits for Building C.

6. Arrangement of Agenda and Starring of Items

No additional items were starred for discussion.

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

Item 24 - Council Charter and Governance Framework, was additionally starred. There was no change to the order of the agenda.

It was resolved:

Council agrees that all unstarred items be noted or approved in accordance with the relevant draft resolutions without further discussion.

7. *Impact Conversation: Student/Staff/Partner

Dr Georgina Dimopoulos, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, discussed her research in legal and policy evaluation in the areas of family law, children's rights, privacy and family violence.

Council welcomed Georgina and discussed:

- the importance of connection to professional bodies.
- the expansion of law into the social sciences.

ENTERPRISE PERFORMANCE

8. *Confidential: Portfolio Summary – Q3/2024 (July to September 2024) – Late item

9. *Confidential: Vice-Chancellor's Report

10. *Report from Chair, Academic Board

Associate Professor Desiree Kozlowski discussed the work being done at the University in relation to harnessing the learning power of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) while at the same time protecting assessment integrity including:

Council discussed:

- including gen GenAI as a regular item within the Chair of Academic Board's reports to Council to ensure opportunities and risks receive appropriate level of oversight.
- the use of new GenAI tools and potential to redesign assessments to account for GenAI.

ACTION: Incorporating Artificial Intelligence as a standing topic to report to Council (Assignee: Desiree Kozlowski; Due Date: 14/11/2024)

ACTION: Arrange a briefing to Council (or Risk Deep Dive) on generative artificial intelligence in the design and implementation of an assessment regime and academic integrity (Assignee: Mark Dixon; Due Date: 14/11/2024)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

11. ***Confidential: Strategic Course and Discipline Education Review**
12. ***Confidential: SCU Ventures update – July to August 2024**

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

13. ***Confidential: Research Update**

COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS

PEOPLE

Acknowledgement – Enterprise Bargaining Team

Council congratulated the staff responsible for progressing and supporting the Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations and its submission to Fair Work Australia and recorded their thanks for their determined efforts to bring the EA to completion in a manner reflective of the University's values:

- Nick Hyde
- Brendan Pearce
- Belinda Imbriano
- Keely Elliot

14. ***Confidential: People and Performance Report – Q3/2024 (July to September)**
15. ***Confidential: Work Health Safety Report – Q3/2024 (July to September)**
16. ***Southern Cross University Story – Changing Lives**

Professor Tyrone Carlin highlighted the paper's intent to encapsulate a consistent message about Southern Cross University and as a narrative for Council members.

Council discussed the classification of the Gold Coast a major city in the statement. Council was advised that the Commonwealth now defines the Gold Coast as metropolitan.

FINANCE AND REGULATORY

17. ***Confidential: Finance Dashboard – September 2024**
18. ***Confidential: 2024 Forecast Update and 2025 Budget Parameters**
19. **Treasury and Investment Policy Amendment**

It was resolved:

Council approves the amendments to the Treasury and Investment Policy (Appendix A) in relation to counter party risk for AA – rating from \$25m to \$35m.

20. ***Confidential TEQSA Re-Registration Update**

TECHNOLOGY

RISK AND COMPLIANCE

21. **Annual Enterprise Risk Management Review, 2024**

It was resolved:

Council approves the proposed amendments to the Risk Appetite Statements.

22. Proposed Revisions to the Terms of Reference - Academic Board Rule

It was resolved:

Council approves the amended Terms of Reference - Academic Board Rule.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

23. Corporate and Academic Governance Review – Update on Actions

Council noted the report without further discussion.

24. *Council Charter and Governance Framework

Mark Dixon highlighted:

- the Charter document combines the University's primary governance articles into a single document to describe Council member role and responsibilities.
- the Governance Framework provides a pictorial representation of the University's governance structure.
- both documents will be reviewed by Council on an annual basis.

It was resolved:

Council:

- (a) **approves** the Council Charter and Governance Framework, and
- (b) **rescinds** the Council – Statement of Primary Responsibilities.

25. Council Committee Membership Changes

Council noted the briefing paper without further discussion.

26. Confidential: Council Succession Planning

Council noted the briefing paper without further discussion.

27. 2025 Council Committee Schedule of Meetings

Council noted the schedule without further discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

28. *Confidential: Audit and Risk Management Committee

29. *Confidential: Finance and Investment Committee

30. *People and Culture Committee

31. Confidential: Chancellor's Committee Business

OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

32. Policy Report

Council noted the report without further discussion.

33. Confidential: Budgeted Expenditure greater than \$1 million

Council noted the report without further discussion.

34. Confidential: Use of the University Seal

Council noted the report without further discussion.

CLOSING BUSINESS

35. Confidential Other Business

36. Confidential: Determination of Matters for Public Disclosure

No additional agenda items were identified as being confidential.

37. Meeting Evaluation

Prue Berry provided the meeting evaluation, noting aspects of the meeting which had aligned with the Universities values, including:

- the continual improvement in communications from the Vice-Chancellor's Group to Council about high level and day-to-day matters.
- the care shown by Council members when making difficult decisions and the respectful interaction during meetings.
- the excellent improvements in research outcomes.
- the addition of the strategic pillar dashboards was invaluable.
- the additional time for discussion at the meeting.

Council discussed:

- the new agenda format and suggested:
- aligning the Committees reports under the relevant pillar.
- including a few dot points for critical focus in the portfolio summary report.

38. Next Meeting

The next ordinary Council meeting was scheduled for 28 November 2024 at the Coffs Harbour campus.

The meeting concluded at 2.46 pm.

Mark Dixon
University Secretary