



UOW COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The following non-confidential matters, which may be of interest to the staff and students of the University, were considered by the University Council at its meeting of 9 August 2019.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor briefly highlighted the following items:

- The University bestowed the prestigious Community Fellowship Award on AIME at a very successful event in June. This was the third Community Fellowship to be awarded in UOW history.
- In July UOW launched its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan, the formulation of which was led by Professor Paul Chandler. The VC expressed the importance of this document for the University.
- In relation to student commencement data included in his report, the Vice-Chancellor noted that domestic numbers remain down while international numbers have increased, indicating that the traditional balance has shifted slightly.
- The Open Day on Saturday 3 August was extremely successful and the Vice-Chancellor recorded thanks to the several hundred staff involved for their outstanding effort and contribution. This was a major showcase for the University which was achieved due to the major effort of all those involved across the whole institution.
- A progress report on the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation was provided. Progress has been made on staff appointments, the process for allocation of scholarships and recruitment activity. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University of Queensland has now signed a MOU with the Ramsay Centre. The Vice-Chancellor further reported that the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) withdrew its legal action in the NSW Courts on 5 July.
- The Professional Services Staff Enterprise Agreement was lodged with the Fair Work Commission for consideration in June. Negotiations for the Academic Enterprise Agreement were finalised in early July, with the Agreement still with the NTEU awaiting confirmation.
- UOW has been awarded a number of successful ARC Linkage and Research projects.
- The Big Ideas Festival is once again taking place in October. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the guest speaker is Emeritus Prof Maree Smith from the University of Queensland.

The Vice-Chancellor also provided a presentation on Performance Based Funding (PBF) for the Commonwealth Grant Scheme. The Vice-Chancellor was Chair of the Expert Panel which undertook the review and provided advice to the Federal Minister for Education, The Hon. Dan Tehan MP on implementing performance-based funding to improve university student outcomes in Australia. The full report can be found at: https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ed19-0134_-_he_performance-based_funding_review_acc.pdf

2019 Vice-Chancellor's Strategy Retreat Outcomes

The Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of the outcomes of the July 2019 Strategy Retreat, including a summary of themes considered. Insights from the retreat have contributed to the development of the draft 2020–2025 Strategic Plan. The draft 2020-2025 Strategic Plan will be presented to VCAG for feedback in August 2019, followed by a consultation period, and will then be presented to Council for discussion in October. The final Plan will be returned to Council for approval in December.

Mental Health Risk Assessment and Strategy

The Chief Administrative Officer, Ms Melva Crouch, presented the Mental Health Risk Assessment, along with a Workplace Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan, which has been developed by the Human Resources Division. The Risk Assessment systematically demonstrates the University's risk control measures for various work related stress factors, while the Strategy and Action Plan focus on five key areas: governance, mental health awareness and wellbeing promotion, early identification and timely response, access to services and support, and recovery at work. While work has already commenced on many initiatives, activities outlined in these documents will now be formally implemented across the University.

Presentations to Council

Council received two presentations:

- A presentation from Professor Joe Chicharo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), on the Teaching Excellence Framework (Global Trends and University Initiatives).
- A presentation from Professor Alison Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Health & Communities) on the strategies and achievements of the Health & Communities portfolio.

Reports to Council

Council received the following reports and updates:

- UOW Key Performance Indicators Report;
- UOW Finance Report Quarter Two 2019;
- Financial Benchmarking Report;
- Annual Strategic and Operational Risk Update;
- WHS Report for May and June 2019;
- UOW Lecture Recording Proposal;
- Freedom of Speech Review Update; and
- The use of the UOW Common Seal.

Academic Senate

Council received the unratified Academic Senate minutes from its 10 July meeting, and the 2019 Mid-Year Chair's Report. More information about Academic Senate is found here:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/about/governance/governance-structure/academic-senate/>

Committee Business

Council received unratified minutes from the 11 June 2019 meeting of the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee for noting. For more information about Council Committees see:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/about/governance/governance-structure/university-council/>

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 11 October 2019.