



## UOW COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

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*The following matters, which may be of interest to the staff and students of the University, were considered by the University Council at its meeting of 14 February 2020.*

### **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Vice-Chancellor noted that apart from the two major crises, the Bushfires and Coronavirus, a significant amount of work had been undertaken over the Christmas break. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following matters:

- In the 2019 mid-year budget, the federal government announced \$2 million funding for an industry hub managed by the University in the Shoalhaven. The funding is intended to be seed money used for a pilot program. The Government has announced four of these hubs nationally.
- The purpose-built Molecular Horizons Building will be handed over in March. The Social Sciences and the Arts building is due for completion in May. The design of the facilities in the Social Sciences and Arts building is being led by A/Prof Brogan Bunt, Head of the School of the Arts, English and Media and include state of the art multi usage spaces, recording studios and performance spaces.
- The Vice-Chancellor's High Achievers Event held in December 2019 was one of the biggest in terms of the number of participants attended. Students with ATARS 95+ attended including those from the Global Leaders program and the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation degrees.
- UOW staff went above and beyond in their support efforts in assisting their local communities during the bushfire crisis. The Vice-Chancellor has personally written to approximately 50 staff members thanking them for their efforts, which was also praised by local communities from the South Coast. The Bega and Bateman's Bay campuses are fully compliant for people with disabilities and this enabled all populations to be assisted during the bushfire crisis.
- Through the UOW Cares (payroll giving program) \$74K has been donated to the UOW Bushfire Appeal. This will be matched dollar per dollar by the University. For the months of February and March, staff will be able to donate to two new causes, WIRES and St Vincent De Paul. The level of interest by engaged staff was applauded.
- The federal government has awarded 25 Destination Australia Scholarships to UOW to incentivise metropolitan students to study at regional campuses.
- The Learning, Teaching and Curriculum transformation project has commenced.
- Work is underway for the first UOW Online course to be delivered in 2021.

### **Council Strategy Session**

Council members participated in the Council Strategy Session held in the morning of the Council meeting. The Vice-Chancellor presented on the political context for universities worldwide and covered five themes in common in Australia, China, UK, USA and elsewhere including: freedom of expression; effects of globalisation; work in the national interest; impact of institutions; and confidence in the university sector. Council were also provided with a briefing on the University's response to the Coronavirus. This was followed by a tour of the Molecular Horizons building.

### **2019 Stocktake Report**

The 2019 Stocktake Report was noted by Council. The Stocktake Report is available on the intranet.

### **Economic Impact Report 2020**

Council received the 2020 Economic Impact Report which demonstrates the University's significant contribution to the Illawarra, NSW and Australia. In 2018, UOW's total direct, indirect and induced economic contribution to Gross Domestic Product was \$1.4 billion. The various activities related to UOW helped generate \$2.5 billion in gross output annually. The full report can be found here: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/reputation/economic-impact/>.

## **Capital Management Plan 2020-2024**

The Chief Operating Officer and Secretary to Council (COO) presented the Capital Management Plan for the five year rolling period from 2020 to 2024 for Council's approval, highlighting a number of key points within the Plan including:

- Planned capital expenditure over the next five years;
- The CMP includes the tail end of two major projects, the Molecular Horizons facility and the Social Sciences and Arts facility; and
- A continued investment in information technology to support the digitalisation agenda of the University was noted.

## **UOW's Response to the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers ("the Model Code")**

Council noted the completion of UOW's internal review of the Model Code. The review concluded that UOW's legal and policy framework aligns well to the principles proposed in the Model Code with only minor changes required to the Respect for Diversity Policy and the Student Conduct Rules. Further information regarding the Review can be found here: <https://www.uow.edu.au/french-review/>.

## **Presentations to Council**

Council received two presentations being:

- A presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy) which covered the Global Leaders Program, and two sporting programs: the Tottenham Hotspur football program and the Crusaders rugby program.
- A presentation from the Chief Operating Officer and Secretary to Council on WHS matters including an update on the Mental Health Strategy. Further information on WHS matters can be found here: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/services/safe-at-work/whs-framework/whs-documents/>

## **Reports to Council**

Council received updates on the following matters:

- UOW Key Performance Indicators Report
- UOW Finance Report for December 2019
- Workplace Health and Safety Report for November and December 2019
- Workplace Health and Safety Annual Report 2018
- UOW Pulse Ltd 2019 Progress Report
- Common Seal

## **Academic Senate**

Council received the 2019 Academic Senate Chair's Report. The Chair of Academic Senate advised that her term of office expires on 30 July 2020. The Chair of Academic Senate is an elected position and having held the role for three consecutive terms, a new Chair of Academic Senate will be elected this year. The call for nominations will be made to all eligible academic staff shortly, with the election for the Chair's role to be held at the March Academic Senate meeting.

For more information about Academic Senate: <https://www.uow.edu.au/student/representatives/senate/>

## **Committee Business**

- The membership of some of Council's committees was updated to accommodate expiring terms and vacancies.
- Council received the unratified minutes of the 26 November 2019 meeting of the Risk Audit and Compliance Committee (RACC).

For more information about Council Committees:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/council/committees/index.html>

*The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 3 April 2020.*