



## 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 12 June 2020.*

*Due to the government's restrictions regarding the spread of COVID-19, Council members participated in the Council meeting on 12 June 2020 in person or via videoconference (Webex).*

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Council was updated on the work and planning being undertaken in response to the large scale impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on University operations. The University's Crisis Management Team (CMT) continues to meet on a weekly basis and the following matters were noted:

- The DVCE portfolio has been working closely with faculties to assure end of session exams and is planning for a phased return of limited on-campus teaching activities. Priority has been given to activities that are difficult to deliver remotely (e.g., laboratory and practical classes) and activities required to assure accreditation bodies and professional standards.
- Council noted the Voice COVID-19 Staff Check-in Survey results were positive with 74% of staff indicating that their wellbeing was at an acceptable level at the time the survey was undertaken. The survey results will be distributed to business units for consideration and engagement.
- A high level Return to Campus Roadmap is being implemented across three key stages, with the first stage commencing from 15 June 2020 with a focus on Divisions, Faculties and other facilities to prepare COVID-Safe plans for their areas.

For further information about UOW's COVID-19 response: <https://www.uow.edu.au/coronavirus/>

### **Faculty Realignment**

Council approved the realignment of the University's faculty structure from five faculties into four. The realignment involves the faculties of Business; Law, Humanities and the Arts; and Social Sciences. The faculties of Science, Medicine and Health and Engineering and Information Sciences remain unchanged. The two new faculties formed are: Business and Law, and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. The naming of the two new faculties are to be confirmed by the Vice-Chancellor.

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

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council about the following matters:

- The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020 results show the University is holding its position in the top 50 in the world, ranked 31st this year. In the QS World University Rankings, the University ranked 196<sup>th</sup>. This is a considerable achievement and the stand out feature is the measure for research quality – citations per faculty member which lifted UOW's ranking 33 places to 75<sup>th</sup> globally.
- The Social Sciences and Arts building (Building 29) has a completion date of June 2020. The relocation of the Titan Krios from ANSTO for the Molecular Horizons (Building 42) is scheduled for later this month.
- A large number of applications have been received for the student financial hardship grants of which 30% of eligible payments has been for domestic students including those who have suffered from bushfires on the South Coast and/or have lost their part-time jobs as a result of COVID-19.
- The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor is chairing a working group which is considering options for a celebration to be held in 2021 for the 2020 graduating students replacing the graduation ceremonies. One or two large events are being considered.

### **Thematic Presentations to Council**

Strategic thematic presentations and faculty presentations are standing agenda item on the Council agenda.

Council approved the following thematic presentations for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021:

- Digitalisation: Teaching; and Operations & Services
- Growth: Onshore and Offshore
- Collaboration: Research and Efficiency.

These thematic presentations are in line with the priorities of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. For further information regarding the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/our-vision-strategy/2020-2025-strategic-plan/>

### **Council Meeting Dates for 2021**

The Council meetings dates for 2021 were confirmed as follows:

- 12 February 2021
- 9 April 2021
- 11 June 2021
- 20 August 2021
- 8 October 2021
- 3 December 2021

Council noted the draft schedule of dates for 2022, with a final set of dates to be confirmed at a future Council meeting.

### **University Annual Report and Annual Review 2019**

Council noted the 2019 University of Wollongong Annual Report, Volumes one and two; the 2019 University of Wollongong Annual Review; and the Workforce Diversity Update. For more information regarding the Annual Report: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/annual-reports-and-financial-statements/>

### **Reports to Council**

Council received updates on the following matters:

- UOW Key Performance Indicators Report
- UOW Finance Report for April 2020
- Workplace Health and Safety Report for March and April 2020
- Use of the UOW Common Seal

### **Academic Senate**

The Chair of Academic Senate gave a presentation on academic governance. Council was assured that academic matters are appropriately governed at UOW. Council noted that it was Professor Wilma Vialle's last meeting as Chair of Academic Senate and on behalf of Council, the Chancellor thanked Wilma for her contributions over the past six years.

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

### **Council Committee Business**

Council received the unratified minutes of the 20 May 2020 Academic Senate meeting, the unratified minutes of the 13 May 2020 Finance and Resources Committee, and the ratified minutes of the 19 March 2020 meeting of the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee. For more information about Council Committees:

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

### **UOW Policy Amendments**

Council approved amendments to the Coursework Rules, to the HDR Award Rules and to the Delegations of Authority Policy. These can be found on the UOW Policy Directory:

<https://documents.uow.edu.au/about/policy/index.html>

### **UOW Global Enterprises**

Council noted the UOW Global Enterprises 2020 Progress Report and the UOW Global Enterprises 2019 Annual Report.

### **UOW Pulse Ltd**

Council noted the UOW Pulse Progress Report and the 2019 UOW Pulse Annual Report.

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

*The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 14 August 2020.*