



UOW COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

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 February 2021.

Due to the government's social distancing requirements, the Council meeting was held at the Ocean Room, Innovation Campus.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor briefly highlighted the following items in his report:

- The Business Recovery Working Group (BRWG) continues to maintain tight controls on expenditure and oversight on remediation activities.
- Several current and past staff and alumni received Australian honours on Australia Day.
- The University and Lend Lease have submitted a Concept Development Application to the Wollongong City Council for the Health and Wellbeing Precinct. This is an important initiative going forward for the University.
- Applied Higher Education has published a new composite university ranking which places UOW 166th in the world.
- A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the Admissions teams over the December and January period. The Vice-Chancellor thanked all staff who worked incredibly hard during that period. The scale of change for domestic undergraduate and domestic postgraduate student demand for UOW was noted.
- Extensive work has been undertaken in developing the model for the return to campus and teaching with the aim to offer approximately 50% of students an opportunity to return to campus for Session 1 2021.
- Considerable marketing and recruitment efforts have been undertaken to promote student residences and this has resulted in high occupancy projections for several residences.
- A dispute was lodged with the Fair Work Commission by the NTEU in relation to the One-UOW model. The University extended the implementation consultation period for a further two weeks and this resolved the dispute.
- Woolyungah Indigenous Centre received additional funding for 2021 to increase the Indigenous Student Success Program which has seen positive results in student performance across all subjects.
- Considerable work has been undertaken to deliver activities for international students who remained onshore over the summer break. The Vice-Chancellor thanked all staff involved in these activities for their hard work.
- The University has been recognised as a 'Champion' of Women in STEM for its commitment to advancing gender equity in academia and promoting STEM as a career choice for women and girls.
- The University has been successful in several research funding awards and grants.

On behalf of Council, the Chancellor acknowledged and thanked the University staff for their hard work during the December and January period.

Council Strategy Session

Council members participated in the Council Strategy Session held in the morning of the Council meeting. The session included an overview of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, Governance at UOW, and a Governance Insights workshop.

2020 Stocktake Report

The 2020 Stocktake Report was noted by Council and is available on the [internet](#).

Capital Management Plan 2021-2025

Council approved the Capital Management Plan for the five year rolling period from 2021 to 2025. In presenting the Plan, the Chief Operating Officer noted the significant financial pressures facing the University and advised that some major capital investments and implementation of projects included within the Campus Master Plan have been put on hold. He highlighted the following planned capital expenditures:

- a continued investment in information technology to support ensuring the resilience of networks, capacity of teaching spaces and business systems improvement; and
- a focus on works meeting statutory and regulatory compliance, urgent matters and the enabling activities for the ongoing development of the Health and Wellbeing Precinct.

Presentation to Council

As part of reporting of progress against the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and its component elements, Council will be presented with a series of updates on the three Transformative Priorities: Digitalisation, Growth and Collaboration at each meeting for 2021.

Council noted the first in the series, Strategic Transformative Priority: Digitalisation – Teaching and Learning, presented by Professor Theo Farrell, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).

Reports to Council

Council received the following reports and updates:

- 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Key Performance Indicators Report
- UOW Finance Report: December 2020
- Workplace Health and Safety Report: November and December 2020
- Use of the UOW Common Seal
- UOW Pulse Ltd Progress Report
- Modern Slavery Update
- Post COVID-19 Portfolio Priorities: Update

Committee Business

The membership of several Council committees was updated to accommodate expiring terms and vacancies. For more information about Council Committees:

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

Academic Senate

Council noted the Academic Senate 2020 End of Year Chair's Report. More information about Academic Senate is found here: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/governance/governance-structure/academic-senate/>

Rules and Policy Approvals

Council approved amendments to the Coursework Rules and to the Delegations of Authority Policy. Council also approved the rescission of the Study Time Policy-Professional Services Staff. For updated Rules and Policies, refer to the Policy Directory: <https://documents.uow.edu.au/about/policy/alphalisting/index.html>

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, 9 April 2021.