



## 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 9 April 2021.*

This was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings' final meeting of Council. Prior to the meeting officially closing, the Chancellor, on behalf of Council and the University community, expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his outstanding leadership and contribution to the University, to higher education in Australia and for all his achievements as an academic and community leader over the past ten years. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged his thanks and appreciation to Council members and its predecessors for all their support during this period and to all staff and students who have supported the core business of the University, wishing the University continued success.

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

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

- There has been a high performance in the latest QS Subject Rankings for Mineral and Mining, Nursing and Materials Science. University league tables are approaching and the outcomes are expected to be released in the next few months.
- The University is ahead of the commencing student targets that were set in October 2020. This has a positive impact on student accommodation and the utilisation of those assets.
- The strategy for the return of students back to campus has been implemented for Session 1 and planning for Session 2 is underway. 846 subjects have returned to an on campus delivery mode for Session 1 equating to approximately 80% of subjects offered. Planning is also underway for the 2021 graduation ceremonies.
- Professor Salkeld, Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (ASSH) will be retiring from the University from 7 May 2021. Professor Sue Bennett has been appointed as Interim Executive Dean of ASSH. Professor Valerie Linton, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences (EIS) has resigned from the University to take up the position as Provost at the University of Auckland. She will conclude her role at UOW in July 2021. The appointment of an Interim Executive Dean for EIS is underway. Recruitment preparations have commenced for the Executive Dean positions in EIS and ASSH. Shortlisting for the Executive Dean role for the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health (SMAH) will be held in the near future and the Vice-Chancellor Designate, Professor Davidson, is involved in the recruitment process.
- The University was the beneficiary of two recent bequests, both from volunteers, one from a Fellow and the other an alumna who have chosen to provide a gift to the University in their Will.
- A Foreign Arrangements Steering Group has been established to ensure the University's compliance with the Foreign Arrangement Scheme. The Group will report to the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee.
- The University Global Partnership Network virtual conference held in March, led by Professor Jenny Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and hosted by the University was extremely successful having attracted approximately 800 people.
- The University has submitted its feedback to the Department of Education, Skills and Employment on the University Research Commercialisation Consultation Paper.

### **Annual Financial Statements 2020**

Council approved the 2020 Annual Financial Statements presented by the Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Operating Officer advised Council that the statements had been subjected to a rigorous process of review during their preparation and were supported by management representations and thorough consideration by the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2021. The financial statements will be published in the 2020 Annual Report and will be available on the UOW website once the report has been tabled in the NSW Parliament.

## **Presentation to Council**

As part of reporting of progress against the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and its component elements, Council received the second in the series of updates on the three Transformative Priorities: Digitalisation, Growth and Collaboration. Ms Fiona Rankin, Director, Information Management and Technology Services presented on Digitalisation – Operations and Service.

## **Deep Dive Comprehensive KPI Report: Student Experience/Student Success and Outcomes/Digitalisation and Disruption.**

The Deep Dive Comprehensive Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reports are scheduled for each meeting of Council to provide a more detailed view of strategic performance as measured by the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 KPIs. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education presented the first in this new suite of reports related to Student Experience (KPI 2), Student Success and Outcomes (KPI 3) and Digitalisation and Disruption (KPI 6).

Further information on the UOW Strategic Plan can be found here: <https://www.uow.edu.au/about/our-vision-strategy/2020-2025-strategic-plan/>

## **Reports to Council**

Council received the following reports and updates:

- UOW Governance Compliance Assessment 2020-2021
- 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Key Performance Indicators Report
- UOW Finance Report: February 2021
- Workplace Health and Safety Report
- Modern Slavery Update
- Legislation Update
- Collaborative Delivery Summary Report 2020
- Use of the UOW Common Seal
- UOW Global Enterprises Progress Report
- UOW Pulse Ltd Progress Report
- Reports on activities, financial summary for 2020 and budget for 2021 from the Wollongong Undergraduate Association and the Wollongong Postgraduate Association.

## **Review of Academic Senate Membership and Composition**

Council approved a revised membership and composition model of the University's principal academic body, the Academic Senate. The revised model strikes the right balance between ensuring it remains fit-for-purpose, whilst amending its size and composition to position it more appropriately and strategically within UOW's Academic Governance framework. Implementation of the revised membership model will enable Academic Senate to focus on its core business of teaching and research and bring it into line with academic boards and senates across the higher education sector. The revised membership model will take effect from May 2021, with elections to fill various elected positions on the Academic Senate being conducted during April and early May. Further information regarding the Academic Senate can be found at

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

## **Council Committee Business**

Council received the unratified minutes of the 3 March 2021 Academic Senate meeting, the 11 March 2021 Finance and Resources Committee meeting, and the 16 March 2021 Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting. For more information about Council Committees:

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

## **UOW Policy Amendments**

Council approved amendments to the Coursework Rules, the Higher Degree Rules and to the Delegations of Authority Policy.

For updated Rules and Policies, refer to the Policy Directory:

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

*The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 11 June 2021.*