



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 7 October 2022.

Opening Remarks

The Chancellor congratulated postgraduate Council member, Sarah Vogel, on being a finalist in the Asia-Pacific 3 Minute Thesis Competition for her presentation, “Treating Brain Cancer with One Shot”.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report / Strategic Update

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following issues in her report:

- Staff were thanked for their support, particularly in relation to the preparation and shaping of the 2023 draft budget. Support in relation to philanthropy and innovation was also highlighted.
- The SDVC advised that international student numbers were currently exceeding projections, which was encouraging.
- The Director IMTS spoke to Council about cybersecurity issues following the recent major data breach at Optus. The Optus incident had provided an opportunity for UOW to reassess its exposure and consider any lessons that can be learned, for example, in relation to disposing of data in accordance with retention requirements and not keeping personal data longer than it needs to be retained. It was noted that cybersecurity is not just an IT issue but the responsibility of the whole of the University community and that communication, education and training is therefore of paramount importance to ensure ownership of the issue amongst staff and students and to promote responsible data management.

UOW’s Roadmap 2023-2024

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning) noted the value of Roadmaps in focusing attention and activity on the achievement of strategic planning goals and as a communication tool for stakeholders to galvanise action. Council was advised about the development of UOW’s current two-year Roadmap which is progressing through detailed and valuable staff consultation before being finalised and coming back to Council in December for approval.

UOW KPI Presentation and Research KPI Deep Dive

The Director, Strategic Planning provided information on UOW’s KPI performance, noting the recent rationalisation of KPIs from 36 to 12 KPIs which align closely to revenue drivers and the 2020-25 Strategic Plan. There has been a gradual improvement in KPI performance. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) provided information to Council about [UOW’s research](#) KPIs. He noted the four interrelated research KPIs: rankings, higher degree research (HDR) completions, research income (Category 1) and research engagement income (Categories 2-4) and the importance of not relying on a small number of highly-cited researchers but on working to ensure broad research outputs.

Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities

Professor Sue Bennett, Executive Dean of the [Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities](#), presented to Council about her faculty, including current challenges and initiatives. The Faculty has seven schools and specific facilities such as Northfields Clinic, providing community facing counselling for adults and children, and the Early Start Children’s Discovery Space. The Faculty has around 9000 domestic and international students with an Australia presence across the regional campuses and in South-Western Sydney. The Faculty’s mission is to “promote ways in which people can live meaningful, healthy, secure and sustainable lives as well as improving our understanding of human thought, culture and art, to advance an inquisitive, harmonious and equitable society”.

Advancing UOW’s Nursing Strategy

The Executive Dean, Science Medicine and Health presented to Council on the [School of Nursing](#) following interested expressed at the previous meeting. She advised that Nursing has over 5000 students with 4000+ domestic students spread across six onshore campuses and almost 1000 international students. In the QS rankings, Nursing is in the top 51-100 universities worldwide and in the ARWU, it is in the 51-75 grouping. Nursing has

five stars in the Good Universities Guide in a number of areas, including being first in Australia for skills development. The discipline is attracting excellent researchers and undertaking important projects, including training nursing workforce in indigenous communities. The vision and plans for 2023 include building Nursing's course and research reputation; ensuring a contemporary Bachelor of Nursing curriculum focussed on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (noting there is 'no health without planetary health'); sustainably growing enrolments, partnering with local health districts, industry partners and UOWGE to advance nursing in our communities; and focussing on a themed research strategy to improve critical mass and impact.

University Budget 2023

The draft 2023 Budget for the University was presented to Council. Council noted the forecast was for UOW's financial position to move back into the black in 2023. It is still a budget in recovery, but progress is positive. Council considered potential budget risks and mitigations. It was noted that the 2023 Budget had been considered in detail by the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (FIC). The Chair of the FIC advised that several meetings and a workshop had been held with FIC to discuss the underlying data and financial position and the FIC recommended the 2023 Budget for approval. Council approved the 2023 Budget.

Sustainable Development Goals Report and Update

Council was advised that the [2021 UOW Sustainability Development Goals Report](#) had been finalised and published on the UOW website. The University strives to improve its performance in relation to its commitment to the UN SDGs led by the Chair of the Sustainable Futures Committee, Professor Tm McCarthy. Council was also advised that [Global Climate Change Week](#) would be held at UOW from 12-18 October - Council member Katherine McConnell was thanked for agreeing to provide the keynote address at the launch.

UOW Policy Approvals

- Council approved a new [Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety Policy](#). It was noted it is the responsibility of everyone in the University community to prevent racism and foster a safe and respectful environment.
- Council also approved revisions to:
 - (i) The Delegations of Authority Policy
 - (ii) UOW Coursework Rules

For more information about UOW Policies: <https://documents.uow.edu.au/about/policy/alphalisting/index.html>

Council Committee Business

Council noted a report on the Academic Senate's Role and Function Review and the minutes of the:

- Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held on 13 September 2022;
- Nominations Committee held on 16 September 2022; and
- Honorary Awards Committee held on 16 September 2022.

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

Student Association Reports: WUSA & WUPA

Council received proposed budgets and reports on activities from the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and the Wollongong University Postgraduate Student Association (WUPA).

Reports to Council

Council also received the following reports and updates:

- Workplace Health and Safety Report
- Use of the UOW Common Seal

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, 2 December 2022.