



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 17 February 2023.

Opening Remarks

The Chancellor welcomed the newly elected student members of the [University Council](#), Lara Warwick, the undergraduate student member, and Xiaochen (Susan) Zhang, the postgraduate student member.

Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Report

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items:

- Student numbers for 2023 are looking positive, especially international numbers and visa processing times have improved significantly.
- UOW has launched a new look [student orientation program](#) ('It's Go Time') that will last across the semester instead of just one week, aimed at fostering continued engagement of students at our campuses and better prepare our students for success in their courses and beyond.
- Highlighting the quality of our research, the VC noted the work of Professor Rozenfeld and Professor Lerch in the field of medical radiation physics, advising that, at a recent event co-sponsored by the Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Centre, the calibre of global higher education partners praising the work of UOW researchers in the field was inspiring.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) gave a presentation on UOW's Student Experience Survey results for 2022, noting that cross-sector comparative data is not yet available. He advised that, overall, undergraduate student satisfaction had improved by 8.5% with the scores for learner engagement rising 20% compared with the previous year. In relation to postgraduate data, there was an overall 6.9% increase. The DVC(A) noted efforts to lift the student experience including the re-engineered orientation process and improvements in student health and wellbeing.

The DVC(A) advised Council of the positive results in the latest [graduate outcomes survey](#) where 82% of students had found full time work. He noted that UOW was one of four institutions named as making the biggest increases in this area.

Advancement and Philanthropy

The Vice-Chancellor presented to Council on advancement and philanthropy at UOW, noting the aim is to build affinities through converting current connections and community outreach such as through Early Start and the Science Space into ongoing giving with opportunities to make a difference for humanity clearly highlighted. Fundraising success was noted but UOW is still benchmarked lower than our competitors so there is a need to focus on our rankings and highlight our thought leadership to encourage further philanthropy. UOW continues to engage our alumni and encourage participation opportunities in the places where our alumni live. The VC noted that endowments, like our recently installed academic chairs, were another way to secure ongoing giving and more such opportunities were already in the pipeline. Opportunities for donations at our international campuses would also be further progressed.

Capital Management Plan

The University's Capital Management Plan for 2023 was approved. The strategic focus for the Plan is on workplace safety, and our teaching and research mission. There is also an asset replacement allocation and provision for regulatory compliance work including investment in building cladding and CCTV. In terms of systems work, investment in the HR and Finance system and in the Cloud Strategy to de-risk IT infrastructure were highlighted as priorities.

Cybersecurity Committee

Given the heightened risk of cybersecurity following high profile cyber-attacks at the end of 2022 in Australia, Council approved the establishment of a Cybersecurity Committee to ensure our cyber readiness and our response to breaches is being monitored and is keeping pace with best practice. The Committee's membership would be drawn from UOW Council, with a representative of the UOWGE Board and an academic with cyber expertise.

Academic Senate Business

Council noted the Chair of Academic Senate's 2022 end of year report regarding Senate activities over the previous six months. For further information about the Academic Senate:

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

Campus Name Changes

Council approved changes to UOW campus names with the aim of strengthening their local identities and their connections with the communities which they serve. The names were changed following consultation with relevant stakeholders across UOW since mid-2022. [Further information on UOW campus name changes.](#)

Reports to Council

Council also received the following reports and updates:

- Financial Update 2022
- 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, 14 April 2023.