



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 14 April 2023.

Opening Remarks

The Chancellor thanked the departing Interim People and Culture Officer, Michael Doran, and the Chief Governance Officer and Secretary to Council, Dr Nancy Huggett, for their outstanding service to the University.

Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Report

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items:

- Graduation ceremonies had been conducted at the Wollongong Campus this week with other ceremonies recently occurring in Singapore and for UOW College. Several successful international alumni events had also been held.
- Student recruitment for Autumn Session 2023 has seen positive results particularly regarding international students. This was supported by short presentations from both the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- UOW's continuing engagement with the Australian Government's Universities Accord process remains very important as outcomes will strongly shape the future directions of higher education.
- Engagement with the new NSW Government has commenced following the State Election held in March.

Annual Financial Statements 2022

The 2022 Annual Financial Statements were approved by Council. Council was advised that the NSW Audit Office would be issuing an unmodified report and that its view was that the statements presented a true and fair view of the University's financial position. There were no high-risk issues identified and UOW Pulse and UOWGE's statements were also approved by their respective Boards. The Financial Statements are available in the 2022 Annual Report.

TEQSA Re-registration

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Assurance), Professor Sean Brawley provided an overview of current and proposed activities towards UOW's submission for TEQSA re-registration which is due in September 2024. Activities included internal and external reviews of academic and corporate governance as well as the annual compliance review against the Higher Education Standards Framework conducted by the Academic Quality and Standards Division.

Review of Senate Role and Function

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Assurance) gave a presentation to Council on progress of the internal review of the Academic Senate's Role and Function. He noted that Senate's terms of reference were consistent with the relevant higher education standards and that benchmarking against other universities academic boards had not revealed any gaps or additional issues that needed to be highlighted. The recent Senate self-evaluation survey feedback on the effectiveness of the terms of reference had been positive. Issues such as the need to focus on academic risk and to involve Senate in strategic issues would be progressed. Information flows between Senate and Council will also be a focus.

UOW Group 2022 Modern Slavery Statement

Council considered and approved the UOW Group Modern Slavery Statement for 2022. Over the course of the past year the focus of effort had broadened from supply chains and procurement to include student related matters. Council noted that a website had been created and the Safe and Respectful Communities team had received resources for assisting students with issues related to modern slavery practices including forced marriages and debt bondage. Concerns about the experiences of some students being underpaid in some workplaces was raised and discussed.

Council Committee Business

Council noted the minutes of

- (i) Academic Senate meeting held on 8 March 2023;
- (ii) Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 8 March 2023;
- (iii) Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023; and
- (iv) People and Culture Committee meeting held on 23 March 2023.

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

Reports to Council

Council also received the following reports and updates:

- UOWGE Update
- Workplace Health and Safety Report
- 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Key Performance Indicators Report
- Academic Freedom Attestation Statement
- Collaborative Delivery Summary Report
- Student Association Reports: WUSA and WUPA

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The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 18 August 2023.