



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 13 October 2023.

Council welcomed the new Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary Ms Alyssa White and Deputy University Secretary, Ms Lucinda Wright to their first meeting of Council.

Special guest, Dr Michael Thomlinson, an external consultant conducting the External Review of Corporate Governance, attended the Council meeting via Zoom.

Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Report

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items:

- An off-site Learning Program for UOW executives and Council members has been scheduled for 1-2 February 2024 at Bundanon. This is a key initiative under the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Preparations continue on university campuses for the increased bushfire risk.
- The Yours and Owls festival this weekend involved 18 months of planning activity and focus on risk mitigation due to the size and demographics of the event.
- Enterprise Agreement negotiations are nearing finality with 75 meetings being held to date.
- Preparations are underway to support First Nations staff and students following the national referendum on the Voice to Parliament and Constitutional Recognition being held tomorrow if it does not pass.
- A crisis team has been stood up to consider the implications from the events in the Middle East. Several staff who were in Israel have returned to Australia. Support has been provided to staff and students from the Jewish and Palestinian communities.
- A presentation on the results of the Voice-Survey (with a high response rate of 73%) and the proposed action pathway to staff has been held with a further update to be given at the next all-forum scheduled for mid-November. A new approach includes having an executive sponsor to lead teams in the development of suitable action responses for major themes.
- Domestic commencing student enrolments for 2023 year to date shows UOW performing well in the domestic market which appears to have decreased by a further 4% nationally. Recruitment targets have been achieved in undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment markets. International student recruitment outcomes for 2023 are strong with lead indicators and outlook for 2024 also strong.

Chancellor Selection Committee Update

The Chair of the Chancellor Selection Committee, Deputy Chancellor, Mr Rob Ryan provided Council with an update on the progress for the search of a new Chancellor, noting that at the August Council meeting, Council was advised that the Chancellor was stepping down from the role later this year due to increasing challenges in balancing her role as Chancellor with her other professional business and not-for-profit responsibilities.

Deputy Chancellor Election

Council re-elected Mr Warwick Shanks as Deputy Chancellor for a two-year term effective immediately until 13 October 2025. Council acknowledged Mr Shanks commitment to the role, noting that his efforts and contributions have been exemplary in filling this role.

Council further noted that an election for the other position of Deputy Chancellor, currently held by Mr Rob Ryan, will take place at either the December 2023 Council meeting or at a Council meeting in early 2024. Council further approved the extension of Mr Robert Ryan's term on Council for a further four months to 30 April 2024 to allow for the smooth transitioning of the new Chancellor.

2024 Budget – Preliminary Planning

The Chief Operating Officer (COO), and the Director Financial Operations spoke to the preliminary planning of the 2024 Budget noting that the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, as per its terms of reference, is reviewing and advising on each step of the budget development process, including information as provided to Council.

Council noted the draft key assumptions for the development of the 2024 and 2024 to 2028 estimates and that there is a stronger alignment of KPIs and targets between UOW and UOWGE. The 2024 Budget will be approved at the December Council meeting.

Brand Recognition and Identity

Council noted a presentation on the Brand Recognition and Identity and provided feedback on the draft proposal. The Brand Recognition and Identity will come back to a future meeting of Council after further consultation.

Council Committee Business

The Chair of Academic Senate and Chairs of Council Committees provided an update on matters discussed at their respective Committees.

Council noted the unratified minutes of

- (i) Academic Senate meeting held on 20 September 2023;
- (ii) Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held on 11 September 2023;
- (iii) People and Culture Committee meeting held on 3 August 2023
- (iv) Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 27 September 2023.

Click [here](#) for more information about Council Committees.

Risk Appetite Statement and the Business Continuity Management Framework

Council approved the Risk Appetite Statement and noted the Business Continuity Management Framework. This included the approval of the revised Business Continuity Management Policy and the Business Continuity Management and Resilience Guidelines to be effective immediately.

Other Policies Approvals

Council approved:

- the UOW Research Entities Framework Policy and the rescission of the University Research Entities Guidelines to be effective on 1 January 2024; and
- Administrative amendments to the:
 - Academic Senate Electoral Rules
 - Campus Access and Order Rules
 - Coursework Rules
 - Examination Rules
 - Higher Degree Research (HDR) Award Rules and the
 - University Council Constitution Rulesto take effect on the launch of the new policy software in late November/early December 2023.

Council also approved the Serious Wrongdoing Reporting Policy and Serious Wrongdoing Reporting Procedure and the rescission of the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy and the Fraud and Corruption Internal Reporting Procedure, to be effective immediately.

Click [here](#) for more information about UOW Policies

Reports to Council

Council received the following reports and updates:

- Financial Update September 2023
- Employee Payments Remediation
- Workplace Health and Safety Report
- Key Performance Indicators Report
- Student Association Reports: WUSA and WUPA activity reports.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 8 December 2023.

Click [here](#) for further information about Council.