



## 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 15 February 2019.*

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

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council about the following matters:

- The award of Australia Day honours to several current and past members of the UOW community including Chancellor Jillian Broadbent AC, who was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia.
- UOW's recent acquisition of an artwork by Lloyd Rees titled "Illawarra Pastoral" (1957) made possible by funding allocations under the Capital Management Plan.
- The Federal Government's establishment of a panel to advise it on measures to allocate growth funding. Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and including other Australian Vice-Chancellors, the Panel is due to report to the Federal Minister of Education by the end of March. The work of the Panel is to review the current funding model, and lead sector consultation about the implementation of performance-based funding including a discussion on the legislative and technical basis for linking funding to performance targets. To ensure universities focus sufficient attention on the quality of teaching, student support and graduate outcomes, the Vice-Chancellor indicated that the Federal Government may rely on different forms of datasets readily available under current reporting requirements and foreshadowed the debate will continue into the middle of the year.
- Launch of the inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Reconciliation Action Plan planned for July 2019.
- Success of recent research activity, most notably the recent research publications concerning archaic humans published in *Nature*, which have garnered world-wide public attention.

The Facilities Management Division was commended on the completion of a large number of refurbishment activities over the summer break; the purpose of these refurbishments is to enhance the student experience on campus.

### **Council Strategy Session and endorsement of the Stocktake Report 2018**

Council members participated in the annual Strategy Session held in the morning before Council. On the request of Council, the Vice-Chancellor committed to commencing the process of refreshing the Strategic Plan for 2020-2025.

Council also noted the 2018 Stocktake Report on the Strategic Plan, on which they had received an earlier presentation from the Vice-Chancellor. The Stocktake Report is available on the intranet:

<https://intranet.uow.edu.au/spu/publications/index.html>

### **Capital Management Plan 2019-2023**

The Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Management Plan for the five year rolling period from 2019 to 2023 for Council's approval, highlighting a number of key points within the Plan including:

- Planned capital expenditure over the next five years.
- Continuing substantial investment in a range of information technology systems and infrastructure aligned to UOW's digital strategy.
- Specific provision of funds for capital related investments to seed further transformation of UOW's research activities and increase access to research opportunities.
- Anticipation that 2019 expenditure will be somewhat inconsistent, with 4.2% of the total put aside for contingencies.
- Continued planning, design and construction of the Molecular Horizon's facility and Social Sciences and Arts facility (completion of both is expected in 2019).

The Chief Finance Officer clarified that the CMP projects do not indicate potential expenditures which may be

funded by the additional debt program the University executed in December 2017. These projects include the Health and Wellbeing Project, Innovation Campus and developments at the South Western Sydney Campus. Council noted that oversight of the CMP and the debt program would continue to occur through the Finance and Resources Committee.

### **Presentation – Chief Finance Officer Portfolio**

The Chief Finance Officer gave a presentation on the challenges and successes of his portfolio which is comprised of the following business areas:

- Financial Services;
- Information Management and Technology Services;
- Commercial Developments Unit;
- Business Improvement and Assurance Division; and
- Institutional Research and Government Report.

### **Workplace Health and Safety Report**

Council received the WHS Annual Report for 2018 for noting. Further information is available from here: <http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/index.html>

### **Reports to Council**

Council received updates on the following matters:

- UOW Key Performance Indicators Report
- UOW Finance Report – December 2018
- Establishment of the School of Liberal Arts in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
- UOW Pulse Ltd 2018 Progress Report
- UOW Global Enterprises February 2019 Progress Report
- Common Seal

### **UOW Policy Amendments**

The following new and amended UOW policies were approved by Council:

- Amendments were made to the General Course Rules and consequential amendments were made to the Student Conduct Rules, Course Progress Policy and Delegations of Authority Policy.
- The Access to Information Policy was rescinded.

### **Academic Senate**

Council received the minutes of the 5 December 2018 meeting for noting as well as the end of year Chair's Report. Council members noted the discussions around freedom of speech arrangements in the higher education sector and issues raised regarding digital lecture capture. Council requested further reports to track the progress of the Task and Finish Group charged with preparing recommendations on digital lecture capture at UOW.

For more information about Academic Senate:

[www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/academicssenate/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/academicssenate/index.html)

### **Committee Business**

- The membership of some of Council's committees was changed to accommodate expiring terms and vacancies. The terms of reference for the Innovation Campus Health and Wellbeing Precinct Subcommittee were also changed regarding membership, so that the external member appointed by the Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee be an external member of Council rather than the external member of the Finance and Resources Committee.
- Council received minutes of the 26 November 2018 meeting of the Risk Audit and Compliance Committee (RACC).

For more information about Council Committees:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/council/committees/index.html>

*The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, 12 April 2019.*