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## COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

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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 10 October 2025.

### **2026 Draft Budget Assumptions and Forecast Modelling Scenarios**

Council received a briefing from the Vice-President (Operations) and the Chief Financial Officer on the modelling assumptions that will underpin the University's 2026 budget, undertaking a detailed discussion of the ongoing implementation of the UOW Operations Workplace Change final change plan and current change processes underway noting that the outcomes of these processes could impact the 2026 budget. Council highlighted the importance of ongoing reporting from the Transformation Program, including the costs and benefits realisation associated with the transformation program to support the University's long-term financial sustainability. Council further highlighted that a longer-term aim in budget planning across to 2030 should be for the University to generate an appropriate surplus that can be reinvested into key priorities and initiatives that will support the University's Vision 2035 and Strategic Plan 2030 and the University's core missions of teaching and research.

### **2025 Advancement Update**

The Associate Director, Advancement, presented to Council an overview of 2025 Advancement activities including events and engagements associated with the University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Council discussed the importance of building a thriving advancement ecosystem that engages the University's extensive global alumni network, along with key stakeholders, donors and the University community to support the University's core institutional goals, outreach and impact. Council noted that the Advancement Division is working closely with the Vice-Chancellor and the Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Growth and Global) to refresh the University's philanthropic priorities and ensuring clear alignment with the new Strategic Plan.

### **Transformation Program Update**

Council received an update on the Complaints, Safe & Respectful Communities and Wellbeing Health & Safety (Complaints, SARC and WHS) and the People and Culture Business Partnering change processes. Council undertook a detailed discussion on the change processes and received assurances from the Transformation Office that there is ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, impacted staff and multiple avenues for students to provide feedback noting in particular the importance of the services provided by SARC for student safety and wellbeing on campus. Council noted that these change processes are currently in Stage 1 Consultation and that Council will receive a further update at its meeting on 5 December 2025.

### **Academic Senate Report**

The Chair, Academic Senate, provided Council with an overview of recent activities and areas of ongoing focus for Academic Senate. The Chair, Academic Senate, highlighted the reconstitution of the Senate Terms of Reference and Membership (STORM) Working Group to review the Academic Governance structure, terms of reference and membership in light of a number of recommendations stemming from the external review of academic governance. The STORM Working Group was paused due to the UOW Operations Workplace Change process and has been reconvened as the University's new organisational structure has been determined. Findings and recommendations from the STORM Working Group will be reported to Academic Senate for consideration ahead of further reporting to Council.

### **Chancellor's Report**

The Chancellor provided members with an update of key activities undertaken by the Chancellor and Council since the last Council meeting including the Vice-Chancellor Awards Ceremony, the University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Awards and the launch of UOW's new vision and strategy. The Chancellor also highlighted the Emerging Global Research Opportunities event hosted by the Distinguished Professor's Alliance as a great showcase of the significant impact of researchers from UOW and their global reach.

As part of the Chancellor's Report, Council also approved the 2026 University Council and Council Committee meeting dates, available to staff on the [staff intranet](#).

### **Further Reports Received**

Council also received the following reports and updates:

- A briefing on the University's Financial Framework and Structure
- The Vice-Chancellor's Report including the proposed new faculty bringing together the current faculties of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Business and Law, the 2024 QILT Student Experience Survey Results and an update on UOW's Liverpool Campus progress
- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- Council Committee of Appeal Report
- Finance and Infrastructure Committee Report
- Honorary Awards Committee Report
- Performance and Remuneration Committee Report
- Philanthropy Committee Report
- Program Control Board Report