



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 3 April 2020.

Due to the government's restrictions regarding the spread of COVID-19, Council members participated in the Council meeting on 3 April 2020 in person or via videoconference (Webex).

Election of Chancellor

Council elected Ms Christine McLoughlin to the position of Chancellor of the University. Ms McLoughlin is a highly respected business leader with extensive experience in CEO succession, Board renewal processes, capital and reputation management, strategy, and complex stakeholder engagement. Ms McLoughlin is currently the Chairman of Suncorp Group Limited, Venues NSW and the Minerva Network. Ms McLoughlin will commence in the role of Chancellor in the final quarter of 2020.

For more information about the appointment: <https://www.uow.edu.au/media/2020/new-chancellor-announced.php>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Council was updated on the work and planning being done in response to the large scale impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on University operations. Council was assured that UOW is continuing to follow all guidance and directions of the Commonwealth and NSW Governments while prioritising the health and wellbeing of its students, staff and communities in all aspects of its response to COVID-19.

The following matters were noted by Council:

- Transition to remote course delivery resulting in 1026 subjects prepared for online teaching including staff from all faculties training in technology enhanced learning techniques and arrangements for the small number of subjects that cannot be delivered online.
- Measures being implemented to assist students suffering disruption and financial hardship including: COVID-19 Financial Assistance Grant Scheme; Student Services and Amenities Fees being waived for the first half of 2020; and extension of enrolment deadline to Friday 3 April and deferral of Census date to 16 April 2020.
- The financial impact on the institution through reduced student numbers and the global downturn in investment returns.

For further information about COVID-19 response: <https://www.uow.edu.au/coronavirus/>

Recruitment of Vice-Chancellor

Following the recent announcement that the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings CBE, will retire on 30 June 2021, Council noted the recruitment process for the next Vice-Chancellor. The current Chancellor, Ms Jillian Broadbent AC will chair the selection committee, the membership of which will also include the Chancellor-elect, Ms Christine McLoughlin.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council about the following matters:

- Senior staff changes including Emeritus Professor Chris Cook as Acting Executive Dean and Ms Chelsea Hampel as Acting Director, Human Resources.
- The UNSW Aggregate Ranking of Top Universities (ARTU) system ranked UOW at 188 in the world which is a jump of 79 places over the past 8 years (267 in 2012). This result is a testament to the strategies put in place in relation to subject performance in the last ten year subject cycle.

- The University was recently awarded the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) Employer of Choice for Gender Equality citation.
- The UOW Crusaders Global Rugby Program was successfully launched on 27 February 2020.
- The NSWVCC, of which the Vice-Chancellor is Chair, has been meeting weekly to discuss specific issues across institutions, and the NSW Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education and the NSW Chief Medical Officer have been in attendance in some of those meetings. These collaborative forums have been valuable and important during this period.
- Building works are continuing on the Social Sciences and Arts building with a completion date of June 2020. The Molecular Horizons building is almost complete.
- April Graduation ceremonies have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Consideration is being given for a large scale celebration to be held in its place in 2021.
- The welcome ceremony for the Bachelor of Arts Western Civilisation scholars held on 24 February 2020 and hosted by the Chancellor was very well received by all in attendance including students, families, Ramsay representatives and University academic staff.
- University staff have made an extraordinary contribution towards the UOW Cares Bush Fire Appeal contributing over \$82,000, which was dollar matched by the University. This money will go directly to the NSW Rural Fire Service with other contributions going to other charities.
- The Health & Wellbeing Precinct project is ongoing. Progress of this project must continue, so that the University is in a position to quickly respond should government funding become available for initiatives such as this.
- The International Womens' Day celebratory event held in March and put together by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Jennifer L. Martin, was very successful with the launching of several activities, awards and programs.

Annual Financial Statements 2019

Council approved the 2019 Annual Financial Statements presented by the Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Operating Officer advised Council that the statements had been subjected to a rigorous process of review during their preparation and were supported by management representations and thorough consideration by the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2020. The financial statements will be published in the 2019 Annual Report and will be available on the UOW website once the report has been tabled in the NSW Parliament.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct Report

Council received the Academic Integrity and Misconduct Report 2019. Council endorsed the recommendations outlined in the report which aim to improve consistency of application of the Academic Misconduct (Coursework) Procedures and raise staff awareness of academic integrity.

Student Complaints and Appeals Report

Council received the Student Complaints and Appeals Report 2019 and endorsed the recommendations in the report which aim to improve complaints handling, complaints reporting and analysis.

Reports to Council

Council received updates on the following matters:

- UOW Governance Compliance Assessment 2019-2020;
- UOW Key Performance Indicators Report;
- UOW Finance Report for February 2020;
- Workplace Health and Safety Report for January and February 2020;
- Use of the UOW Common Seal;
- Report on activities, financial summary for 2019 and budget for 2020 from the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association and the Wollongong Postgraduate Student Association; and
- Student Advisory Council update.

Academic Senate

Council was advised that in light of the increasing concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19, the Academic Senate meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18 March 2020 was cancelled. All draft resolutions relating to business included in the 18 March 2020 agenda papers were handled via circular resolution through a questionnaire on the Senate Moodle site.

Council was also advised that Professor Greg Rose was elected unopposed to the position of Chair of Academic Senate for a two year term of office commencing 1 July 2020. The current Chair, Professor Wilma Vialle, will work with Professor Rose through the transition from the end of the current term to the commencement of the new term. Professor Rose will attend his first meeting of Council as Chair of Academic Senate in August 2020.

For more information about Academic Senate: <https://www.uow.edu.au/student/representatives/senate/>

Council Committee Business

Council received the unratified minutes of the 11 March 2020 meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) meeting. For more information about Council Committees:

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

UOW Policy Amendments

Council approved the Improper Sexual Conduct Response Policy, to be effective immediately. Council approved amendments to the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and the Coursework Rules.

These policies can be found on the UOW Policy Directory:

<https://documents.uow.edu.au/about/policy/index.html>

UOW Pulse Ltd

Council noted the changes to the UOW Pulse Ltd Constitution.

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, 12 June 2020.