THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COUNCIL MINUTES

The 418th meeting of the Council was held at 9.15am on Friday 21 February 2014 at University House, Common Room, Balmain Crescent, ANU campus, Canberra.

ANU Council:

Present:
The Chancellor, Professor Gareth Evans AC QC (in the Chair)
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young AO
Pro-Chancellor Ms Ilana Atlas
Professor John Close
Dr Vince FitzGerald
Ms Robin Hughes AO
Mr Matthew King
Ms Martine Letts
Professor Andrew MacIntyre
Dr Doug McTaggart
Mr David Miles AM
Mr Arjuna Mohottala
Mr Graeme Samuel AC
Professor Tim Senden
Mr Cameron Wilson

Apologies:
No apologies were received.

In attendance:

ANU Executive and Senior Management:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) – Professor Margaret Harding
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) – Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Research Training) – Professor Jenny Corbett
Pro-Vice Chancellor (International and Outreach) – Dr Erik Lithander
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Innovation and Advancement) – Professor Mick Cardew-Hall
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Student Experience) – Professor Richard Baker
Executive Director, Administration and Planning – Mr Chris Grange
Chief Financial Officer, Mr David Sturgiss
Chair, Academic Board, Professor Fiona Wheeler
Incoming Chair, Academic Board, Professor Nick Glasgow

Chancery staff:

Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor - Dr Liz Eedle
Director, Corporate Governance and Risk Office - Kate Molloy
Administrative Officer, Corporate Governance and Risk Office – Leslie McDonald

PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancellor welcomed to the 418th meeting of Council Professor Nick Glasgow, incoming Chair of Academic Board who will assume the chair in March, together with Professor Fiona Wheeler, outgoing Chair of Academic Board and Ms Kate Molloy, Director, Corporate Governance and Risk Office.
The Chancellor advised Council members that the meeting would be the final Council meeting attended by Professor Andrew MacIntyre who will soon leave ANU to take up his new position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) at RMIT University. The Chancellor recorded Council’s appreciation for services admirably rendered to ANU by Professor MacIntyre over the course of his tenure and wished him success in his appointment.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

No leave of absence was granted for this meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

No member disclosed a material personal interest in any matter on the agenda.

4. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

Item 24 – Progress Report on Student Enrolments was considered as part of the Vice-Chancellor’s report to Council under Agenda item 6.

The Chancellor noted that whilst Agenda item 13 – Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian universities – was unstarred, that attention to good governance remains a matter of considerable importance especially in light of Council’s deliberations in relation to membership.

Agenda item 8 – An additional paper was tabled following the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 20 February 2014. The paper provided the Committee’s recommendations in relation to membership of Council.

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Unstarred items were approved without discussion.

5. COUNCIL MINUTES

Council resolved to confirm

(a) the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013 (944/2013);
(b) the Council Resolution (4/2014) without a Meeting dated 3 January 2014.

PART 2: KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

6. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

The following were among the issues raised by the Vice-Chancellor in speaking to the report:

Health and Medical Research

The review, under the leadership of Professor Margaret Harding, of health and medical research at ANU has been a significant achievement, addressing six key action areas:

1. Governance and leadership
2. Strategic areas for research focus
3. Building capacity and enhancing research performance
4. Improved funding and support for researchers
5. Investment in research infrastructure
6. Education Programs
The review concludes that, over the next 5-10 years, if recommended strategies are implemented, ANU health and medical sciences will be characterised by the following indicators of success:

- High visibility and recognition of research and education activities in ANU health and medical sciences.
- Ongoing identifiable major contributions to individual and population health and well-being.
- A national assessment of health and medical research (by ERA) well above world standard in all areas submitted for assessment.
- An increased number of staff holding competitive Research Fellowships in the health and medical sciences.
- An increased share of national competitive research funding as well as increased performance in winning contract research, international and philanthropic sources of funding.
- A strong and integrated undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum in the health and medical sciences that attracts high-calibre students from both within and outside the ACT and which draws on contributions from scientists from all Schools comprising the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment.

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Student Enrolments

Student enrolments have been better than initially expected. In terms of the Domestic Postgraduate market, there has been an increase of 9% on last year; Domestic Undergraduate is up 7.6%; International Postgraduate Coursework is up 6%; and International Undergraduate is up 25%. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the hard work across the Admissions and College areas combined with a targeted program that has had a positive impact and positions the university well for the future. This year’s results show that by becoming more professional in marketing and recruitment, it is possible to grow load.

In relation to International students, current figures show that 70% of applications result in the offer of a place. However, the conversion rate of these offers is only approximately 25%. These figures highlight there is a huge upside to be gained by investing in processes to enhance the conversion of offers to acceptances.

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Go8

The Vice-Chancellor said that his appointment to chair the Go8 which will occupy significant slices of his time and involve an increased media presence. The first Go8 Board meeting for 2014 will take place during the week of 24 February.

Council noted the report of the Vice-Chancellor.

7. SALE OF LITHICON COMPANY

Professor Senden presented to Council an overview of the start-up of Lithicon. He reaffirmed that this has been one of the most significant commercialisation outcomes for the University and represents the culmination of 10 years’ work to establish the oil and gas industry consortium in the Department of Applied Mathematics, RSPE.

Council noted how two Universities, ANU and UNSW, have successfully collaborated to establish the start-up company and see it grow into an international operation worth US$68M in the space of 5 years. Central to this success was the collaborative spirit across a number of service units, in particular the Office of Commercialisation (now the
Alongside the sale, a separate license and research agreement has been struck between ANU and FEI that will lead to a future revenue stream based on the sale of the Heliscan scanner and associated funded research program. This link to the University is a key reason that Lithicon and FEI will strengthen their activity in Canberra.

The 10 year process is a story of how research can be strategically directed to foster both fundamental endeavours and also development of the pipeline for applied research. This is an opportunity to collate similar cases across campus to guide research groups down strategic paths to diversify funding.

Council noted the presentation, congratulated the team on the successful sale of Lithicon and noted the model of collaboration that has enabled innovation and scholarship to thrive, providing a platform for future similar endeavours at ANU.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

As required by the Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities adopted on 23 September 2011, Council discussed issues relating to the future composition of the Council.

The Chancellor summarised the extensive consultative process he had pursued with Council members, the Nominations Committee and the university’s leadership to bring together a list of exemplary candidates, with a short list being presented to Nominations Committee at its meeting of 20 February 2014, based on the Council’s previously endorsed succession plan and the following criteria:

- The need to ensure a level of continuity
- The importance of achieving gender equity
- The need for broader geographical representation, reflecting ANU’s national university status
- The imperative to have an indigenous member of Council by 2016.

Council members discussed the proposed field of new candidates, and agreed that it represented an excellent balance of experience, a sound skills mix and would contribute to gender balance. At the conclusion of discussions, Council extended its congratulations to the Chancellor and the Nominating Committee for its work for the resulting field which will add considerable value to the work of Council in the future.

9. COUNCIL MEETINGS 2014 AND 2015

Council noted 2014 meeting dates as already advised and approved 2015 meeting dates as being 20 February, 27 March, 29 May, 24 July, 2 October and 4 December 2015.

10. LEGISLATION

Resolved:
(i) that the following legislation be approved:

(ii) that the following legislation be noted:
Assessment Rules (No. 4) 2013 (7/2014)
Coursework Handbook Rules 2013 (27/2014)
Tuition Fees Order (No. 2) 2013 (28/2014)

11. WORONI CONSTITUTION

Council approved the ANU Student Media Incorporated Association (Woroni) Constitution (8/2014).

12. HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Council approved that Mr John Bryant be awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa on the ground of his outstanding contribution in the service of society (9/2014).

13. VOLUNTARY CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

Council confirmed the University’s conformance with the Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities for the 2013 reporting period (10/2014).

PART 4: OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

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15. DIRECTORSHIPS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Council noted the list of directorships and other relevant interests disclosed by Council members (12/2014).

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17. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE—SUMMARY OF MAJOR ITEMS CONSIDERED

Council noted the report.

18. POWER OF ATTORNEY

Council noted the list of transactions that the Investment Manager and the Acting Investment Manager exercised the Power of Attorney for the period 27 November 2013 and 14 January 2014 (15/2014)

19. UNIVERSITY SEAL REPORT

Council noted the document to which the University Seal had been affixed since the meeting of Council held on 6 December 2013.

20. ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT

Council noted the report from the meeting of the Academic Board held on 29 November 2013 (286/2013).

21. PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS APPROVALS 2013

Council noted the Prizes and Scholarships approved for 2013 (18/2014).
22. ANU MASTER’S PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE

Council noted the establishment of the ‘ANU Master’s Prize for Excellence’.

23. SIGNIFICANT VISITS AND EVENTS, GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

Council noted the report of significant visits and events, grants and consultancies since the last report to Council on 6 December 2013 (20/2014).

24. PROGRESS ON STUDENT ENROLMENTS 2014

Council noted this report was incorporated into the report of the Vice-Chancellor under Agenda item 6.

PART 5: OTHER BUSINESS

25. QUESTION TIME

There were no matters raised in Question Time.

26. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised.

27. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of Council will be held on 28 March 2014.

Date: ______________________

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC
Chancellor
The Australian National University

(**** indicates a removed item which is confidential to Council Members)