

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

### COUNCIL MINUTES

The 457<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council was held at 9:15am (AEST) on **Friday 3 April 2020** using video/tele conferencing facilities.

#### Members present:

The Chancellor, The Hon Julie Bishop (in the Chair)  
 The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC  
 The Pro-Chancellor, Ms Naomi Flutter  
 Dr Doug McTaggart  
 Professor Kate Reynolds  
 Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM  
 Professor Suzanne Cory AC  
 Professor Matthew Colless  
 Associate Professor Ben Corry  
 Mrs Claire Shrewsbury  
 Mr Utsav Gupta  
 Mr Lachlan Day

#### Apologies:

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AO  
 Mr Mike Baird

#### In attendance:

Chair, Academic Board - Professor Joan Leach (non-voting member of Council)  
 Chair, Audit & Risk Management Committee – Mr Geoff Knuckey  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) – Professor Keith Nugent  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) – Professor Grady Venville  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student & University Experience) – Professor Ian Anderson AO  
 Chief Operating Officer - Mr Paul Duldig  
 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Innovation) - Professor Michael Cardew-Hall  
 Pro Vice-Chancellor (International Strategy) – Professor Sally Wheeler  
 Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Experience) - Professor Tony Foley  
 Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) – Professor Royston Gustavson  
 Vice-President (Engagement and Global Relations) - Ms Jane O'Dwyer  
 Vice-President (Advancement) - Ms Barbara Miles  
 Chief Financial Officer - Mr Adam Black  
 Chief of Staff and Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor – Mr Chris Price  
 Director, Planning and Performance Measurement - Ms Richelle Hilton  
 Director, Human Resources - Dr Nadine White  
 Director, Facilities and Services – Ms Nicki Middleton  
 Deputy Chief Financial Officer – Ms Tracey McRoberts  
 Director Investment Office – Ms Mary Fallon  
 Senior Manager, Respectful Relationships Unit – Ms Sue Webeck

Council Secretary and Director, Corporate Governance and Risk Office - Mr Chris Reid  
 Associate Director, Corporate Governance and Risk Office - Mrs Megan Easton  
 Senior Governance Officer, Corporate Governance and Risk Office - Ms Leslie McDonald  
 Senior Governance Officer, Corporate Governance and Risk Office – Mr Greg Barry  
 Senior Auditor, Corporate Governance & Risk Office – Mr Christian Coelho

## **PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

### **1. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES**

Council noted the following:

- Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AO was an apology, leave having been granted on 13 February 2020.
- Mr Mike Baird was also an apology, having been called upon by his employer during the week to assist with managing the COVID-19 situation.
- This meeting was one of the last for the Professional Staff representative on Council, Mrs Claire Shrewsbury, whose two year term ends on 25 May 2020. The Chancellor, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mrs Shrewsbury for bringing a voice for professional staff to the Council table, for her support of students and the University campus via her membership to the Campus Planning Committee. An election process is underway for the next professional staff member.
- Chair, Academic Board: Professor Joan Leach was welcomed to her first Council meeting.
- The Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC), Mr Geoff Knuckey, joined the Council meeting, particularly to contribute to the items concerning the 2019 Annual Financial Statements, Audit and Risk matters and the COVID-19 discussion.
- New executive member - Professor Ian Anderson AO commenced this week in the new position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and University Experience) (See also Item 6).

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### **2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

No Council member sought a leave of absence for a future meeting.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST**

No member disclosed any material personal interest.

### **4. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA**

Council agreed:

- That all matters be dealt with on the agenda as proposed, and then focus the remainder of the meeting on Item 7: COVID-19.
- To consider together Items 8, 9, 23 and 26 concerning 2019 Annual Financial Statements and related Audit and Risk matters.
- To star the following additional items for discussion: Item 15 (2020 Student Enrolments) and Item 20 (Academic Governance Review Report 2019 – Implementation).

Council determined to proceed with the remainder of the agenda as proposed, with no further items being declared confidential or starred for discussion.

## **5. MINUTES**

### **Resolved**

Council approved:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 (2/2020); and
2. The outcomes of the Planning Days held on 13 and 14 February 2020 (11/2020).

## **PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

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### **Resolved**

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

### **7. COVID-19**

Council agreed to consider this item at the conclusion of all other business.

### **8. 2019 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNIVERSITY)**

### **9. 2019 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNIVERSITY SUBSIDIARIES)**

### **23. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **26. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2019 REPORT AND ACQUITTAL OF CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **Resolved**

Council:

1. Noted the overview (and presentation) of the University’s 2019 results;
2. Noted the report (memo) on the Audit and Risk Management Committee’s consideration of the Australian National University Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019;
3. Noted the Management Representation letter from the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer on the 2019 Financial Statements to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).
4. Subject to receipt of clearance from the ANAO:
  - (a) Adopted the Australian National University Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019;
  - (b) Authorised the Chancellor to sign the Council’s Representation letter to the Australian National Audit Office;
  - (c) Authorised the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer to sign the Statement by the Council that attaches to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

5. Noted the commentary and analysis on the 2019 financial results for the University's subsidiary entities and the Draft 2019 Annual Financial Statements for each subsidiary **(Item 9)**.
6. Noted ARMC Executives Summaries of its meetings of 5 February and 18 March 2020 **(Item 23)**.
7. Noted the ARMC report concerning its Charter responsibilities and internal audit activities for 2019 **(Item 26)**.
8. Authorised the ARMC to make adjustments to the Internal Audit Work Plan for 2020 to account for the impact of COVID-19 on the University's audit work, and report any significant changes to Council.

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### **PART 3 – STRATEGIC ISSUES**

#### **10. ACADEMIC PLAN – UPDATE**

##### **Resolved**

Council noted the update as outlined in the papers provided to Council members and that the COVID-19 discussion involved much from the academic port-folio.

### **PART 4 – OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION**

#### **11. COUNCIL COMMITTEES - MEMBERSHIP**

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##### **Resolved**

Council approved all re-appointments to Council Committees, as proposed.

#### **12. SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT REPORT 2019**

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##### **Resolved**

Council approved the Socially Responsible Investment Report for 2019, including its publication.

#### **13. 2019 PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS**

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##### **Resolved**

Council approved the University's 2019 Performance Statements for inclusion in the 2019 Annual Report.

#### **14. LAND ACQUISITION – ACTON (EXCHANGE PRECINCT)**

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##### **Resolved**

Council approved:

1. The purchase of three parcels of land in the Exchange Precinct in accordance with the Precinct Deed (between the ANU and ACT Government dated 21 December 2004); and
2. The further land acquisition in 2020 of site City Section 20, Blocks 2 and 3 subject to further negotiations with the ACT Government and a separate direct sale process.

#### **PART 5 – OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING**

#### **15. STUDENT ENROLMENTS 2020 - UPDATE**

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##### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

#### **16. REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENTS BY MINISTER**

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##### **Resolved**

Council noted the report from Nominations Committee.

#### **17. SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY (SVPS) – UPDATE**

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##### **Resolved**

Council noted the progress made against the new Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy 2019-2026.

#### **18. STUDENT SAFETY REPORT**

##### **Resolved**

Council noted the Student Safety report for the period January to February 2020.

#### **19. STAFF WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

##### **Resolved**

Council noted the WHS Performance Report for the period 1 January 2020 to 29 February 2020.

## **20. ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE REVIEW REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Council noted the update on the implementation of the accepted recommendations arising from the *Academic Governance Review 2019*.

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

## **21. ANU CASUAL WORKFORCE - REPORT**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

## **22. FINANCE COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 20 March 2020.

## **23 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the Executive Summaries from 18 March and 5 February 2020 (addressed as part of Item 8).

## **24. ACADEMIC BOARD – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Academic Board at its meeting of 17 March 2020.

## **25. FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2019 REPORT AND ACQUITTAL OF CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

## **26. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2019 REPORT AND ACQUITTAL OF CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Council noted the reports (addressed as part of Item 8).

## **27. CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2019 REPORT AND ACQUITTAL OF CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

## **28. EMERITUS PROFESSORS AND EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report.

## **29. GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report on grants and consultancies.

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## **30. POWER OF ATTORNEY**

### **Resolved**

Council noted there were no transactions over which the Investment Manager exercised Power of Attorney since the last Council meeting, on 13 February 2020.

## **31. LEGISLATION**

### **Resolved**

Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor approved the *Academic Board (Election of Members) Order 2020* on 24 February 2020.

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## **7. COVID-19**

The remainder of the meeting considered the University's response to the COVID-19 situation.

At the outset, Council appreciated the severity of the situation, and the enormity of the challenge presented by COVID-19 to protect the wellbeing of students, staff and research, and to preserve the financial position and reputation of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and the Executive presented a comprehensive analysis of the issues involved in managing COVID-19.

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### **Resolved**

Council:

1. Noted the University's response to COVID-19, thus far;
2. Noted the potential financial impact outlined in the presentation;

3. Approved proposed initial liquidity measures;
4. Approved the development of a financial strategy and associated next steps;
5. Established the Council's *COVID-19 Committee* for the purposes of supporting the University's response to COVID-19, and to advise Council, as described above; and
6. Noted that, pursuant to the Council Charter, the COVID-19 Committee required a Charter and that this was to be developed for Council consideration at the 1 May 2020 meeting.

## **PART 6 – OTHER BUSINESS**

### **33. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business raised at the meeting.

### **34. NEXT MEETING**

Council resolved to meet again on Friday 1 May 2020, at 9.15am (AEST) to further consider the University's response to and management of COVID-19.

Council also confirmed that its scheduled meeting of Friday 29 May 2020, beginning at 9.15am (AEST), would proceed as planned.

The meeting closed at 2.16 p.m.

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The Hon Julie Bishop  
Chancellor  
The Australian National University

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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