

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COUNCIL MINUTES

The 456th meeting of the Council was held at 11:00am on **Thursday 13 February 2020** in the Canberra Room, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra.

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 (via phone)
 Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AO
 Professor Kate Reynolds
 Mr Peter Yu
 Professor Suzanne Cory AC
 Professor Matthew Colless
 Associate Professor Ben Corry
 Mrs Claire Shrewsbury
 Mr Utsav Gupta
 Mr Lachlan Day

Apologies:

Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM
 Mr Mike Baird

In attendance:

Chair, Academic Board - Professor Jacqueline Lo (non-voting member, seated at Council table)
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) – Professor Keith Nugent
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) – Professor Grady Venville
 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
 Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) – Associate 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
 Director, Planning and Performance Measurement - Ms Richelle Hilton
 Director, Human Resources - Dr Nadine White
 Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor – Mr Chris Price

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 - Ms Aroosa Mehreen

PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Council noted the following:

- This was the first Council meeting in the Chair for the Hon Julie Bishop, 13th Chancellor of the Australian National University, since commencing her three year term on 1 January 2020.
- Critical incidents - the venue for the Council meeting was moved from the RC Mills Room, Chancelry on account of the extensive damage caused to the building, and many other buildings on campus, by the hailstorm on Monday 20 January 2020.

Council also noted that while the bushfires were now mostly extinguished and the smoke gone, the effect of these events, plus the hailstorm and the coronavirus (COVID-19), have presented significant and longer term challenges for staff and students, and that these matters continue to be managed as priorities for the University. The Chancellor, on behalf of Council, acknowledged and thanked the University's leadership and the entire ANU community for its magnificent response to such a challenging few months.

- The Chancellor reported that she was delighted to join the Vice-Chancellor on stage for the annual State of the University Address on 7 February 2020, and especially so for the announcement of the University's long term commitment to the new Kambri Scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait students, as approved by Council on 6 December 2019.

- Provost – as foreshadowed at the meeting of 6 December 2019, the Provost, Professor Mike Calford, retired on 31 January 2020.
- Performance Audit of the ANU – the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) have commenced a process of information gathering in order to recommend to the Auditor-General that a Performance Audit of the ANU be conducted in 2020. The University has been assisting with this process and will keep Council up to date should the audit proceed and as it develops.
- Chair, Academic Board - Professor Jacqueline Lo was appointed to the University of Adelaide as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and, as a result, will be stepping down from her role as Chair on 14 February 2020. The matter of Professor Lo's successor is addressed at agenda item 9.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr Peter Yu and Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AO were granted leave for the 3 April 2020 meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

No member disclosed any material personal interest.

4. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

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

5. MINUTES

Resolved

Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2019 to be a true and accurate record.

PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

6. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Resolved

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor's report.

VICE-CHANCELLORSHIP

Resolved

Council unanimously re-appointed Professor Brian P Schmidt AC for five years, from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

PART 3 – STRATEGIC ISSUES

These were considered as part of the Council's Planning Days, held over 13 and 14 February 2020.

PART 4 – OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION

7. CORPORATE PLAN 2020

Resolved

Council:

1. Approved the ANU Strategic Plan 2020-2023 as the Corporate Plan for 2020, as required by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; and
2. Authorised its transfer to the relevant Ministers, and subsequent publishing.

8. HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Resolved

Council approved the award of Honorary Degrees.

9. CHAIR – ACADEMIC BOARD

The Vice-Chancellor recommended to Council the appointment of Professor Joan Leach as the Chair of the Academic Board.

Resolved

That Council:

1. Appointed Professor Joan Leach in accordance with subsection 11(2) of the *Academic Board Rule 2017*, as the Chair of the Academic Board for the period 15 February 2020 until 14 February 2022; and
2. Noted the practice whereby a person will ordinarily be appointed as Chair of the Academic Board for two terms of two-years (four years total); and
3. Approved the revised Academic Board Charter to reflect the new consultation protocol introduced in 2019.

10. ANU MELBOURNE OFFICE – REPORT 2019 AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020

Resolved

Council:

1. Noted the ANU Melbourne Office 2019 report; and
2. Approved the Melbourne Engagement Strategy 2020.

PART 5 – OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

12. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - REPORT

Resolved

Council noted the report from the Nominations Committee.

13. SKILLS MATRIX 2020 – COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Resolved

Council noted the updated ANU Council and Council Committee Skills Matrix for reference by the Nominations Committee.

14. STRATEGIC PLAN – EVALUATION 2019 – EXECUTIVE AND COLLEGE PLANS REPORTS

Council received 2019 progress reports as measured against the ANU Strategic Plan, as outlined in the papers presented to Council members.

Resolved

Council noted:

1. The University's performance against the KPIs included in the ANU Strategic Plan;
2. The progress reports for the six Executive Plans, six College Strategic Priorities and the ANU Reconciliation Action Plan that underpin the Strategic Plan; and
3. That progress made against the Strategic Plan and future planning will be discussed in detail during Session 1 of the Council's Planning Days, beginning at the conclusion of the Council meeting.

15. STUDENT SAFETY REPORT

Resolved

Council noted the Student Safety report for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 December 2019.

16. WORKERS COMPENSATION SELF-INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Resolved

Council noted the Self-Insurance Annual Report 2019.

17. STAFF WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS) - ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Resolved

Council noted the WHS Annual Report for 2019.

18. VOICE SURVEY 2018 – ACTION PLAN – UPDATE

Resolved

Council noted the progress made against selected Action Plan items concerning the VOICE ANU Staff Engagement Survey of 2018.

19. ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - UPDATE

Resolved

Council noted the progress made towards the development of the Transformational Leadership Program.

20. ACADEMIC BOARD – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Resolved

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Academic Board at its meeting of 3 December 2019.

21. ACADEMIC BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Resolved

Council noted the Academic Board Annual Report for 2019.

23. EMERITUS FACULTY – ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Resolved

Council noted the Annual Report for 2019 from the Emeritus Faculty.

24. 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 6 December 2019.

26. SIGNIFICANT VISITS AND EVENTS, GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

Resolved

Council noted the reports of significant visits and events, grants and consultancies.

27. LEGISLATION

Resolved

Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor had approved the *Academic Progress Rule 2019*.

PART 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

28. OTHER BUSINESS

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION

Following discussion, Council resolved to adopt and publish the following resolution:

The ANU Council:

- Recognises that the ANU community has had to deal with multiple severe events this summer including bushfires, smoke and a hailstorm, that have threatened the health and lives of staff, students and our communities, and impacted our environment, while also affecting the operation of the University;
- Accepts that these unprecedented severe events have been exacerbated by climate change as ANU scientists, amongst others, have long predicted and warned; and
- Agrees that ANU needs to respond to these challenges with a continued focus on world-leading climate research, coupled with effective actions to minimise and adapt to climate change.

The ANU Council therefore recognises the urgency of action to address the growing climate challenge, to which the University will respond collectively, using the resources at its disposal, in order to:

- Ameliorate the impact of these events on staff and students;
- Adapt to and mitigate the changing climate and its consequences, including by minimising the University's greenhouse gas emissions footprint through its own operations (in line with commitments to be greenhouse gas negative as soon as possible) and further reducing the emissions intensity of its investment portfolio;

- Further strengthen our world-leading climate research, and to deploy this to inform and support the development of policies and initiatives that will effectively deal with climate change at both national and international levels; and
- Speak strongly in public, and work with industry and government, to address the dangers of inaction on climate change and the benefits and opportunities of effective, strategic action on climate change.

29. NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on 3 April 2020, at the ANU, in Canberra.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor
The Australian National University

Date: _____

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