

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

### COUNCIL MINUTES

The 459<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council was held at 9:15am (AEST) on **Friday 29 May 2020** using video/tele conferencing facilities.

#### Members present:

The Chancellor, The Hon Julie Bishop (Chair)  
 The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC  
 The Pro-Chancellor, Ms Naomi Flutter  
 Dr Doug McTaggart  
 Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AO (until 10.17am)  
 Mr Mike Baird  
 Professor Kate Reynolds  
 Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM  
 Professor Suzanne Cory AC  
 Professor Matthew Colless  
 Associate Professor Ben Corry  
 Mr Peter Yu  
 Mr Lachlan Day  
 Mr Utsav Gupta

#### Apology

Ms Caterina Giugovaz

#### In attendance:

Chair, Academic Board - Professor Joan Leach (non-voting member of Council)

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  
 Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) - Professor Royston Gustavson  
 Vice-President (Engagement and Global Relations) - Ms Jane O'Dwyer  
 Vice-President (Advancement) - Ms Barbara Miles  
 Interim Chief Financial Officer - Ms Anna Tsikouris  
 Program Director, Financial Health Strategy - Mr Tim Youngberry  
 Chief of Staff and Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor - Mr Chris Price  
 Chief Information Security Officer - Mr Suthagar Seevaratnam (for item 13)  
 Director, Planning and Performance Measurement - Ms Richelle Hilton (for item 8)  
 Director, Human Resources - Dr Nadine White (for item 16)  
 Senior Manager, Respectful Relationships Unit - Ms Sue Webeck (for item 15)  
 Senior Strategic Advisor - Strategic Communications and Public Affairs - Ms Jo White (for Item 8)

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

## **PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

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

Council noted the following:

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- This meeting was the last for Mr Peter Yu, appointed by the Minister for Education for four years from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2020. Mr Yu, the Council's Indigenous representative, will be joining the ANU in the Executive role of Vice-President (First Nations) from 1 July 2020. In this capacity, Mr Yu will also become the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS). On behalf of the Council, the Chancellor thanked Mr Yu for bringing a trusted voice to Council deliberations, and especially for helping the University meet its national responsibilities to Indigenous Australia.
- The former Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr Adam Black, left the University on 8 May 2020, with his leadership of ANU financial management for the past 2.5 years acknowledged by Council Committees at their May 2020 meetings. Council also acknowledged Mr Black's service and wished him well in all of his future endeavours. Ms Anna Tsikouris, who joined the University during the week, has been appointed as the Interim CFO (Mr Tim Youngberry had performed this role in recent weeks and will now continue to focus on implementing the Financial Health Strategy).
- On 7 May 2020, the Socially Responsible Investment Report for 2019 was published on the ANU website.

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- On 28 May 2020, the Chancellor wrote to the Auditor General for Australia, Mr Grant Hehir, to provide feedback from the ANU with respect to the Australian National Audit Office Annual Audit Work Plan for 2020-21. In this correspondence, the University requested that - should the audit proceed in the coming financial year – it commence as late as possible in 2020-21. This will provide the best opportunity for the University to manage the COVID-19 situation this year, with a view to then making relevant senior staff, members of Council and its Committees and other supporting officers available to support the audit at that time.

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

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

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

Council noted that Mr Mike Baird no longer works at the National Australia Bank.

No other 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**

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### **Resolved**

Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2020 as amended at the meeting (66/2020).

## **PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

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### **Resolved**

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

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### **7. COVID-19 – FINANCIAL HEALTH STRATEGY**

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### **Resolved**

Council:

1. Noted the progress made in developing the Financial Health Strategy since approving it on 3 April 2020;
2. Endorsed the approach taken to implement the Financial Health Strategy;
3. Noted the COVID-19 Risk Register;
4. Noted the White Paper on the implementation of the Expenditure Control Framework; and
5. Delegated authority to the Vice-Chancellor to execute EA changes as may be required, including in consultation with the COVID-19 Committee.

## **PART 3 – STRATEGIC ISSUES – PART OF ITEM 7**

Council noted that Strategic Issues, usually delivered at each Council meeting in the form of a portfolio presentation from a member of the Executive, has in 2020 been broadly captured as part of COVID-19 reporting instead.

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

### **8. ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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### **Resolved**

Council:

1. Approved the Annual Report for 2019; and

2. Thanked University officials and particularly the Audit and Risk Management Committee for its work to support, scrutinise and endorse for Council the complex Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statements which form key components of the Annual Report for 2019.

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## **10. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP UNDER THE NEW ANU ACT AND INTERNAL ELECTIONS 2020**

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### **Resolved**

Council noted that:

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That internal elections should proceed in mid-2020 for the three academic staff positions on Council as scheduled under current legislative arrangements, with their two year terms commencing on 30 September 2020.

## **11. ANU FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

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

## **12. ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANU INDIGENOUS ACTIVITIES AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSES**

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### **Resolved**

Council:

1. Noted the annual independent review of the University's Indigenous activities, and concurrent review of Indigenous recruitment.
2. Endorsed the proposed management responses to the two reports.

## **13. INFORMATION SECURITY - UPDATE**

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### **Resolved**

Council noted the update.

## **14. CECS RE-IMAGINE – PROGRESS REPORT 1/2020**

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**Resolved**

Council noted:

1. The progress made since the CECS Re-imagine Project was approved by Council on 7 December 2018;
2. The manner in which the Re-imagine Project has adapted its planning and management in response to COVID-19;
3. The CECS Re-imagine Risk Register; and
4. That the Dean, CECS will present the next update in person on 4 December 2020.

**15. STUDENT SAFETY REPORT**

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**Resolved**

Council noted the Student Safety report (March and April 2020).

**16. STAFF WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

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**Resolved**

Council noted the Work Health and Safety Performance Report for the period 1 January to 30 April 2020.

**17. AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE OVER \$10 MILLION – REPORT**

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**18. COVID-19 COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Resolved**

Council noted the summary of items considered by the Committee at the following meetings since being established by Council on 3 April 2020:

- 9 April
- 20 April
- 27 April
- 18 May.

**19. CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Resolved**

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Campus Planning Committee at its meeting of 28 April 2020.

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

### **Resolved**

Council discussed and noted the summary of major items considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 8 May 2020.

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

### **Resolved**

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Committee at its meeting of 13 May 2020.

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

### **Resolved**

Council noted the summary of major items considered by the Academic Board at its meeting of 5 May 2020.

## **23. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS GENOMICS – ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the 2019 Annual Report for the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics, as required under the *National Centre for Indigenous Genomics Statute 2016*.

## **24. SIGNIFICANT VISITS AND EVENTS, GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES**

### **Resolved**

Council noted the report on Grants and Consultancies, and that the Significant Visits and Events report has not been produced during the COVID-19 period, but will as soon as this function returns to the University.

## **25. POWER OF ATTORNEY**

### **Resolved**

Council noted there were no transactions signed under Power of Attorney by the Investment Manager since the last meeting of Council, on 1 May 2020.

## **26. LEGISLATION**

### **Resolved**

Council noted that no new legislation was approved by the Vice-Chancellor since the last meeting of Council, on 1 May 2020.

## 27. UNIVERSITY SEAL REPORT

### Resolved

Council noted there were no documents to which the University Seal was affixed since the meeting of Council on 1 May 2020.

## PART 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

### 28. OTHER BUSINESS

In discussion Council noted that:

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- Members were invited to National Reconciliation Week virtual event beginning at 1.30pm via zoom. The event included the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor.

### 29. NEXT MEETING

Council confirmed that its next scheduled meeting would proceed as planned, on Friday 31 July 2020, beginning at 9.15am (AEST), via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm (AEST)

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The Hon Julie Bishop  
Chancellor  
The Australian National University

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

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