

Joint Communiqué to UNE staff from the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor

It is extremely pleasing for us both to report on an outstanding Planning Retreat held by the UNE Council on 20 and 21 February 2009.

Council members had the opportunity to consider significant policy initiatives being developed by the Senior Management team and staff. Council heard impressive presentations about progress being made by the University in meeting the objectives of the University's Strategic Plan. Council also learnt of developments and opportunities in the University-wide strategy for developing the distinctiveness of UNE in teaching and research, our international strategies, issues in the Bradley review, and how we are benchmarked against other universities.

Particular acknowledgment should be given to Professor Graham Webb, Professor Margaret Sedgley, Professor Victor Minichiello, Ms Eve Woodberry and Mr Chris Patton (and his staff) for presenting the exciting opportunities that exist before UNE to capitalise on over the coming years. Professor Cooksey also contributed effectively to our discussions.

In addition, Council was able to work through a range of governance issues that will contribute to clarification of rules and responsibilities and enhanced processes to streamline Council business. This will allow Council to focus on policy development and core activities.

The communication between members of Council and staff was highly engaged and constructive and the Retreat has forged a strong partnership approach to the development and implementation of University business.

The proposals for development of UNE will be provided to staff for consultation over the coming few months. The proposals involve setting clear direction for the University in the context of the Bradley Report, utilising strategic initiatives currently underway and capitalising on enhanced technologies.

The establishment of the position of Legal Counsel and Council Secretary is already facilitating clear communication between the Chancellor's Unit and the Vice-Chancellor's Office and will enhance the Council's governance and business processes. This initiative is additional to the strong working relationship that we have developed together.

Council members were really pleased to be able to talk with other staff over lunch on the first day of the Retreat and to hear the enthusiasm, energy and constructive contributions from all staff and each Council member which will position the University to make great strides in 2009.

There is no doubt that the whole Council has been energised by this Retreat and by its increased understanding of the excellent work being undertaken at UNE to enable it to reach its full potential as a leading research and teaching institution.



The Hon Richard Torbay
Chancellor



Professor Alan Pettigrew
Vice Chancellor and CEO

22 February 2008