

OPEN Council Minutes – 25 May 2018 (2:2018)



Minutes for the Open session of the second University of New England Council meeting for 2018, held at 8:30 am, Friday 25 May 2018, in the Council Room, Booloominbah and by video conference.

PRESENT

Mr J Harris (*Chancellor and Chair*)
Ms J McClelland (*Deputy Chancellor*)
Prof A Duncan (*Vice-Chancellor*)
Prof M Perry (*Acting Chair of Academic Board*)
Prof M Sims
Dr J Hobbs
Dr R Muldoon
Mr D van Aanholt
Mr R Evans
Mr R Finch
Mr C Hebblewhite
Ms R Leamon
Ms C Millis
Ms A Myers
Ms M Symons – *via video conference*

IN ATTENDANCE

Prof M Choct (*Pro Vice-Chancellor External Relations*)
Prof P Creamer (*Chief Operating Officer*)
Prof H Daniel (*Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research*)
Prof J Powles (*Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation*)
Prof T Walker (*Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor*)
Mr K Kauffmann (*Chief Financial Officer*)
Mrs G Price (*Deputy University Secretary*), *minute recorder*
Ms J Croaker (*Secretariat Officer*)
Prof A Murphy (Dean, SABL) – *speaking to item 3.1*
Prof C Gross (Deputy Dean, SABL) – *present for item 3.1*

1. * MEETING OPENING AND WELCOME COMMENTS

The Chancellor and Chair, Mr James Harris welcomed everyone to the open session of Council including Professor Mark Perry, Acting Chair of Academic Board and Professor Aron Murphy, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law (SABL), and Professor Caroline Gross, Deputy Dean of the Faculty (SABL) who would be speaking to item 3.1 on today's agenda.

1.1. * Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land we call New England and showed respect to their Elders past and present.

1.2. * Apologies

Mr Brendan Peet, Chief Legal and Governance Officer, was an apology.

1.3. * Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosures

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.4. Disclosed Register of Interest

Council members were asked to update their Disclosed Register of Interest to the Secretariat as necessary.

1.5. * Order of Business (including adoption of non-starred items)

Council ACCEPTED the Order of Business and that non-starred items be adopted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting held on 16 March 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2018 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 18 May 2018. Once signed, these minutes will be available for viewing in the Council Document Library on Convene.

2.2. * Matters Arising

The Chancellor noted that there was only one outstanding matter and that the CLGO was awaiting a response from UNESA with regard to this matter.

Meeting/Item #	Action	Status
28 July 2017, Item 3.1. UNE Students Association Report to Council #17181	The Chief Legal and Governance Officer agreed to write to the new UNESA Board regarding a number of suggestions for the new UNESA Constitution.	In progress. Have been in touch with UNESA and awaiting further discussions regarding a possible Student Senate at UNE.
16 March 2018, Item 5.1 * Approval of Annual Report (Year Ended 31 December 2017) #18116	The Vice-Chancellor was asked to talk to the Diversity Framework 2017 at the next Council meeting.	Complete. Referred to within the VC's Open report to Council.
16 March 2018, Item 5.1 * Approval of Annual Report (Year Ended 31 December 2017) #18116	The Chief Financial Officer was asked to review the Annual Reporting obligations and advise if the table as presented was required.	Complete. Obligations are for budget and variance. Structural analysis optional though agreed to submit annual report as per draft.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. * University Activities in Focus #18190

The Chancellor welcomed Professors Murphy and Gross from the Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law (SABL) to the Council meeting.

Professor Murphy thanked the Council for the opportunity to present on some of the key activities and operational priorities of the new Faculty.

Professor Murphy referred to his presentation and a collage of pictures of Faculty staff teaching and researching, explaining it was the staff that 'made' the Faculty. To demonstrate some of the Faculty's recent achievements and ongoing outreach with community and industry, he spoke to Council about:

- Associate Professor Andrew Robson's work in productive feed systems in Uganda (involving engagement with the community, developing remote sensors and whole program is funded and supported by the World Bank);
- Dr Kirsti Abbott's positive work with the Discovery team, noting the program is attracting donations and Kirsti has also been selected to undertake a professional development opportunity overseas; and
- Dr Peter McGilchrist's exciting work in identifying genetic meat markers, which has recently attracted a significant grant;
- UNE's work on the 'Turtles Forever' program to help save the Bell's Turtle;
- the exciting palaeontology work within the School of Environmental and Rural Science;
- the positive engagement of Associate Professor Cedrick Gondro with the community including the Northern Livestock Council;
- the work to review teaching and learning underway by Dr Lou Conway in Business/Law; and
- the progress being made by the Brain Behaviour research group.

Professor Murphy spoke of the strength of the new Faculty leadership team, noting that the team members were practising academics in fields of teaching or research who were prepared to put the University and other staff first, and to demonstrate this positive culture to others. He referred to Deputy Dean Professor Caroline Gross, one of two UNE persons on the Excellence in Research Australia assessment panel; noted the strength in science and research brought by Professor Nick Reid's return to the Faculty as head of ERS; as well as the energy and contributions from Professor Lillian Corbin and Associate Professor Linda Agnew. He explained that the Faculty was committed to ongoing staff development referring, by way of example, to Dr Romina Rader who had commenced at UNE as a Level B academic, and is now a Level C, leading a dynamic team of 16 research persons in the Botany discipline area.

Professor Murphy explained that a key strength of the Faculty was the rural properties which acted as a 'living laboratory' on the University's doorstep. In terms of progress towards operational targets and academic innovation, he highlighted:

- the development of the new data science program, with an initial launch involving a small number of students (14 EFTSL);
- that a focused redevelopment of UNE's Computer Science courses has seen UNE move from the possibility that some of its courses might not have been re-registered in 2013, to having a new Masters program considered by some as a benchmark for the sector;
- that positive teamwork in the Law discipline has seen three new programs approved this year to commence in Trimester 2. These programs have gone from idea to a demonstrated value proposition and some will be first-in-country to offer optional practical legal training;
- recent active partner engagements such as the involvement of the Faculty with TAFE in a tractor simulator project;
- the introduction of new support programs, such as 'Maple' and 'Matrix' to help students such as those studying nursing and teaching, to help students develop

foundation STEM skills, and work with Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA);

- that the Faculty had experienced increasing numbers of Higher Degree Research (HDR) student numbers (from 330 at the beginning of the year, to around 400 by year's end), and while this was positive, it also created challenges in terms of supervisor planning;
- the introduction of new pathways and support for PhD and Masters students, to help ensure that students have early or alternate exit options available to them;
- a new informatics course, the development of which has had the support of the PVCER and PVCAI. Also, options for a Bachelor of Technology offered to international students, with the first year online in country, a year at Parramatta and a 3rd year in Armidale;
- the development of international student pathways including with Hainan Agricultural University in China to engage undergraduate students in agriculture and environment – mentioning a pilot program involving around 9 fully funded PhD students in Armidale;
- the Faculty's ability to develop research programs such as the Indo Beef Research program, is an example of UNE 'punching above its weight', citing also a recent report listing UNE as the 3rd highest university for attracting funding from industry (and the Faculty's aim to help UNE be number 1);
- the new programs strategy aimed at offering students entry options, including: 'aspirational' students who access pathway and foundation courses to help transition to study; 'professional' students meeting entry requirements; and 'fellowship students' leveraging existing experience and previous study and interested in skilling up for the future;
- the Monarch Agreement which is providing pathways for financial planners, and an example of the Faculty's ability to undertake responsive course development;
- progress in partnerships (eg, Livestock Productivity Partnerships with MLA with UNE having a share of \$50m research agreements; new industry collaboration with the World Meteorological organisation; and Urban Agricultural Foods CRC); and
- UNE's strategic decision to move into horticulture to complement its current expertise in agriculture, and building on solid botany, ecology and pollinators expertise.

Professor Murphy spoke of the new model of engagement of Faculty and Corporate Services areas, providing the example of the faculty having an ITD Business Development Manager on site for a number of days a week. This is helping ITD understand the needs of the Faculty and for Faculty staff to also understand what is possible.

In terms of key areas for the future, Professor Murphy highlighted the importance of the new Science precinct and continued focus on students (developing peer mentors; study plans and improved pathway options to help students succeed and also to keep the students we have).

On behalf of the Council, the Chancellor congratulated the Dean of SABL on the achievements and work in progress in the Faculty and thanked Professor Murphy and Deputy Dean, Professor Caroline Gross, for today's presentation.

Council NOTED the University Activities in Focus presentation from the SABL Faculty for the May meeting, report #18190.

4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

4.1. * Chancellor's Open Report to Council #18163

Council NOTED the Chancellor's report to Council, #18163.

4.2. * Vice-Chancellor's Report #18207

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annabelle Duncan, took the report as read highlighting also that

- UNE was now able to teach from Parramatta, with confirmation from TEQSA that UNE Sydney has been registered as a campus;
- UNE was now offering financial planning degrees, a program which is attracting full fee paying students interested in upskilling to support career development; and
- she had recently been approached by a livestock breeder who confirmed from his perspective how UNE, through the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) BreedPlan program, had benefited his business and the industry generally, suggesting that the impact of cumulative selective breeding had meant gains of around \$7 per cow per kg had been achieved for many years.

A member referred to the Diversity report and commented that this was at a macro level, querying if there were variations across Faculties or Schools.

ACTION: The Vice-Chancellor was asked to provide further detail regarding diversity outcomes at Faculty or School level.

The meeting discussed that UNE was doing well in a number of diversity areas, with positive support of many disabilities in the work force. The Vice-Chancellor spoke of the work of the Brain Behaviour group, UNE's engagement with Pathfinders and disadvantaged youth and mental health, and UNE's involvement with the Victorian division of the Specific Learning Difficulties (SPELD) Association, including being a university of choice for students with dyslexia. Professor Duncan explained the importance of UNE's social contract to help provide opportunities for all students. The Vice-Chancellor also noted that accessibility on campus was a key priority considered in the Campus Master Plan. The Vice-Chancellor explained that a diversity working group had been set up to consider priorities for changes, including to systems and solutions.

A member queried the opportunities for women and suggested gender imbalance remained at some levels. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that no staff member was paid less than the job classification under which they were employed.

The Deputy Chancellor, Ms Jan McClelland complimented the Vice-Chancellor on the work in progress at UNE at the Faculty level, in terms of UNE systems and in the changes being put in place such as the registration of UNE Sydney, suggesting also that these activities were opportunities to showcase what UNE is doing.

Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open report to Council, #18207.

4.3. * Chair of Academic Board Report #18121

The Chancellor and Chair invited the Acting Chair of Academic Board, Professor Mark Perry, to speak to this report.

Professor Perry acknowledged that the report from the 19 April meeting of the Academic Board had been substantially prepared by the former Chair, Professor Reid, and also included were some recent matters considered by the Academic Board Standing Committee. Professor Perry took the report as read and asked for questions.

A member referred to the discussion by the Academic Board on the topic of 'retention are we doing enough' and in particular the market scan of some initiatives being explored by other universities in this space. It was noted that UNE had been at the forefront of such programs (including, for example, having in place a university-wide peer support program) many years ago, had attracted numerous awards and had been used as model for the sector. The member queried the University processes that allowed such programs to be discontinued, and the meeting discussed the creation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation role to champion UNE's return to leadership in these areas.

Professor Perry explained that Council was being asked to approve the terms of reference for the Academic Board Standing Committee (endorsed and recommended to Council by the Academic Board) and also agree to approve the minor amendments to the Meetings clause of the Curriculum Committee terms of reference (these amendments having recently been endorsed and recommended to Council by the Academic Board Standing Committee).

Council:

- 1) NOTED the Chair of Academic Board Open report to Council, #18121(1);
- 2) APPROVED the revised Terms of Reference for Academic Board Standing Committee, which were ENDORSED and RECOMMENDED to Council by the Academic Board, #18121(2); and
- 3) APPROVED a minor amendment to Meetings clause of the Terms of Reference for the new Curriculum Committee, as endorsed and recommended to the Council by the Academic Board Standing Committee, #18121(3).

5. STRATEGIC MATTERS

5.1. Council Member Elections, #18233

Council NOTED the schedule for Council elections for 2018, report #18233

5.2. * UNE Alumni Association, #18179

The Chancellor explained that the Council was being asked to disestablish the Standing Committee of Convocation, in favour of the UNE Alumni Association.

To a member query regarding the reasons for this change, it was advised that this matter related to an earlier Council decision for the Convocation function to be a management committee reporting to the Vice-Chancellor, while retaining links to the Council through Council members. The new UNE Alumni Association and its standing committee, would be run out of the Office of Advancement at UNE which has daily contact with alumni and is in the process of developing Alumni Chapters both in Australia and overseas.

The Chancellor requested that those continuing graduate members of the UNE Council, consider if they would be prepared to nominate as members of the UNE Alumni Association Standing Committee and to email him in this regard.

Council:

- 1) NOTED the report regarding the UNE Alumni Association Standing Committee, report #18179;
- 2) Requested nominations for membership of the UNE Alumni Association Standing Committee for a four year term (subject to continued Council membership), two Council members who are UNE graduates; and
- 3) APPROVED the disestablishment of the Standing Committee of Convocation.

6. GENERAL ITEMS

There were no general items.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no items of general business

8. MEETING FINALISATION

8.1. Work Plan

Council NOTED the 2018 Open Council work plan, #18113.

8.2. * Next Meeting

The next open meeting of Council is scheduled for 27 July 2018 and will be held in the Council Room, Booloominbah.

8.3. * Meeting Close

The Chair declared the open session of Council closed at 9.56 am.

Signed by:


Chair

19 JULY 2018
Date