

# OPEN Council Minutes – 23 November 2018 (5:2018)



Minutes of the Open session of the fifth University of New England Council meeting for 2018, held at 8:30 am, Friday 23 November 2018, in the Council Room, Booloominbah and by teleconference.

## PRESENT

Mr J Harris (*Chancellor and Chair*)  
Ms J McClelland (*Deputy Chancellor*)  
Prof A Duncan (*Vice-Chancellor & CEO*) – *via teleconference*  
Prof M Perry (*Chair of Academic Board*)  
Assoc. Prof R Scully  
Mr D van Aanholt  
Mr R Evans  
Mr R Finch  
Mr C Hebblewhite  
Ms R Leamon  
Ms A Myers  
Ms L Quiddington  
Ms M Symons

## IN ATTENDANCE

Prof M Choct (*Pro Vice-Chancellor External Relations*) – *leaving early*  
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*)  
Mr B Peet (*Chief Legal and Governance Officer*)  
Mrs G Price (*Deputy University Secretary*), *minute recorder*  
Ms Jennifer Croaker (*Secretariat Officer*)

## 1. \* MEETING OPENING AND WELCOME COMMENTS

Following the pre-meeting *in camera* discussion, the Chair and Chancellor, Mr James Harris, welcomed members and attendees to the open session of Council, particularly new Council Member, student representative Ms Louise Quiddington. He also expressed his congratulations on behalf of Council to the Vice-Chancellor Annabelle Duncan having been appointed a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering.

### 1.1. \* Acknowledgement of Country

The members acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land called New England and showed respect to their Elders past and present.

### 1.2. \* Apologies

There were no apologies.

**1.3. \* Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

Ms Jan McClelland declared a conflict with item 3.1, election of the Deputy Chancellor.

**1.4. Disclosed Register of Interest**

Council members are 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.

**1.6. \* Introduction by Incoming Council Member – Louisa Quiddington**

Ms Louisa Quiddington introduced herself to the Council, noting that she was currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Psychology degree at UNE. Ms Quiddington explained she was interested in ensuring that UNE students were part of the decision making through her voice on the Council. Ms Quiddington explained that she had family connections in Armidale, she had previously been a resident of St Albert's college and studying on-campus, was currently studying externally from Sydney and was looking forward to being involved with the Council.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**2.1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2018 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 16 November 2018. These minutes are available for viewing in the 'Council Minutes' Document Library.

**2.2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

*[Ms Jan McClelland left the meeting]*

**3.1. \* Election - Deputy Chancellor #18178**

The Chief Legal and Governance Officer, and Returning Officer, Mr Brendan Peet explained that following a call for nominations from Council members, one completed nomination for Ms Jan McClelland had been received, and that the recommendation was to elect Ms McClelland.

Council ELECTED Ms Jan McClelland as the Deputy Chancellor for a further two years from end November 2018 to end November 2020, or until such time as Ms McClelland's term on the Council ends, whichever is sooner, as per report #18178.

*[Ms Jan McClelland returned to the meeting]*

Council members congratulated Ms Jan McClelland on her reappointment as Deputy Chancellor for a further term.

## **4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **4.1. \* Chancellor's Open Report to Council #18160**

The Chancellor advised that Mr Stephen Gerlach AM, Chancellor of Flinders University, was the new Chair of the Universities Chancellor's Council (UCC). He noted that some of the matters discussed by UCC and at the recent 'National Conference on University Governance conference' included: the level of reliance on international students at some universities, increasing geopolitical issues as a risk factor, lessons from Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) investigations in South Australia and the productivity commissions report into universities.

The Chancellor noted that consistent with the findings from the independent audit on Freedom of Speech conducted in 2017, UNE's policy on Intellectual Freedom was highlighted as best in sector.

The Chancellor noted that the University Governance course being run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors in May in Sydney was well regarded and an opportunity for both new members and also for those Council members who had completed the corporate company directors program.

Members discussed the recent advice that the proposed South Australian university merger was not proceeding.

Council NOTED the Chancellor's report to Council, #18160.

### **4.2. \* Vice-Chancellor's Report #18204**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annabelle Duncan, talked about of the recent sector condemnation of the involvement of the then Commonwealth Minister of Education and Training in judgements of the merit of academic study, speaking strongly for the need to preserve intellectual freedom and for transparency in decision making.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that UNE had increased its commencing online market share, which was very positive, and that enrolments in Trimester 3 were growing. Professor Duncan also outlined UNE's success in supporting participation and academic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and expressed her thanks to all staff involved in supporting these very positive student outcomes.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke of her recent international engagements, having had a warm welcome and positive discussions in Jakarta with the Ministry of Education and government officials regarding research and student exchange opportunities.

Also during a recent visit to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, the new Study Hub for UNE students was opened. Professor Duncan explained that the initial Master's program in Business would involve around 135 students – and the Study Centre would provide new opportunities to

deliver quality UNE courses in-country via the Intelli Education Group. The Vice-Chancellor commented on the sacrifice and commitment of these students, the majority of whom were first in family and from low socio economic backgrounds, for the chance for higher education.

Council members:

- asked about the recent announcement of regional university development funds and whether there had been opportunities for UNE to make submissions; and
- discussed the Council's aspiration and support for UNE to further develop its presence in Tamworth and the status of the proposal with Government.

Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open report to Council, #18204.

#### 4.3. \* Chair of Academic Board Report #18118

The Chair of Academic Board, Professor Mark Perry took his report as read and invited questions. Council members:

- asked about the unit monitoring results and whether there were any recommendations for recognition for staff for positive results. Professor Perry explained that this information was provided in detail to the faculties and that this may well be something the faculties wish to consider; and
- discussed the number of Units offered, noting low numbers of student enrolments in some cases. Members also discussed the hidden 'cost' in terms of complexity of support for and maintaining quality within a large program offering. It was explained that a committee had been established to review those courses and units which were low enrolment. While strategic programs would be maintained, there was expected to be some opportunities to consolidate or teach out some unit offerings.

*[Professor Mingan Choct left the meeting]*

Council:

- 1) NOTED the Chair of Academic Board Open report to Council, #18118; and
- 2) APPROVED, following the ENDORSEMENT and RECOMMENDATION of Academic Board Standing Committee on 13 November 2018, that:
  - a. Hayden Koudela (Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours);
  - b. Carolyn Sonter (Bachelor of Science with Honours); and
  - c. Annika Alexander (Bachelor of Science with Honours),  
be awarded the University Medal at a 2018 summer graduation ceremony;
- 3) NOTED the significant course proposals endorsed by Academic Board at the last meeting, including:
  - a. a new course proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Data and Cyber Management,
  - b. a number of significant course amendments, including:
    - i. Bachelor of Laws (4yr);
    - ii. Bachelor of Zoology;

- iii. Master of Psychology (Clinical); and
  - iv. Master of Professional Psychology;
  - c. the disestablishment of the Master of Natural Resource Governance; and
  - d. the suspension of the both the Bachelor of Audiometry and Master of Nursing; and
- 4) NOTED the proposed Institutional Benchmark reporting (attachment 1).

## 5. STRATEGIC ITEMS

There were no strategic items.

## 6. GENERAL ITEMS

### 6.1. \* Update on Academic Matters #18192

Professor Jonathan Powles, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation, noted that student enrolments in bespoke programs had increased and that a number of other innovations were underway or planned. He outlined, by way of example, that UNE was working towards being able to offer an instant offer and enrolment at admission and identifying appropriate pathways for all students seeking higher education.

Professor Powles noted that the proposed dates for 2020 were also aimed at providing more flexible options for students and that that adoption of flexibility had the support of the union.

Members asked, given the winding up of UNESA in progress, about the status of the student representative body. Professor Powles explained that the existing student representatives would provide the student voice in the interim, while UNE worked with students to establish a formal student representation model.

Council NOTED the Update on Academic Matters, report #18192.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no matters of general business.

## 8. MEETING FINALISATION

### 8.1. Work Plan 2018 and Draft 2019 Work Plan #18109

Council:

- 1) NOTED the 2018 Open Council Work Plan #18109(1); and
- 2) ENDORSED the draft 2019 Open Council Work Plan #18109(2).

**8.2. \* Next Meeting & Close**

The Chancellor noted that the next open meeting of Council is scheduled for Thursday 31 January 2018 and will be held in the Council Room, Booloominbah and declared the open session closed at 9.35am.

Signed:   
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Chair

11 / 1 / 2019  
Date