

University of New England Open Council Meeting Minutes 22 November 2019



Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the University of New England Council held in the Council Room, Booloominbah, at 8:30am on 22 November 2019.

Members present:

Mr James Harris, *Chancellor & Chair*
Prof Brigid Heywood, *Vice-Chancellor & CEO*
Mr Robert Finch
Ms Rosemary Leamon
Ms Louisa Quiddington
Mr David van Aanholt

Ms Jan McClelland AM, *Deputy Chancellor*
Prof Mark Perry, *Chair of Academic Board*
Mr Charles Hebblewhite
Ms Anne Myers
A/Prof Richard Scully

In attendance:

Prof Mingan Choct (*PVCER*)
Prof Heiko Daniel (*DVCR*)
Mrs Sandra Matthews (*A/CFO*)
Dr Robert Banks (*Director AGBU – item 3.1*)
Ms A O'Toole (*Chief of Staff*)

Prof Peter Creamer (*COO*)
Mr Brendan Peet (*CLGO*)
Prof Todd Walker (*PDVC*)
Mrs Collette Gooch (*A/DUS & Minute Recorder*)
Ms Jennifer Croaker (*SSO*)

1. MEETING OPENING

The Chancellor welcomed all to the November 2019 Open Council meeting.

1.1 * Acknowledgement of country

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

1.2 * Apologies

Mr Russell Evans
Ms Meredith Symons
Prof Jonathan Powles

1.3 * Conflict of Interest

Council members were reminded to disclose any material interest, consistent with Schedule 2A Clause 5 of the University of New England Act 1993 (NSW).

1.4 Disclosed register of interests

Council Members were asked to update their Disclosed Register of Interest as required.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council that she has been appointed to the Aarnet Board. Ms Rosemary Leamon, as a proposed Director for Ag360, declared a conflict regarding this item.

1.5 * Order of business

The Committee ACCEPTED the Order of Business and ADOPTED non-starred items.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record via email on 1 November 2019 and are available in Convene.

2.2 * Matters Arising

Prof Todd Walker provided an update on the below item:

Meeting/Item	Action	Status
Council Meeting 26 July 2019, item 4.3 Chair Academic Board Report #19057	Professor Walker to advise on the opportunity for Council to review the UNE Reconciliation Action Plan.	First meeting of the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee is scheduled 29 November 2019. Council will be updated at the 20 March 2020 meeting.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 * University Activities in Focus #19078 – Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit Presentation

Presented by Dr Robert Banks, Director, Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU).

Dr Banks briefed the Council on AGBU, a joint venture between NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSWDPI) and UNE which focusses on improvement of animal and plant genetics, is widely published and has a strong reputation for accurate and reliable data.

Council discussed:

- operational aspects of AGBU;
- process of genetic improvement;
- challenges of handling increasing datasets and analysis including sequencing for a greater number of species;
- the increase in complex commercialisation partnership arrangements, and the tension between commercial interests of partners and the collective good;
- opportunities in new agricultural sectors;
- developing stronger linkages to external agencies interested in genetic improvements in solving community problems;
- managing cyber security; and
- leveraging large datasets with the University.

Dr Banks advised that Industry had benefitted from AGBU outputs to the value of approximately \$2b and that AGBU has significantly contributed to ERA and Research Impact Evaluations.

The Chair and Chancellor thanked Dr Banks for his presentation. He also commended AGBU's significant contribution to the Australian agricultural industry.

The Council NOTED the Universities in Focus report for the November meeting, report #19078.

4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

4.1 * Chancellor's Open Report to Council, #19079

Council NOTED the Chancellor's Open Report to Council, #19079

4.2 * Vice-Chancellor's Open Presentation to Council, #19080

The Vice-Chancellor briefed Council members on important developments including:

- rapidly changing landscapes and shared conversations with executives and various government agencies to drive economic change in the New England region;
- Government funding risks and opportunities noting particularly Coaldrake Review and preference based funding;
- the establishment of eight strategic task force initiatives for 2020 to prioritise and coordinate strategic projects;
- UNE's vulnerabilities in relation to financial and regulatory matters;
- potential to build an Innovation Habitat for North West/ New England areas of NSW and the available funding options;
- the value, importance and engagement of student voices as part of the University's decisions;
- TESQA review and associated planning activities and focus areas;
- student retention and progression; and
- draft calendar of business, and Council member participation at key committees and workshops.

Action: Secretariat to provide Council members (in Reading Room) with the TEQSA risk rating report and UNE response.

[Professor Mingan Choct left the meeting]

Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open Report to Council, #19080.

4.3 * Chair of Academic Board Report, #19081

The Chair of the Academic Board, Professor Mark Perry, took the report as read.

Prof Perry extended invitations to members to attend Academic Board and Committee meetings and to a Governance workshop scheduled 30 January 2020.

Members discussed;

- academic promotions;
- opportunity for Council members to engage with Academic staff; and
- Curriculum Development Framework proposal.

Professor Perry commended the Coaldrake Review to Council for reading.

Council NOTED the Chair of Academic Board's Open Report to Council, #19081.

5. GENERAL ITEMS

5.1 * Student Representation at UNE Report at Council, #19082

Ms Lousia Quiddington introduced the report and informed Council:

- the intention for the Student Consultative Committee is for the Co-Chair to be the Council Student Representative to enable direct student engagement with Council;
- Terms of Reference have been drafted and will include representatives from all student cohorts plus staff, and once approved by the Vice-Chancellor, the Constitution will be finalised; and
- elections will be held in March 2020 with communications to be sent shortly.

Council NOTED the Student Representation at UNE Report to Council, report #19082.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council discussed the Foreign Interference Framework and Guidelines and the impact on the University.

Action: Secretariat to circulate to Council members the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector.

7. MEETING FINALISATION

7.1 Council Open Work Plan 2019

Council NOTED the Open Work Plan for November 2019.

7.2 * Close

Council was informed that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday 31 January 2020 and will be held in the Council Room, Booloominbah and via video conference if required.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.40 am.



Mr James Harris
Chancellor & Chair

20.12.2019
Date