
Minutes for the Open session of the first University of New England Council meeting for 2019, held at 8:30 am, Thursday 31 January 2019, 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*)
Prof M Perry (*Chair of Academic Board*) – *via teleconference*
Assoc. Prof R Scully
Mr D van Aanholt – *via teleconference*
Mr R Evans – *via teleconference*
Mr R Finch
Mr C Hebblewhite
Ms R Leamon – *via teleconference*
Ms A Myers
Ms L Quiddington – *via teleconference*
Ms M Symons – *via teleconference*

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 B Peet (*Chief Legal and Governance Officer*)
Mrs G Price (*Deputy University Secretary*), *minute recorder*
Mrs L Kettlestring (*Senior Secretariat Officer*)

1. * MEETING OPENING AND WELCOME COMMENTS

The Chair and Chancellor, Mr James Harris, welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting for 2019, including those members and observers attending via teleconference.

1.1. * Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledged the traditional custodians of the lands on which the meeting took place, and showed respect to their Elders past and present.

1.2. * Apologies

There were no apologies.

1.3. * Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosures

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.4. Disclosed Register of Interest

There were no updates to the register of interests.

1.5. * Order of Business

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

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2018 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 11 January 2019.

2.2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

4.1. * Chancellor's Open Report to Council #19004

The Council NOTED the Chancellor's open report to Council, #19004.

4.2. * Vice-Chancellor's Report #19005

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annabelle Duncan, acknowledged the tragic circumstances of the death of talented and well liked UNE academic staff member, Professor Lily Pereg whilst holidaying in Argentina.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted achievements by a number of staff and students including that Dr Debbie Bower had been acknowledged as a superstar of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and UNE PhD student Sophie Masson AM had been acknowledged in the Australian Day Honours Awards for her contribution to literature.

The Vice-Chancellor referred to UNE's positive results in terms of increasing research income and acknowledged the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Daniel, and the wider researchers and support team for their work.

Council members:

- asked about specific areas of research growth and UNE's research ranking, with Professor Daniel explaining that:

- strong industry supported research partnerships were a key contributor to UNE's recent performance; and
- that medical research attracted the largest investment in research, with UNE doing well in its niche areas, including agriculture and environmental science and focus on rural and regional impact; and
- discussed the new Indigenous Engagement Committee, noting that members had been drawn from local and regional areas.

The Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open report to Council, #19005.

4.3. * Chair Academic Board Report #19006

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

Council Members asked for more information about the comments from the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) regarding academic governance and university culture. Professor Perry referred to a recent article in 'The Australian Newspaper' by Michael Tomlinson which focused on the importance of a culture of respect of governance bodies.

ACTION: The Secretariat to circulate to Council members the article by Michael Tomlinson in The Australian Newspaper, "With respect, governance is the key".

Council members queried the student progress and learning resource indicators and specifically what was being done to support staff to take action on these matters. There was discussion regarding:

- the role of unit coordinators;
- teaching support and formative feedback;
- the unit monitoring and feedback provided to staff by the Academic Quality Directorate;
- specific educational strategies for online cohorts; and
- investments in 2018/19 in learning analytics to support staff in identifying and developing support strategies for at risk students.

Council members asked for information regarding what UNE had changed in relation to learning resources, engagement and progress, that might be having a negative effect. It was noted that the Good University Guide was a blunt measure, but that as this was a complex area, further background on academic quality analytics and that strategies to improve student progress and feedback could be presented following the March Council meeting.

ACTION: The Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation to provide further background regarding the measures of 'Learner Engagement' and 'Learning Resources' and the support provided to academic staff to help address student progress and other indicators in a presentation following the March Council meeting.

Council members queried the information in the 2017 Annual Grievance report, noting some positive trends but asked about the apparent higher level of matters within Business and Law. It was explained that the Schools are made aware of systemic matters so that they might address procedures/processes.

Council NOTED the Chair of Academic Board Open report to Council, #19006; and

- 1) NOTED UNE Research Impact Strategy 2025 (Attachment 1);
- 2) NOTED the revised Registration of HDR Supervisor Procedures;
- 3) NOTED the HDR student progress report (Attachment 2);
- 4) NOTED the 2017 Annual Student Grievance Report (Attachment 3);
- 5) NOTED the Analysis and Trends Student Progress Report (Attachment 4);
- 6) NOTED the Academic Integrity Review report (Attachment 5); and
- 7) NOTED the significant courses proposals endorsed by Academic Board Standing Committee and approved by the Vice-Chancellor (refer to report for list).

5. GENERAL ITEMS

There were no general items.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair and Chancellor requested an update on the UNE Student Association (UNESA).

The Chief Legal and Governance Officer, Mr Brendan Peet, explained that following UNESA's application to cease trading last year, the issue of how remaining funds would be handled had delayed the 'winding up' process. To help resolve this, UNE agreed to hold the funds from UNESA in trust until a new student association or equivalent has been formed, and the NSW Department of Fair Trading has confirmed that UNESA is now fully wound up.

To a further question regarding plans for a new student association, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation, Professor Jonathan Powles, explained that the interim approach was to leverage the existing student representation, including those students elected to Council, Academic Board and Faculty Committees. Further, UNE is one of a number of universities involved in the sector wide Students as Partners pilot program championed by Dr Sally Varnham from UTS, and it was hoped that this program may inform the development of a student group, such as a Student Senate or similar.

The Chancellor requested a further update on the progress of a student association or equivalent be provided to the Council's July meeting.

ACTION: The Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation to provide a report on the progress of arrangements for student representation at UNE, to the July Council meeting.

7. MEETING FINALISATION

7.1. 2019 Work Plan

Council NOTED the 2019 Open Council Work Plan.

7.2. * Next Meeting & Close

The Chancellor noted the next open meeting of Council was scheduled for Friday, 15 March 2019 and declared the open session of Council closed at approximately 9.00am.

Signed by:



Chair

14/3/19

Date