

OPEN Council Minutes – 26 July 2019

(4:2019)



Minutes for the Open session of the fourth University of New England Council meeting for 2019, held at 8:30 am, Friday 26 July 2019, in the Council Room, Booloominbah and by zoom.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

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*)
Ms A O'Toole (*Observer*)
Prof R McClure (*Dean Faculty Medicine and Health*) *item 3.1*
Mr M Cawood (*Corporate Communications officer*), *photographer*
Mrs C Gooch (*Acting Deputy University Secretary*), *minute recorder*
Mrs L Kettlestring (*Secretariat Officer*)

1. * MEETING OPENING AND WELCOME COMMENTS

The Chair and Chancellor, Mr James Harris, welcomed all attendees to the June Council meeting including those attending via Zoom. The Chair also welcomed Professor Brigid Heywood, Vice-Chancellor to her first UNE Council meeting.

1.1. * Acknowledgement of Country

The Council 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.

The Chair noted that Professor Mingan Choct was unable to attend.

1.3. * Council Member Conflict of Interest Disclosures

There were no conflicts 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 ADOPTED non-starred items.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2019 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 20 June 2019.

2.2. Matters Arising

The Chair noted these items would now be closed.

Meeting/Item	Action	Status
31 January 2019, item 6. General Business	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.	Closed. Refer to Report #19058 - Item 6.2 Council Open papers
24 May 2019, item 4.1. Chancellor's Open Report to Council #19035	The Secretary was asked to convene a Governance Working Party meeting at the June Committee meetings, to discuss the recent review of Freedom of Speech and potential response from UNE.	Closed. Refer to Report #19258 - Item 6.6 Council Confidential Papers

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 * University Activities in Focus (oral)

The Council received a presentation from Professor Rod McClure, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medicine (FM&H).

Professor McClure explained that FM&H's specific focus is on the community needs of rural, regional and other low resourced areas whilst also being inclusive in areas of teaching, research and collaboration.

Professor McClure highlighted that FM&H:

- is recognised locally and internationally for its high quality performance in support of community success through research, education and developing the health workforce;
- have clearly defined their principles for Teaching and Learning and Research;
- in terms of Teaching and Learning, the Faculty had:
 - strengthened areas of staff development, improved online learning tools and technologies, renewed and consolidated course and unit profiles and curricula to align with the pedagogical principles; and
 - in areas of growth, increased the uptake of existing courses and units, delivered new courses, added new disciplines and internationalised course offerings via three areas of growth - organic, innovative and blue sky, such as the virtual hospital;
- the current student load (EFTSL) in FM&H was 2640;
- full-fee paying domestic students increased by 100% in the last 12 months;

- in terms of Research, the Faculty has:
 - strengthened areas of staff development, implemented faculty level system for HDR governance, communicated research strengths to establish collaboration and created programs intended to improve funding and reputation to attract diverse and talented researchers;
 - increased HDR enrolments and completions, diversified & increased research income, quality and productivity;
 - created the New England Institute of Healthcare Research, a strategic branding initiative which focuses on key health challenges of the region; (ageing, chronic disease, mental health and resourcing for health services) in an effort to identify how existing infrastructure can be refined to improve health and wellbeing of communities; and
 - significantly increased research income.
- the Faculty is focused on philanthropic engagement.

Professor McClure explained that Australia is reaching near service failure for health care in rural Australia due to the hollowing out of rural communities and the reduction of resources. The way forward involves integration of the University and the community to devise solutions to community issues. One solution that could be supported by FM&H would be facilitating telemedicine/ telehealth or digital health; a solution that would create new industries and be supported by the Government.

Professor McClure concluded that FH&M wants to enable the practice of new models, provide cutting edge situational health education and drive regional economic development with assistance of other faculties, services and other social institutions across Australia.

In response to questions from Council members, Professor McClure explained:

- increase in student load was due to offering full-fee paying options to specific industry demand courses and alternative entrance or pathway options, such as the Master of Psychology (Clinical);
- growth within domestic students occurred due to being offered 100% online. Due to many students studying part-time, EFTSL decreased. Challenges still remain around sourcing quality staff and quality placements for students. In terms of staffing, this could be resolved by offerings in Parramatta;
- there are some technology gaps for the roll out of the virtual hospital such as limited/ no internet access in North West NSW and suggested UNE needs to advocate for infrastructure improvements. Additionally, medical and health staff/ systems require education to increase technology capabilities and modify practices to meet the requirements of technology. Funding is required to develop a demonstration project to show the Government how it operates and value on investment. This would be the first in Australia;
- the main challenges going forward relate to keeping up with demand. FM&H required a small group of people who can deliver on a concept, draw on resources and deliver on time.

A member queried if a public launch for the Health Management course in Parramatta was planned. The Vice-Chancellor noted it would be wise to have a strategic launch with multiple programs on offer to indicate UNE's serious intent in this space and offer a new perspective to Sydney.

The Chair thanked Professor McClure for the presentation.

The Council NOTED the University Activities in Focus oral report for the July Council meeting by the Dean, Medicine & Health report, #19054.

4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

4.1. * Chancellor's Open Report to Council #19055

The Chancellor, Mr James Harris, took his report as read. He advised that he had recently attended the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation's Rural Scholarship Celebration Dinner and was pleased to meet a number of the scholarships recipients. The Chancellor commented that the students were ambitious, bright, passionate, creative and positive ambassadors for UNE.

The Council NOTED the Chancellor's report to Council, #19055.

4.2. * Vice-Chancellor's Report #19056

The Vice-Chancellor took her report as read.

The Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open report to Council, #19056.

4.3. * Chair Academic Board Report #19057

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

Council members:

- enquired regarding the risk associated with the non-delivery of requested reports to academic committees. Professor Perry advised this was an issue of which Council needed to be aware and added to the Academic Risk Register;
- questioned if the below average results in some areas on skills development and learner engagement in the student survey was of concern. Responses included:
 - Academic Board needs to be aware of, monitor and review this issue in the future;
 - noted there is a current shift in language and expectations of what students gain out of the curriculum such as traditional skills verses more contemporary skills across the sector;
 - that a piece of the Academic Transformation program, which has not been progressed, would be about reasserting skill competencies defined by graduate outcomes such as the literacy skills required and connections with place of work, curriculum offerings and what we are offering on practice; and
 - that the learner engagement issue could simply be a response to an individual lecturer who may not be performing and noted that this could justify a move from individual teaching to team teaching that would also involve collaboration with the student earning process.
- queried if there may be a likelihood that during re-accreditation, TEQSA would view the Winchester Report implementation unfavorably. Responses included:
 - the report is a reasonable model and Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester is one of the authorities on academic governance;
 - confirmed that Michael Tomlinson (TEQSA), who attended the last Academic Board meeting was satisfied with implementation progress and the explanation of why UNE did not adopt six recommendations; and
 - the Academic Board would likely be reviewed again prior to re-accreditation;
- requested if the UNE Reconciliation Action Plan would be provided to council as a report short presentation to Council members. Professor Walker, Provost and Deputy Vice-

Chancellor, will seek advice from the Vice-Chancellor regarding an opportunity for Council to review the Plan, prior to submission of the final version to Reconciliation Australia.

ACTION: Professor Todd Walker to advise on the opportunity for Council to review the UNE Reconciliation Action Plan.

- noted that academic staff feel extremely overworked in the administrative space of their roles despite the fact that 1/3 of units have less than five students. Responses included:
 - these were due to process problems and the failure to have the correct data and systems available to staff; and
 - maybe the units were not attractive to students and the unit needs to be reviewed or drop the unit.
- queried the statement of learning analytics being unavailable to academic staff for retention purposes, Professor Powles explained:
 - the learning analytics solution introduced a pilot during Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 and was now in the final pilot phase. Prior to that, there was a wellness engine, monitoring students' well-being. The new system, UNE Predict monitors students' activities in the unit that would predict the students success and would also provide a list of high risk students to the course coordinator; and
 - appropriate administrative support was also required for academic staff to ensure this wasn't an additional task to their workloads prior to the launch.

Council NOTED the Chair of Academic Board Open report to Council, #19057.

4.4 * Student Representation Report #19058

Professor Powles, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Innovation), took the report as read and provided key points:

- confirmed that the Student Representative Working Party would meet next week to consider Terms of Reference and other details;
- elections would be called towards the end of the year;
- new committee would be the place for the new year; and
- remuneration for representatives on this committee should be considered.

A member asked if there was a level of comfort, that the elected Student body would be in place by the end of the year and Professor Powles advised he was confident it would be.

Professor Powles acknowledged Ms Louisa Quiddington's role as Chair of this working party.

Council NOTED the progress of arrangements for Student Representation at the University report to Council, #19058

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no items of general business.

6. MEETING FINALISATION

6.1. Work Plan 2019 Work Plan

Council NOTED the 2019 Open Council Work Plan.

6.2. * Next Meeting & Close

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, 27 September 2019. This meeting will be held in the Council Room, Booloominbah, University of New England.

With no further business, the Chancellor declared the open session of Council closed at approximately 10.00am.

Signed by:



Mr J Harris
Chair

19/9/19
Date