

# OPEN Council Minutes – 24 May 2019 (3:2019)



Minutes for the Open session of the third University of New England Council meeting for 2019, held at 8:30 am, Friday 24 May 2019, in the Council Room, Booloominbah and by teleconference.

## PRESENT

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

## IN ATTENDANCE

Prof M Choct (*Pro Vice-Chancellor External Relations*)  
Prof P Creamer (*Chief Operating Officer*)  
Prof J Powles (*Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation*)  
Mr K Kauffmann (*Chief Financial Officer*)  
Mr B Peet (*Chief Legal and Governance Officer*)  
Mrs G Price (*Deputy University Secretary*), *minute recorder*  
Mrs L Kettlestring (*Senior Secretariat Officer*)  
Mrs C Gooch (*Acting Compliance Manager*) – *observing*  
Ms A O'Toole (*Executive Officer, Vice-Chancellor's Office*) - *observing*

### 1. \* MEETING OPENING AND WELCOME COMMENTS

The Chair and Chancellor, Mr James Harris, welcomed everyone to the May Council meeting including those persons attending via teleconference. He acknowledged observers Amy O'Toole and also Mrs Collette Gooch who would be seconded into the Deputy University Secretary role from mid-June.

#### 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 from Council Members.

#### 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 that non-starred items be adopted

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### 2.1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2019 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 15 May 2019.

#### 2.2. \* Matters Arising

The Chair note that the first action was not due until July and the second item has been provided as part of the Vice-Chancellor's report and can be marked complete. Regarding the final item he asked Mr Brendan Peet, Chief Legal and Governance Officer if this matter could be closed and Mr Peet confirmed that both possible amendments had been considered but neither required updating, and as such the action could 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.	In progress – due to July meeting.
15 March 2019, item 4.2. Vice-Chancellor's Report #19017	The Vice-Chancellor was asked to incorporate in the student load updates longer term trends in the student load updates (e.g. over three or four years).	Complete. Information included in VC's report
15 March 2019, item 4.3, Chair Academic Board Report #19018	The Secretary was asked to circulate the full sector comparison report on Academic Boards/Senates to Council Members via Convene.	Complete. Report added to the Council Member and Senior Executive Reference Documents on Convene.
15 March 2019, item 5.1, Approval of Annual Report (Year Ended 31 December 2018) #19019	The Secretary was asked to follow up the possible amendments above and to circulate a copy of the final narrative text once any changes (if required) are made.	Closed. An oral update to be provided to the next meeting. Both queries were followed up though no changes were made.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

### 4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

#### 4.1. \* Chancellor's Open Report to Council #19035

The Chancellor, Mr James Harris, acknowledged the late Dr Arthur Rickards, explaining he had been honoured to provide a speech on behalf of both former Vice-Chancellor Ingrid Moses and himself at the memorial.

The Chancellor referred to his report and the details regarding the autumn graduation ceremonies. He noted that these graduations were held over two days this year and that on the Saturday, UNE had over 500 graduands receive their awards. He noted that the rain was very welcome, although it had made it a very long day.

The Chancellor explained that at recent University Chancellor Council (UCC) meeting he had attended, there had been a discussion regarding the ex-Justice French Review of Freedom of Speech and the impact of the recommendations on the Universities Code of Governance Conduct. Also, that Universities had been asked to provide feedback to the UCC on this matter.

**ACTION:** 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.

Mr Harris noted he had again been on the panel of the most recent Universities Governance course run in Sydney by the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and asked for feedback from those Council members who had attended. Both Associate Professor Richard Scully and Professor Mark Perry, had enjoyed the course and in particular the financial session which had been very informative.

The Chancellor commended the team and organisers of the Farming Futures stand at the Royal Easter Show, observing once again the energy and excellent community engagement opportunity this provided UNE, and thanking those Council members who were able to attend.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that her biography was incorrect and it was agreed that this would be updated as soon as possible.

The Council NOTED the Chancellor's report to Council, #19035.

#### **4.2. \* Vice-Chancellor's Report #19036**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annabelle Duncan explained that the University was doing well in many areas including across four main functions, including providing quality teaching and learning, encouraging and developing residential student's experience, achieving in research and being involved in community outreach and engagement.

The Vice-Chancellor referred to the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) results and to UNE's high impact research programs acknowledged in the Impact Assessment aspect of ERA 2018; and also spoke to the important role UNE plays in the community, referring to recent engagements with the SES regarding working with volunteers, and the recent festival to celebrate the breaking of the fast for the Muslim Community hosted at Booloominbah.

The Vice-Chancellor also referred to the impact UNE was having overseas, referring by way of example to the education delivery in Bhutan, which had started with a focus on education teaching and which is now being extended to provide opportunities in other areas such as environmental research, and to continued positive engagements in the Philippines and to growing impact through a Malaysian partnership.

#### Council members

- asked how many of the universities in Australia were on the approved list for scholarships from Indonesia, and the Vice-Chancellor believed there were 11 Universities most of whom were group of eight, and that UNE was initially looking at attracting postgraduate students, with some undergraduate students.
- discussed the reference to the Deloittes Access Economics report regarding UNE's impact on the local community from its international students. The Vice-Chancellor noted that at around \$33m or 2.5% of gross regional product, the impact of UNE's international students was significant both financially and in terms of cultural diversity.

The Council NOTED the Vice-Chancellor's Open report to Council, #19036.

#### **4.3. \* Chair Academic Board Report #19037**

Professor Perry, Chair of Academic Board, took his report as read and asked for questions before he moved to the resolutions.

The Chair queried why there were no graduations listed for 2022 in the 2021 Principle Dates. It was explained that the 2021 dates related to events that commencing in 2021, but did not cover those dates for 2022 relating to events commencing 2022. The Chair also asked if UNE could check if residential schools timing clashed with ANZAC day and other public holidays in future years, and this was agreed.

A Council member referred to the discussion at the Academic Board Standing Committee regarding the reduced period and conditional reregistration by the Tertiary Quality Standards Agency of Charles Sturt University, asking if UNE might also be at risk. Professor Perry noted that the University would always assume it is at risk and continue to strive to manage the risk of compliance/non-compliance through academic governance oversight and monitoring. A Council member asked about UNE's English Language Student admission and for assurance that the University is compliant. The Chair of Academic Board explained that, when a question was raised at a recent committee meeting, the committee followed up with a number of questions to the relevant operational area, and will report in due course the response received, to the Board. It was further noted that UNE needed to be careful with its academic transformation to ensure it remains compliant and has the policies and processes to support consistent quality outcomes.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor External Relations, Professor Mingan Choct, explained that feedback from students and lecturers regarding the current units being delivered in Malaysia was positive, with a number of lecturers suggesting the Malaysian student cohort was doing well and in some cases achieving outcomes higher than some domestic cohorts. It was explained that the program required students to have literacy in English with many having had 11 years of English Studies and/or have completed a diploma taught in English prior to admission. As always, student results would continue to be monitored.

A Council member asked about the reference in the report to questions of Academic Governance around a bespoke program. Professor Perry explained that a number of questions had been raised following a recent course proposal that was outside of policy in terms of Advanced Standing. Other concerns, including for example, how the proposal would impact existing Faculty programs and the appropriateness of the proposed course name had been raised and a further report requested. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation,

Professor Jonathan Powles, noted that the questions raised would be addressed and that this was an example of good academic governance in action.

A Council Member referred to the 2020 dates which were published in the same format as those proposed for 2021, noting that the informal feedback from students was that the dates were complicated and confusing and students could not easily navigate those dates that were important to them. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Innovation, Professor Jonathan Powles, acknowledged this feedback and noted that he had issued communications to student to help explain how the dates worked, and that the Trimester period remained the primary teaching periods.

**Council:**

- 1) **APPROVED** the proposed resolution definitions for “Approve”; “Endorse” and “Note” (attachment 1);
- 2) **APPROVED** the 2021 Principal Dates, which have been endorsed and recommended to Council by the Academic Board (see attachment 2);
- 3) **APPROVED** the proposed minor amendments to the Research Committee of Academic Board terms of reference (see attachment 3);
- 4) **NOTED** the revised Academic Board and Committee Standing Orders (which now include communication protocols at clause 93) approved by the Board on 15 April 2019;
- 5) **NOTED** the Institutional Benchmarks update regarding Graduate Satisfaction and Employer Satisfaction; and
- 6) **NOTED** the Chair of Academic Board Open report to Council, #19037.

**5. GENERAL ITEMS**

**5.1 \* University Activities in Focus #19039 - Wellness Week**

The Chair invited Professor Peter Creamer, Chief Operating Officer to speak to this report. Professor Creamer explained that UNE had offered Wellness Week before Orientation Week for the past three years, to help engage with new residential students to University so that they felt safe at UNE, understood what to expect at the University and to help debunk any myths they might here about what behaviours are okay and what is not acceptable.

Ms Louisa Quiddington, Student Representative on Council, queried the 90% positive feedback indicated by the survey, noting that while students she had spoken to had noted some positives, the feedback overall regarding Wellness Week had been quite mixed. Ms Quiddington noted that she had provided some feedback which outlined that students did not like being split up by gender, nor that many of the sessions were more theory based that interactive/practical. Another comment was that the Wellness Week was too early for students to arrive before start of the Trimester.

Professor Creamer acknowledged Ms Quiddington’s feedback.

**Council NOTED** the University Activities in Focus report on Student Wellness Week, report #19039.

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There were no items of general business?

**7. MEETING FINALISATION**

**7.1. Work Plan 2019 Work Plan**

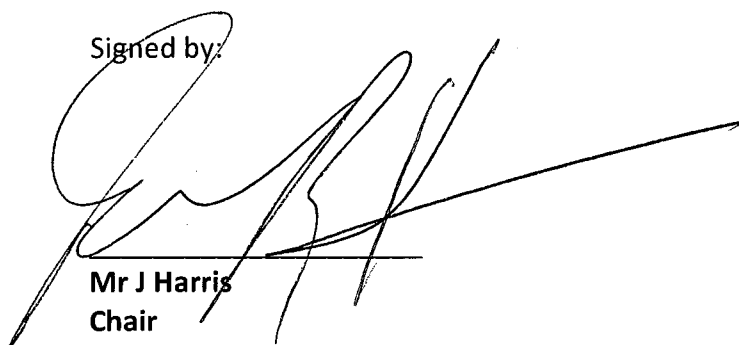
Council NOTED the 2019 Open Council Work Plan.

**7.2. \* Next Meeting & Close**

The Chair and Chancellor noted that the Council meeting was scheduled for Friday, 26 July 2019 and would 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 9.30am.

Signed by:



Mr J Harris  
Chair

27. 6. 2019  
Date