

# COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

News and updates from UON's Council

Meeting: 30 March 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## AT A GLANCE

Council met at Callaghan Campus following morning tea with past members of Council, Brian Kennaugh and Bhavi Ravindran. Council members discussed key strategic matters, with a heavy focus on the annual audited statutory accounts and associated reports.

## CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE



In his report to the Council, Chancellor Paul Jeans, spoke about the UON's annual Port Macquarie graduation ceremony which took place in February and featured PhD students for the first time. There was an excellent turn-out and lots of goodwill for UON.

He also highlighted UON's new partnership with the Hunter Research Foundation which will help secure the long-term role of collecting and analysing the region's economic and social data.



*UON Chancellor, Mr Paul Jeans and HRF Chair, Dr Eileen Doyle*

The Chancellor announced the recent reappointment of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Caroline McMillen and congratulated her on the appointment.

He said the reappointment was an important step in continuing the momentum built in recent years under Professor McMillen's leadership.



"Caroline's vision and determination has seen the University's identity grow as a world-class institution and has firmly marked UON as a leader in equity, indigenous education, regional transformation and global research.

"We have a strong decadal strategic plan, New Futures, and under Caroline's leadership and guidance, our focus is on delivering the outcomes to ensure the long term success and sustainability of the University of Newcastle," Mr Jeans said.

He also discussed possible areas of focus for Council's Strategic Workshop scheduled for June 2016. Proposed items included the UON student experience and value proposition, enterprise risks and scenario testing, faculty strategies and engagement and assumption testing of revenue and costs as part of UON's business model.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Caroline McMillen, spoke about emerging issues in the sector including likely political and government investment trends, and ongoing discussion surrounding ATAR scores in NSW.

Between 1-11 March, Caroline travelled to seven cities in Indonesia, Japan and China to deliver keynote addresses at a series of events and public lectures for International Women's Day, raising the profile of UON among international leaders.

Each year the Australian Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade invites one senior Australian woman to headline the tour and the Vice-Chancellor took the opportunity to highlight the importance of gender equity in building knowledge and innovation-based economies, and the benefits of gender parity in STEMM leadership

She also shared recent improvements in health and safety performance with Council, including the significant reduction in Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) and Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) when compared with the same period last year.

Measure	2015	2016
LTIFR	7.44	1.54
TRIFR	23.81	3.07

## DEPUTY-CHANCELLOR RE-ELECTED

Dianne Allen was re-elected as Deputy Chancellor for a further two-year term which officially started on 30 March 2016.

The Deputy Chancellor supports the Chancellor and in the absence of the Chancellor, can assume all the Chancellor's functions or act on the Chancellors behalf including at official ceremonies or UON functions.



Dianne has been a respected member of the Council for a decade and has chaired the Finance Committee since 2007. She is also a member of the Chancellor's Committee, the Nominations and Legislation Committee and the Risk Committee.

She has an extensive career in international business and finance spanning the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors including 30 years of experience advising small and medium business as a chartered accountant.

## ACADEMIC SENATE'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Academic Senate has prepared its first annual report outlining its activities over the past 12 months. The report demonstrates how the Academic Senate is fulfilling its constitutional role and function.

The quality of this report is sector-leading, generating interest from national Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates at other universities.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

Chairs of the seven Council committees provided updates on discussions at their meetings, along with the Chair of the Academic Senate. You can read a snapshot below.

### **Nominations and Legislation**

Key skills and experience for any potential new Council members were discussed to ensure these complement and balance the existing Council profile and best support UON to meet its strategic goals.

### **Risk**

UON's risk management is increasing in maturity and the Internal Audit Charter has been revised. The committee reported on strategic risk discussions occurring across UON including with Professor Kevin Hall, Professor Andrew Parfitt and Mrs Winnie Eley for their respective areas.



### **Strategic Development**

International student load growth in 2016 is encouraging, and UON's 2015 Corporate Performance Report was approved.

### **Academic Senate**

UON is leading a key academic integrity project in conjunction with the University of Sydney that will help develop the national agenda and demonstrate UON's leadership in this area.

### **People and Culture**

This was the first meeting from the recently formed committee which will focus on translating the values and culture required to deliver NeW Futures and associated behavioural change.

### **Finance**

The annual audited statutory accounts and associated reports were approved and will be tabled to the NSW Minister for Education and the Auditor-General of NSW.

## NEXT MEETING

Friday 20 May 2016

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL'S FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

---

## STRATEGIC MATTERS

### ITEM: Chancellor's Report

Council resolved to note the verbal update from the Chancellor.

### ITEM: June Strategic Workshop

Council resolved to request that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor consider the potential areas for discussion identified by the Council when developing the agenda for the June Strategic Workshop.

### ITEM: Vice-Chancellor's Report

Council resolved to note the report from the Vice-Chancellor on strategic issues and activities.

---

## MAJOR DECISIONS AND DISCUSSION

### ITEM: Annual Audited Statutory Accounts and Associated Reports

Council resolved to:

- approve that the Financial Statements and notes:
  - a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards, the Australian Higher Education Financial Statement Guidelines and the Australian Charities and Not-for Profit Commission Act 2012,
  - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the University as at 31 December 2015 and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended on that date, and
  - c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the University will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;
- approve the submission of the audited financial statements to the NSW Minister for Education and the Auditor-General of NSW as required by Section 41A of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983

### ITEM: Fraud Risk Questionnaire - Governance

Council resolved to approve the completed Fraud Risk Questionnaire as required by the external auditors

### ITEM: 2015 Council Representation letter to the Audit Office

Council resolved to approve that the Representation Letter to the Audit Office of New South Wales in relation to the audit of the 2015 Financial Statements be signed by the Chancellor and Chair of the Finance Committee and submitted to the external auditors

### ITEM: Financial Statement for Year Ended 2015 - Council Member Statement

Council resolved to:

- approve the University of Newcastle audited financial statements for year ended 31 December 2015; and
- approve that the statement be signed by the Chancellor and Chair of the Finance Committee on behalf of the Council.

### ITEM: NSW Audit Office Letter for Year Ended 31 Dec 2015

Council resolved to note the NSW Audit Office Letter for the Year Ended 31 December 2015.

### ITEM: Draft 2015 Annual Report

Council resolved to:

- note the draft 2015 Annual Report;
- note the process to prepare the 2015 Annual Report; and
- note that the final draft 2015 Annual Report will be circulated for consideration by Council, seeking authority for the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to approve and submit the final Report to the NSW Minister for Education and the NSW Treasurer by 30 April 2016.

### ITEM: Treasury Strategy (Summary of Investment Beliefs Workshop)

Council resolved to note the summary from Mercer on the Outcomes of the Finance Committee Investment Beliefs workshop held on 17 March 2016.

### ITEM: Infrastructure Update

Council resolved to:

- endorse the Business Case;
- approve the construction of an Innovation Hub
- note that the University will establish an interim Innovation Hub facility

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL'S FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

---

## **ITEM: Review of Chancellor Rule, Chancellor Selection Procedure, and By-law**

Council resolved to:

- rescind the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Pro Chancellor Rule; and
- approve the revised Selection of Chancellor Procedure; and
- approve revisions to the proposed By-law amending the term of the Chancellor to be consistent with the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

## **ITEM: Election of the Deputy Chancellor**

Council resolved to confirm Ms Dianne Allen as the duly re-elected Deputy Chancellor for a further 2 year term commencing 30 March 2016.

## **ITEM: Election Rule**

Council resolved to:

- endorse the current process rather than mandating the qualifications for elected academic staff members to the Council;
- approve the Election Rule to take effect on the same day as the Governor's assent to the revised University of Newcastle By-law, noting the Election Rule sets out the optional preferential voting system; and
- rescind the Electronic Voting Rule after the Election Rule comes into effect.

---

## **DECISIONS NOT REQUIRING DISCUSSION**

### **ITEM: University of Newcastle Medical Society - Use of University Name Upon Incorporation**

Council resolved to approve the use of the University name by the University of Newcastle Medical Society upon its incorporation as a legal entity.

### **ITEM: Proposed Rescission of Individual Program Schedules**

Council resolved to approve the immediate rescission of the following program schedules:

- a. Bachelor of Development Studies (Honours) Schedule 000741;
- b. Bachelor of Mathematics Schedule 000465;
- c. Master of Clinical Psychology Schedule 000557;
- d. Master of Teaching Schedule 000860;
- e. Bachelor of Music Schedule 000433; and
- f. Bachelor of Music (Honours) Schedule 000434
- g. Bachelor of Medicine Schedule [000021]; and
- h. 320 Unit Undergraduate Degree Program Schedule [000637].

---

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **ITEM: Nominations and Legislation Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Nominations and Legislation Committee meeting held on 16 March 2016.

### **ITEM: 2015 Academic Senate Annual Report to Council**

Council resolved to note the 2015 Academic Senate Annual Report.

### **ITEM: Controlled and Associated Entities Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note:

- the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Controlled and Associated Entities Committee meeting held on 16 March 2016
- that agreement had been reached with Central Coast Campus Union Ltd to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and that a further report would be provided to the Controlled and Associated Entities Committee at its next meeting.

### **ITEM: Chancellor's Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note:

- the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Chancellor's Committee meeting held on 16 March 2016;
- the verbal update on the Vice-Chancellor's performance and goals.

### **ITEM: Risk Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note:

- the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Risk Committee meeting held on 17 March 2016;
- the revised Internal Audit Charter.

### **ITEM: Finance Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Finance Committee meeting held on 17 March 2016.

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL'S FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

---

## **ITEM: Strategic Development Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note:

- the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Strategic Development Committee meeting held on 17 March 2016
- the progress made in relation to the objectives of the Global Partnership Plan
- the report on the strategic direction of Newcastle Innovation
- the update on the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Newcastle and the Hunter Research Foundation
- approve the 2015 UON Corporate Performance Report

## **ITEM: People and Culture Committee - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note the Chair's verbal report in relation to the People and Culture Committee meeting held on 17 March 2016.

## **ITEM: Academic Senate - Chair's Update**

Council resolved to note the Chair's verbal report in relation to the Academic Senate meeting held on 24 February 2016.

---

## **MATTERS FOR NOTING NOT REQUIRING DISCUSSION**

### **ITEM: Council Committee Minutes for noting**

Council resolved to note the draft:

- Nominations and Legislation Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016
- Controlled and Associated Entities Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016
- Risk Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016
- Finance Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016
- Strategic Development Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016
- People and Culture Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016

### **ITEM: Use of the University Seal**

Council resolved to note the use of the Seal of the University for the period 5 December 2015 to 23 March 2016

### **ITEM: Council Reserved Matters Approved Under Delegated Authority and Flying Minutes**

Council resolved to:

- ratify the exercise of delegation on 26 February 2016 by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, acting under the authority of Urgent Business Delegation [UB1], for and on behalf of the Council, to:
  - a) approve the establishment of the new award: Master of Creative Industries (40018) for implementation in Semester 2 2016; and
  - b) authorise the Secretariat to make all necessary amendments to the Rule Listing Awards [000951], Rule Governing Academic Dress [000399], and the relevant Awards and Programs Schedules to reflect the establishment of the new award

### **ITEM: Academic Matters Approved Under Delegated Authority**

Council resolved to note the amendments to the Bachelor of Health Schedule [000016] to include the Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours) programs.

### **ITEM: 2016 Declarations of Interest Register Annual Update**

Council resolved to note that declarations of interest registers for Council members and senior managers have been maintained in accordance with the Conflicts of Interest Policy.

---

**Next Meeting: scheduled for 20 May 2016**