

**COUNCIL****Meeting No 3/24****Council Room, Bedford Park****Thursday, 22 August 2024****2:06pm (following a pre-meeting presentation)****MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** John Hood (**Chair**) (Chancellor), Professor Colin Stirling (Vice-Chancellor), Kim Cheater, Douglas Gautier AM (Deputy Chancellor), Benjamin Grillett\*, Lucinda Hewitson, Abhishek Jain, Matt Johnson, Professor Christopher Kee\*\*, Leanne Liddle\*\*, Associate Professor Amanda Muller, Elizabeth Perry AM (Deputy Chancellor), Kate Walsh, Brenda Wilson AM and Sharon Wilson.

*\*arrived at 2:32pm \*\*virtual attendance*

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Professor Timothy Cavagnaro (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)) for item 3.3, Professor Jonathan Craig for items 2.3 and 2.4, Marc Davies (General Counsel and University Secretary), Mark Gregory (Vice-President, Corporate Services) for items 3.5 - 3.7, Professor Romy Lawson (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor) for items 2.5, 3.1 and 3.2, Richard Porter (Chief Financial Officer) for item 3.4, Mark Schultz (Director, People and Culture) and Sallyann Shearer (Associate Director, Organisational Development and Diversity) for item 3.9, Professor Simone Tur (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)) for item 2.3 and Jodie Zada (Director, Student Life) for item 3.1.

**1. OPENING****1.1. Acknowledgement of Country**

The Council acknowledged the land upon which the meeting was held as the traditional land of the Kaurna people, and paid respects to their spiritual relationship with their country, the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and the continuing importance of their culture and heritage.

**1.2. Apologies**

Nil

**1.3. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of Council 2/24 meeting held on 23 May 2024 (*Doc C M/3/24*) were confirmed as a true and correct record subject to amending the attendance record to reflect the attendance of the General Counsel and University Secretary for the entire meeting..

#### **1.4. Business Arising**

Council noted that one outstanding item regarding the Sturt Campus strategic project (*Doc C BA/24*) was deferred to a meeting later in 2024 to allow for further consultation.

#### **1.5. Arrangement of the Agenda**

The Chancellor noted that the agenda was already organised in appropriate order, so there was no need to rearrange any items.

#### **1.6. Disclosure of Interests**

There were no new disclosures of interest.

## **2. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

### **2.1. Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Council reviewed and discussed the various academic, research, strategic, operational, staff, students and other matters reported in the Vice-Chancellor's report (*Doc C 1/3/24*).

The Vice Chancellor highlighted a number of other matters, including:

- A slight amendment to content at paragraph 2.5 of his report ie 50 Years in Medicine which should read "Our medical programme began with 64 students in 1974 *and today we are educating more than 700 students*".
- The impacts on the University's finances (in 2024 and future years) arising from the Federal Government's proposed Managed Growth Funding Model and the announced caps on international students to be set by the end of August.

The Chancellor noted the challenging time for staff working through the financial shortfall against the targeted 2024 budget arising as a result of Ministerial Direction 107.

Council further discussed the importance of continuing to communicate Flinders' sustainable growth agenda, its focus on student equity, its research performance, and its recent capital commitments to the State and Federal governments to ensure Flinders is treated fairly and that the interests of students, the State, and the Nation are properly served by any caps imposed under the new regulatory regimes.

### **2.2 Academic Senate Chair's Report**

Professor Christopher Kee (Chair, Academic Senate) presented the report on Academic Senate business (*Doc C 2/3/24*) and highlighted the Academic Governance Review in terms of proposed restructure of Senate's sub-committees which had been referred for initial consultation with senior stakeholders and was now about to be released for broader consultation to around 200 stakeholders. It was anticipated that new terms of reference would be referred to the November Senate and then onto the December Council meeting for final approval.

### 2.3 Report on Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025

Professor Simone Tur (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)) and Professor Jonathan Craig, as Co-Chairs of the Reconciliation Action Plan Oversight Committee, presented the report on the Reconciliation Action Plan 2023 – 2025 (*Doc C 3/3/24*) and highlighted the following achievements:

- The success of the 2024 RAP Conference with around 600 participants over 3 days at Bedford Park and Darwin campus which included updates on Indigenous strategies and initiatives, along with cultural immersion activities.
- The HMRB Cultural Narrative, with Country Centred Design to embed respect for Country to foster share learning, respect and understanding.
- Indigenous Student Success Targets updates to ensure focused monitoring and continued efforts towards increasing commencement, participation, progression, retention and completion rates for Indigenous students.

Members noted the two Innovate Reconciliation Action Plans to date and discussed proceeding to the next phase ie the Stretch RAP in the future. The PVC (Indigenous) acknowledged the leadership of Council for RAP visibility and the Chancellor thanked the PVC (Indigenous) for her excellent work.

**ACTION:** Council members to be included in the circulation of whole of university RAP-related education activities.

### 2.4 HMRB Activation Report

Professor Jonathan Craig (Vice-President and Executive Dean for CMPH) presented the update on the Health and Medical Research Building (*Doc C 4/3/24*) which summarised the key steps taken to activate the building to date, including risk analysis, relocation budget, the relocation plan/schedule, and stakeholder engagement throughout the process.

Professor Craig noted that state-of-the-art building and facilities would provide an additional drawcard to attract new talent and increase Flinders health and medical research visibility and reputation with external industry and government partners. He advised that currently around 300 Flinders' staff had moved into the facilities

### 2.5 City Campus Activation Report

Professor Romy Lawson (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor) presented the inaugural City Campus Activation Report (*C 5/3/24*) which monitored the activation of the city campus and would evaluate the success of the activation project over the coming years.

This first report was provided after six months of campus operation and provided a baseline for all future reporting. Data sources and collection methods included staff and student surveys, interviews, industry and community feedback, user case studies, Service One reports, and student, education, and staff reports. Analysis of student load by course and topic, student demographics by location, gender and equity, success rates, student experience, staff experience, and marketing were provided in the report.

The Senior Deputy-Vice Chancellor noted that load actuals were down against the target, partly due to the delay in opening (domestic load reached 64% of the target load and international reached 41%). However, there was also a lot of positive news with many events being held in the space, including industry-and community-targeted gatherings with a combined total of 35,000 people coming through, and of these 23,000 alone for the Illuminate

Festival. Additionally, the Student Evaluation of Teaching results showed that City Campus students reported more positive learning experience outcomes compared to our other campuses across all measures.

### **3 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**ITEMS 3.1 TO 3.9 WERE CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO MEMBERS ONLY.**

*Minutes of these items are available for members only.*

### **4 MEETING FINALISATION**

#### **4.1 Minutes of Sub-Committees**

Council reviewed and noted the minutes of Sub-Committees (*Doc C 15/3/24*):

- Academic Senate 3/24 (unconfirmed)
- Finance and Investment Committee
- Executive Committee 3/24.

#### **4.2 Other Business**

The General Counsel and University Secretary advised that in lieu of a pre-meeting lunch for the 17 October meeting, planning was underway to organise an optional tour of the Health and Medical Research Building, with a minibus organised to shuttle members between the Council Room and HMRB.

#### **4.3 Schedule of Business**

Council noted the Schedule of Business for 2024 (*Doc C SB/24*).

#### **4.4 Next Meeting**

Council noted that the date of its next scheduled meeting was 17 October 2024 at 2.00pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 5:04pm.

**EXTRACT FROM confidential minutes of meeting 3/24**