

COUNCIL**Meeting No 4/24****Council Room, Bedford Park****Thursday, 17 October 2024****2:06pm (following a pre-meeting tour of HMRB)****MINUTES**

PRESENT: John Hood (**Chair**) (Chancellor), Professor Colin Stirling (Vice-Chancellor), Kim Cheater, 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.

***virtual attendance*

APOLOGIES: Douglas Gautier AM (Deputy Chancellor), Benjamin Grillett

IN ATTENDANCE: Bev Bury (Chief Marketing Officer) for item 2.4, Marc Davies (General Counsel and University Secretary), Jayne Flaherty (Chief of Staff) for items 2.3 and 3.1, Mark Gregory (Vice-President, Corporate Services) for item 3.3, Professor Romy Lawson (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor) for items 2.4 and 2.5, Richard Porter (Chief Financial Officer) for item 3.4, Mark Schultz (Director, People and Culture) for item 2.6.

All resolutions are passed by consensus unless otherwise indicated.

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 3/24 meeting held on 22 August 2024 (*Doc C M/4/24*) were confirmed as a true and correct record.

1.4 Business Arising

Council noted that one action item (*Doc C BA/24*) was due to be addressed during the meeting and that national benchmarks for Flinders University's international undergraduate employment rates (Item 3.2, meeting 3/24) was attached for information.

1.5 Arrangement of the Agenda

The Chancellor noted that the agenda was already organised in appropriate order but may be rearranged during the meeting to facilitate presenters if required.

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 1/4/24*).

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

- Meetings with the government regarding Flinders Healthcare.
- The lunch hosted at Flinders City Campus where Ambassador Jeff Bleich provided his insights on the US election.
- An event to be held with live results from the US election along with speakers, including Ambassador Jeff Bleich who would provide his views on the implications for Australia.
- His attendance at the Times Higher Education World Academic Summit at the University of Manchester. He tabled analysis of rankings results, advising that the University had only dropped two places, whereas many other Australian universities had dropped significantly in global rankings.
- Work underway on the development of the next strategic plan, with consultation being undertaken across the University. He advised that a draft plan will be brought to the Council in due course.

2.2 Academic Senate Chair's Report

Professor Christopher Kee (Chair, Academic Senate) presented the report on Academic Senate business (*Doc C 2/4/24*) and highlighted:

- The recent academic governance review, with recommendations currently undergoing stakeholder consultation. The final proposal is scheduled for consideration at the November Senate meeting and will be presented at the December Council meeting for approval.
- The inclusion of the Duolingo English test as part of the English Language Proficiency testing following a successful pilot program, noting that a further evaluation will be undertaken in 12 months.
- The upcoming OzCabs conference which will be hosted by the University.
- Student success in the SA International Student of the Year awards.
- Continuous improvement projects underway such as the methodologies for teaching delivery.

The Council discussed how to ensure that internal expertise within the University can be best utilised for projects such as the English Language Proficiency project highlighted by Professor Kee.

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Philanthropy Report

Jayne Flaherty (Chief of Staff) presented the Stakeholder Engagement and Philanthropy report (*Doc C 3/4/24*) highlighting the key activities such as:

- Government engagement, including discussions relating to the Australian Universities Accord, the ESOS Bill, MD107 and funding support for various projects.
- Philanthropy, including that the University has achieved its best fundraising results in its history this year, current focus and initiatives and the establishment of an Advancement Committee.
- Communications, including workshops and focus groups on the University's strategic plan, media coverage, such as the opening of the HMRB and City Campus.

The Council discussed the report, including the risk of foreign interference; the importance of understanding who donors are and ensuring appropriate due diligence is undertaken; and the governance around managing data used for invitations.

2.4 Marketing Report

Bev Bury (Chief Marketing Officer) presented on recent work undertaken in the marketing and student recruitment area, including:

- Current marketing focus.
- The team's vision and ambitions for the next few years.
- Student growth opportunities.
- Campaign activities.
- Future improvements such as focussing on customer experience and website accessibility.

The Council discussed:

- Challenges and opportunities arising from the merger of the other two universities.
- Reasons for students wanting to study at university.
- Quality of website and what needs to be done. Complexities in offerings.
- Team resourcing.
- Translation of the success in student recruitment to revenue.

2.5 Evaluative Report on Course Profile

Professor Romy Lawson (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor) provided an overview of the report, highlighting areas such as courses with low EFSLs, distribution of student load across courses, conversion rates from offers to enrolment, and work underway to simplify course structures.

The Council discussed Professor Lawson's report, particularly around the work needed to address courses with low EFSL's in an increasingly budget-constrained environment.

2.6 WHS Quarterly Report

The Council reviewed and discussed the Work Health and Safety Q2 2024 report (*Doc C 5/4/24*), including systems implemented to comply with new psychosocial regulations. In particular, Council queried whether the data relating to staff attendances at EAP may be useful to identify or monitor any workload issues within the University. Management

verbally provided Council with information about the additional controls that were in place to identify and monitor workload issues, and there was discussion about the limitations of the EAP data set out in the report.

2.7 Code of Conduct

The Council noted the minor amendment to the Code of Conduct (*Doc C 6/4/24*).

2.8 Meeting dates for 2025

The Council reviewed and noted the proposed Council and Committees Meeting Dates and Schedule of Business for 2024 (*Doc C 7/4/24*).

3. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

ITEMS 3.1 TO 3.6 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 13/4/24*):

- Academic Senate 4/24 (unconfirmed)
- Audit and Risk Committee 4/24 (unconfirmed)
- Executive Committee 5/24. (unconfirmed)
- Finance and Investment Committee 4/24 (unconfirmed)

4.2 Other Business

There was no other business.

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 5 December 2024 at 2.00pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 5.15pm.

EXTRACT FROM confidential minutes of meeting 4/24