

COUNCIL**Meeting No 3/25****Boardroom, Level 14, Flinders City Campus****Festival Tower****Tuesday 19 August 2025****1.30pm****MINUTES**

PRESENT: John Hood (Chair) (Chancellor), Professor Colin Stirling (Vice-Chancellor), Kim Cheater, Benjamin Grillett, Lucinda Hewitson, Matt Johnson, Professor Christopher Kee, Leanne Liddle, Clare Mockler, Associate Professor Amanda Muller, Damien Walker, Kate Walsh, Brenda Wilson AM, Sharon Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE: Rosie Bolingbroke (Council Secretary), Professor Jonathan Craig (VPED MPH) – for item 2.2, Marc Davies (General Counsel & University Secretary) (GCUS), Luke Havelberg (CIO) – for item 3.10, Mark Gregory (Vice-President Corporate Services) – for item 3.8, Shane Jennings (Director, Property, Facilities & Development) - for item 3.8, Tania Johnson (Executive Assistant to the Chancellor), Professor Romy Lawson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students) – for items 3.4-3.7, Richard Porter (Chief Financial Officer) – item 3.9, Mark Schultz (Director, People and Culture) – for item 2.4 & 3.3-3.4, Karl Sellman (CISO) – for item 3.10, Professor Simone Tur (PVC (Indigenous) – for item 2.2, Jodie Zada (Director, Student Life) – item 3.5

All resolutions were 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.

The Council further acknowledged and honoured the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which Flinders University operates; these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kaurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people.

1.2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of Council 2/25 meeting held on 22 May 2025 (Doc C 1.3/3/25) were confirmed as a true and correct record.

1.4 Business Arising

Council noted that all action items were complete (*Doc C 1.4/3/25*).

1.5 Arrangement of the Agenda

Chancellor noted that several members may need to leave the meeting early and that the agenda may be prioritised as necessary.

1.6 Disclosure of Interests

Professor Chris Kee advised that he is currently the Acting Vice-President and Executive Dean of the College of Business, Government and Law, a college affected by item 3.4.

No other disclosures of interest were declared.

2. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**2.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Vice-Chancellor's report (*Doc C 2.1/3/25*) was taken as read. In addition, he updated Council on:

- The 2026 Commonwealth funding agreement which includes a managed growth target (MGT), capping Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) at each university.
- Flinders HealthCare Centre proposal.

Part of the Vice-Chancellor's verbal update was confidential and minutes of those items are available for members only.

Professor Simone Tur, PVC (Indigenous) and Professor Jonathan Craig joined the meeting at 1.45pm

2.2 Report on Reconciliation Action Plan

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 (RAP) (*Doc C 2.2/3/25*) commencing with Professor Tur giving an acknowledgement of Country.

Council noted the intention to transition to transition to a three-year stretch RAP, approved by Reconciliation Australia, and confirmed their commitment to supporting reconciliation.

Council also discussed:

- ways in which Council, the University and its community can contribute to reconciliation and ensure student and community voices are embedded in the University's strategy;
- whether a formal plan endorsed by Reconciliation Australia was the best course of action to achieve meaningful outcomes at the University; and
- the importance of the University rejecting all forms of racism, not just racism against First Nations people.

Council acknowledged the University's dedication to meaningful, long-term change and fostering a safe, inclusive environment.

Simone Tur and Jonathan Craig left the meeting at 2.06pm.

2.3 Academic Senate Chair's Report

Professor Christopher Kee (Chair, Academic Senate) provided a report on Academic Senate's activities to Council (Doc C 2.3/3/25). Professor Kee reinforced the numerous ways in which Academic Senate communicated with Council via the Chair's report and numerous other papers, and reminded Council members that they had a standing invite to attend Academic Senate meetings or to discuss Senate matters with him.

He also mentioned the substantial amount of work completed following last year's external review of Academic Senate, including adopting a new committee structure in 2025, which will be evaluated during the year-end performance self-assessment.

Mark Schultz, Director, People and Culture joined the meeting at 2.10pm

2.4 WHS Policy Review

The Director, People and Culture, presented proposed amendments to the WHS Policy (Doc C 2.4/3/25), noting that the policy remains under Council's authority, and that minor revisions have been made including the inclusion of psychological hazards, updates to WHS responsibilities, and the integration of feedback from the Audit and Risk Committee, which suggested that its role and responsibilities be specified within the policy.

Council discussed the policy and suggested a minor typographical edit.

RESOLUTION: *Council, on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, approved the updated Work Health and Safety Policy, subject to a minor edit.*

Mark Schultz left the meeting at 2.12pm.

2.5 Meeting Dates and Schedule of Business for 2026

The Council reviewed the proposed Council and Committees Meeting Dates and Schedule of Business for 2026 (Doc C 2.5/3/35). It was noted that dates for Committee meetings would be provided to each Committee at its subsequent meeting, once Council meeting dates are confirmed.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee advised he would not be available for the meeting scheduled for 12 March 2026.

The Council noted that the schedule may be amended based on recommendations arising from the external review conducted by Minter Ellison.

RESOLUTION: *Council approved the 2026 meeting dates and schedule of business, subject to a potential change to the March meeting date.*

2.6 Governance Update

The Governance Update (Doc C 2.6/3/25) was taken as read.

The Chancellor reminded members that various reports on university governance in the sector had been uploaded to the Resource Centre in Diligent for their information.

3. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**ITEMS 3.1 TO 3.12 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 4.1/3/25*):

- Academic Senate 3/25 (unconfirmed)
- Audit & Risk Committee 2/25 (confirmed)
- Audit & Risk Committee 3/25 (unconfirmed)
- Executive Committee 3/25 (confirmed)
- Executive Committee Special meeting 1/25 (confirmed)
- Finance & Investment Committee 2/25 (confirmed)

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee advised that the Committee had received an excellent internal audit report on professional accreditation, which would also be provided to the Academic Senate for its information.

4.2 Other Business

Council discussed the use of AI in governance, noting that the Diligent platform can summarise Council papers and could be used to improve papers and provide succinct information for Council members, especially where there is a significant amount of data provided.

There was no other business.

4.3 Schedule of Business

Council noted the Schedule of Business for 2025 (*Doc C 4.1/3/25*).

4.4 Next Meeting

Council noted that the date of its next scheduled meeting was Thursday 16 October 2025 at 2.00pm, Council Room, Bedford Park.

The Chair thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting at 4.50pm.

EXTRACT FROM confidential minutes of meeting 3/25