

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

COUNCIL

Meeting 9/11

MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 4.00pm Monday 11 July 2011 in the Council Chamber, Level 1, Old Quadrangle, The University of Melbourne, Parkville.

PRESENT

Members

Chancellor (Ms Elizabeth Alexander)
Deputy Chancellor (Hon Justice Susan Crennan)
Vice-Chancellor (Professor Glyn Davis)
President of the Academic Board (Professor Ron Slocombe)
Professor Glenn Bowes Mr Michael Griffith
Mr Ross McPherson Mr Martyn Myer
Mr Tony Peake Ms Eda Ritchie
Hon David White

Others Attending

Acting Provost (Professor Pip Pattison)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Professor Jim McCluskey)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (University Affairs) (Professor Warren Bebbington)
Senior Vice-Principal (Mr Ian Marshman)
Head of University Services (Ms Lin Martin)
Acting Chief Financial Officer (Mr Michael Beaton-Wells)
Executive Director (Human Resources) (Ms Louise Doyle)
Executive Director (Student Services) and Academic Registrar (Mr Neil Robinson)
Executive Director IT and Chief Information Officer (Mr Sendur Kathir)
Chief Marketing Officer (Mr Pat Freeland-Small)
Director, Corporate Affairs (Mr John Dubois)
Director (Student Administration) and Deputy Academic Registrar (Ms Teresa Tjia)
University Secretary (Dr Christopher Stewardson)
Director, Corporate Affairs (Mr John Dubois)
General Manager, Academic Governance, University Secretary's Department (Ms Penelope Pepperell)
Executive Officer, Office of the Vice-Chancellor (Ms Liz Fazio)
Senior Executive Officer, University Secretary's Department (Ms Karen Roe)
Executive Officer, Council Secretariat, University Secretary's Department (Ms Kathy Menezes)
UMSU President (Ms Rachel Lim)

BUSINESS

A. FORMAL BUSINESS

A01 Apologies and Leave of Absence Requests

Council received apologies from Mr Joshua Anderson, Mr Robert Johanson, the Hon Justice John Middleton, Ms Marian Schoen, Dr Frederik Vervaet and Mr John Wilson and

approved leave of absence for Dr Virginia Mansour for this meeting.

A02 Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes – Meeting 7/2011

Minutes of Council meeting 7/2011 held on Monday 6 June 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record.

(b) Minutes – Meeting 8/2011

Record of meeting 8/2011 deemed to have been held on Monday 27 June 2011 by circular resolution was confirmed as an accurate record.

(b) Action Sheet

The action sheet from meeting 7/2011 was received and noted.

A03 (a) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chancellor called for any declarations of interest for items on the agenda for the current meeting. No declarations were received.

(b) Starring of Additional Items

Items B01, B02(b, c, h), B03(b02, b03, b04, b05), B04(b01, b02, b03), C02 and C06 were starred additionally for discussion.

(c) Motion to Adopt or Receive “Unstarred” Items of Business

Council resolved to adopt unstarred items of business where containing recommendations and to receive unstarred items where containing reports.

A04 Key Issues

Refer to minute item B03(b01) below.

B. REPORTS OF SENIOR OFFICERS

B01 Chancellor’s Report

Council received an oral report from the Chancellor about her activities since the previous meeting. During a meeting with the Minister for Higher Education and Skills, the Hon Peter Hall, the Chancellor took the opportunity to discuss higher education funding, the Carlton Connect project and Council membership. A ministerial appointment will be made to Council this year. Council agreed to invite Ms Deborah Harman to attend Council meetings as an observer until the formalities of her appointment are completed.

B02 Vice-Chancellor’s Report

Council received and noted the Vice-Chancellor’s written report to Council. The report covered the following:

(a) Recommendations

Nil.

(b) Major/Strategic Developments

Confidential

The major/ strategic developments section of the Vice-Chancellor’s report (items b01-b04) which included confidential appendix A, ‘Report on Canberra Trip 22-24 June 2011’, and appendix B, being an article, ‘Adding ‘Breadth’ to Specialist Degrees in Australia’, dated 19 June 2011 and published in the *New York Times*.

The Vice-Chancellor reported orally on a recent university delegation to Canberra. The University has engaged the Commonwealth government and Opposition around

key issues such as the Base Funding Review, and is keen to stress the challenge of maintaining quality amid declining Commonwealth support for universities. Beyond funding issues, the university presented advice to Canberra on a range of Melbourne priorities. Government officials conveyed an interest in the arts precinct at the broad level of cultural policy and pursuit of excellence in arts organisations. The Carlton Connect project was viewed enthusiastically although no funding commitment was made. The university was encouraged by the discussion of foreign affairs and aid to forward project submissions to government funding agencies on topics such as food and water security. The Melbourne Model drew mixed responses, but was acknowledged as an important initiative in Australian higher education.

Council discussed with dismay the low level of engagement by the public in the issues surrounding higher education in Australia. The Vice-Chancellor undertook to coordinate further investigation of the climate of opinion and commence a program toward raising public awareness of the issues.

(c) Research and Research Training

The research and research training section of the Vice-Chancellor's report (items c05-c10) which included appendix C, being the research report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) reported orally the University of Melbourne has performed extremely well in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds World University subject rankings. In addition, the University is the top Australian university in terms of its total research income for 2010.

(d) Learning and Teaching

The learning and teaching section of the Vice-Chancellor's report (items d11-d16) which included appendix D, being an article, 'New Generation Learning Spaces at the University of Melbourne', from the May 2011 issue of *Link*.

(e) Engagement

The engagement section of the Vice-Chancellor's report (item e17-e22) which included appendix E, being the transcript of a speech, 'A Co-operative Model for Industry and Tertiary Education', delivered by the Vice-Chancellor to the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Conference 2011.

(f) Advancement

Nil.

(g) Senior Appointments

Nil.

(h) Infrastructure and Management

The infrastructure and management section of the Vice-Chancellor's report (items h23-h27) which included appendix F, 'University Compliance Program', and appendix G being an article by the Vice-Chancellor, 'Hitting the Books, or Booking the Kegs?', that was dated 6 July 2011 and published in *The Australian*.

B03 Provost's Report

Council received and noted the Provost's written report to Council. The report covered the following:

(a) Recommendations

Nil.

(b) Reports

(b01) ISIS Connect Project Presentation

Council received from the Executive Director (Student Services) and Academic Registrar, the Executive Director IT and Chief Information Officer, and the Director (Student Administration) and Deputy Academic Registrar a presentation entitled 'ISIS – One Year On...' The principal points made by the presenters were as follows:

- since the go-live date of 7 June 2010, ISIS has performed the basic functions and operated satisfactorily, but has not demonstrated the expected scope of functionality. Students have enrolled and re-enrolled online, Australian Higher Education Graduation Statements have been delivered, full student life cycles have been achieved for many students, and staff have been trained in the system.
- initial problems were experienced in data integration, quality of the software, system performance (although some issues were more accurately attributed to changes in business practices, rather than the software) and an increase in staff workload during the implementation phase.
- ongoing issues surround the RhD course and scholarship applications, timetabling and registration, student load reporting, fees and loss of expertise following the departure of some senior staff.
- solutions in progress include finalising and actioning the list of priority issues of which stabilising the system and fixing the 'bugs' are foremost, forthcoming release of version 4.9 of the software which will offer potential improvement, and formation of a stakeholder group convened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

In response to questions from Council members, the presenters replied:

- funding was allocated by the Senior Executive Committee for the second phase of the project called ISIS Connect.
- ISIS software was the best alternative available at a time when a more contemporary platform than Merlin was needed. Further updates or enhancements to the software will be executed by the vendor and will be planned in terms of resourcing and timing.
- increasing staff familiarity with the software will reduce the time and effort required for performing tasks. The journey involves a time commitment and learning curve. It is intended to record the corporate knowledge of the system developed along the way.
- the University of Melbourne is building relationships with other universities who are using ISIS in which user information and experiences are exchanged. As a result, the outlook among staff is improving and there is room for optimism.
- relationship with the vendor has improved following discussion and feedback from the university and their employment of a larger number of capable staff.

Council requested a further progress report at the September or October meeting.

(b02) Graduations

An update in relation to decision making responsibilities and outlines where progress has been made in relation to the Graduations Report's recommendations and where further action is required as set out in the Provost's report (appendix A). The Chancellor requested a report from the Executive Director (Student Services) and Academic Registrar on the management issues arising from the graduations review, proposed timelines and proposed remedial actions.

(b03) 2010 Gender Profile Report

A report on the gender profile of the University workforce as set out in the Provost's report (appendix B). The report provided a snapshot of staff numbers and percentages by gender, both within the University overall, and broken down by other groups, such as Budget Division, Level, Academic/Professional, and Continuing/Fixed Term. The Executive Director (Human Resources) was requested to provide further details of the issues of concern and the proposed strategies to resolve these.

(b04) Human Resources 2009 Advice and Complaints Report

A report on the gender profile of the University workforce as set out in the Provost's report (appendix C). The report provided advice and analysis of the kind of matters raised by staff and students during 2009 with the Equal Opportunity Unit, Workplace Bullying Advisers, Sexual Harassment Advisers and Anti-Discrimination Advisers. It was noted that online training in workplace discrimination and sexual harassment is compulsory for all new employees of the university.

(b05) Response to the 'Fee-Help Gap' in Graduate School Professional Degrees

A briefing on a short term response approved by the Senior Executive to assist Australian fee students in some graduate school programs who face a gap between the maximum amount that can be funded under the Fee-Help scheme and the level of fees for their degree. It was noted that international students are experiencing a similar fee gap.

(b06) Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellows Program 2012

A report on the Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowships awarded for 2012 as set out in the Provost's report (appendix D).

(b07) New Generation Degree Medal Winners 2010

A briefing on the first New Generation Degree Medals awarded to the top performing graduating student in each undergraduate degree in 2010 as set out in the Provost's report.

B04 Senior Vice-Principal's Report

Council received and noted the Senior Vice-Principal's written report to Council. The report covered the following:

(a) Recommendations

Nil.

(b) Reports

(b01) Funding Outlook and Strategy

A briefing on financial strategies being implemented to bring planned University expenditure well within previous projections, and in doing so provide for some increased flexibility in the event of a significant decline in international fee revenue, as set out in the Senior Vice-Principal's report.

(b02) Auditor-General's Performance Report

Advice that the Victorian Auditor General's Report on the Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative project was tabled in Parliament on 15 June 2011.

(b03) Major Projects

An update in relation to University major projects as set out in the Senior Vice-Principal's report (appendix A). Council discussed the funding of major projects, noting that a funding gap existed in some instances.

(b04) 2011 Strategy and Performance Review

The Senior Vice-Principal reported orally on the 2011 Strategy and Performance Reviews of university budgetary divisions. The focus was on divisional performance and the development of business plans wherein the performance targets embedded in the university plan were cascaded down to divisional level. A final report on outcomes and actions planned in response to the findings of the reviews will be reported to the next meeting of Council.

(b05) Sustainability Website

Advice that Property and Campus Services launched recently a new sustainability website.

C. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER GOVERNING BODIES

C01 Finance Committee

No meeting was held.

C02 Academic Board

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 4/2011 of the Academic Board held on 30 June 2011 and resolved to approve the amendments to Regulation 10.1.R1, 'Directions Regarding Details of Fees', as set out in appendix A to the report. Council discussed the proposal for guaranteed pathways that was considered by the Academic Board at its June meeting. The proposal received mixed responses from Council members, but was considered to provide an incentive to retain bright students, attract new students and provide a level of certainty for prospective students who are worried about the hurdles and risks ahead with the Melbourne Model.

C03 Audit and Risk Committee

No meeting was held.

C04 Buildings and Estates Committee

No meeting was held.

C05 Council Nominations and Governance Committee

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 2/2011 of the Council Nominations and Governance Committee held on 20 June 2011.

C06 Honours Committee

Confidential

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 3/2011 of the Honours Committee held on 16 June 2011 and resolved to adopt the following recommendations contained therein:

1. the amendment of section IV, 'Honorary Degree Procedures', of the committee terms of reference to read as follows (confidential appendix A):
"Serving staff members of the university will not be eligible for honorary degrees until their time of service is close to completion unless exceptional circumstances warrant the award of an honorary degree prior to this."
2. the appointment of Professor Fiona Stanley, AC as a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow commencing February 2012 (confidential appendix B).

3. the appointment Professor Eric Reynolds AO, Professor Hugh Taylor AC, Professor Marshall Lightowlers and Professor Cynthia Hardy as Melbourne Laureate Professors for a period of five years commencing 12 July 2011–11 July 2016 and in receipt of both the title and an annual loading of \$50,000 each (confidential appendix C).
4. the reappointment of Professor Stuart Macintyre as a Melbourne Laureate Professor for a further three years from 1 August 2010-31 July 2013.

C07 Remuneration and Employment Conditions Committee

No meeting was held.

C08 Legislation and Trusts Committee

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 2/2011 of the Legislation and Trusts Committee held on 27 June 2011.

C09 Lorna Stirling Fund Committee

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 1/2011 of the Lorna Stirling Fund Committee held on 26 May 2011. Council ratified the award of Lorna Stirling Fund Travelling Scholarships for the purpose of promoting international student relationships to Ms Bianca Angelica, Ms Kathryn Droppert, Mr Tim Hall, Ms Laura Spelbrink and Ms Soon Kim Yeoh.

D. REPORTS FROM SEMI-AUTONOMOUS BODIES' BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT

D01 Melbourne Theatre Company Board of Management

Council received and noted the written report from meetings 4/2011 and 5/2011 of the Melbourne Theatre Company Board of Management held on 20 May 2011 and 17 June 2011.

D02 Ian Potter Museum of Art Board of Management

Council received and noted the written report from meeting 3/2011 of the Ian Potter Museum of Art Board of Management held on 14 June 2011.

E. REPORTS OF MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

E01 Approval of Changes to Regulations under Authority of Statute

Nil.

E02 Sealed Documents Report

Confidential

Council received a tabled report summarising the documents approved on behalf of Council by the Vice-Chancellor both under University seal and not under University seal.

E03 Appointments Report

Confidential

Nil.

E04 Other Matters Report

Confidential

Nil.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

F01 Any Other Business

Nil.

F02 Forthcoming Meetings

Council noted that forthcoming meetings this year are scheduled for 4.00pm Monday 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 7 November and 5 December 2011 in the Council Chamber, level 1, Old Quadrangle, The University of Melbourne, Parkville.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm.