

University of Canberra

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 52

held on Wednesday 28 May 1997 at 4.30 pm

http://www.canberra.edu.au/secretariat/council/uc_cm_52.html

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Present:

- Ms W McCarthy (Chancellor)
- Professor D Aitkin
- Associate Professor B Alderman
- Associate Professor C Annice
- Ms R Brooks
- Ms P Cooper
- Ms W Dunne
- Mr J Hanratty
- Mr I Macintosh
- Ms G McFeat Lin
- Mr P McGhie
- Dr S Rickard
- Mr M Rosser
- Ms A Trimmer
- Dr H Watson
- Mr G Dennett (Secretary)

Apologies:

- Mr H Powell
- Ms K Price
- Mr J Radik
- Dr M Sargent

In Attendance:

- Professor I Moses
- Professor R Tomasic
- Ms H Maxwell

Adoption of Agenda

Council confirmed the order of the agenda with Items 2 to 6 inclusive listed for discussion.

Item 1: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council received the [minutes of Council Meeting No. 51](#) held on 16 April 1997.

Resolution No. C52/1

Council agreed to accept the [minutes of Council Meeting No. 51](#) as a true record of proceedings, with the amendment, at Item 18: Annual Report, of "draft 1995 Annual Report" to read "draft 1996 Annual Report".

Matters Arising From the Minutes:

[A](#) | [B -Committee Membership](#) | [C - Vacant Council Position](#)

A

Minutes of Meeting No. 50, Item 9: Florence Leung Memorial The Chancellor advised Council that she had received a letter dated 7 May 1997 from the Director of the Kirinari Early Childhood Centre concerning priorities for the Centre. The Chancellor reported that she had passed the letter to the Vice-Chancellor for consideration.

B

Item 3: Committee Membership The Secretary of Council reported that membership of a number of Council committees remained unresolved.

Resolution No. C52/2

Council resolved membership of the following committees as indicated:

Audit Committee

Ms A Trimmer to replace Mr M Rosser

Buildings and Site Committee

As Associate Professor R Barton had resigned from the Committee, Council asked the Vice-Chancellor to identify a replacement.

Finance Committee

Ms W Dunne and Mr J Hanratty were appointed as the two members of staff with appropriate expertise. Associate Professor Annice asked for the agenda papers of this committee to be sent to her.

Student Conduct Committee

As Professor B Andrew was no longer a member of the Committee, Council confirmed Professor K Taylor's appointment as Chair and the appointment of Associate Professor S Johnston as his replacement as an academic staff on the Committee.

Commercial Advisory Board

To be resolved by the Secretary in consultation with the four members whose names had been suggested.

C

Vacant Position on Council The Chancellor advised members that Council still had a position at its disposal.

Resolution No. C52/3

Council agreed that the committee established to consider membership of Council would meet before the next Council meeting to consider the vacancy and the matter of non-attendance at Council meetings. Membership of the committee was confirmed as follows:

- Chancellor (Chair)
- Vice-Chancellor
- The senior academic staff member of Council
- Chair of the Finance Committee
- One other member of Council (Mr J Hanratty)

Members were invited to submit names and categories of persons whose membership on Council might be considered by the Committee.

Item 2: Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Wider Context | [The University](#) | [For Noting](#)

The Wider Context

The Federal Budget

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the Federal Government's second budget had contained few

surprises for the University. While the further 1% cut to university funding for the year 2000 had not been foreshadowed by the Government, he had drawn attention to its likelihood last year, and University planning had been predicated on that possibility.

The University | [For Noting](#)

[Customs Contract](#) | [Link with ABS](#) | [Boiler House Speech](#) | [Conferring Ceremonies](#) | [CIT cooperation](#) | [Master Builders' Association Award](#) | [Professor Moses' Final Meeting](#)

Contract with Australian Customs Service (ACS)

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University had secured a \$1 million contract with the ACS to design, develop and deliver a Commercial Education Program. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the program would allow people within the ACS to obtain a qualification in Public Sector Administration, including areas such as law, auditing, commercial or business dealings, computing and economics. Courses had been designed to allow people to progress from certificate level to diploma, advanced diploma and degree.

Link with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

The Vice-Chancellor reported that a recently-negotiated agreement between the University and the Australian Bureau of Statistics provided for a group of 17 ABS staff to undertake intensive study for a Graduate Certificate in Management Studies.

Boiler House Speech

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the focus of his address to staff of the University on 7 May 1997 on the immediate tasks for the University had been set in the context of the divisions which were becoming apparent in the fabric of modern Australia and the role which universities like the University of Canberra needed to play in protecting the communities from which they arose. Council noted that the text of the address was available on the World Wide Web at URL http://www.canberra.edu.au/secretariat/speeches/vc_addr_7May97.html

Conferring Ceremonies

Council noted that 1,500 graduands had attended the conferring ceremonies on 30 April, 1 and 2 May 1997. Addresses had been given by Professor John Richards, Rector of the Australian Defence Force Academy, Ms Quentin Bryce Principal of Women's College of the University of Sydney, Professor Peter Baume, Chancellor of The Australian National University, Professor Kwong Lee Dow, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Melbourne and Emeritus Professor Romaldo Giurgola, Senior Partner of Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects. Professor

Giurgola had been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of the University. Council noted that University medals had been awarded to:

- Jillian Mary Craven, *Bachelor of Education*
- Kathryn Maureen Devoy, *Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communications Engineering (with First Class Honours)*
- Karen Louise Fitzgerald, *Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting*
- Arthur Charles Langston, *Bachelor of Applied Science (with First Class Honours)*
- Edward Pfohl, *Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering (with First Class Honours)*
- Kathryn Joanna Wright, *Bachelor of Graphic Design.*

The Vice-Chancellor reported that, this year, the normal program of six ceremonies in the Gymnasium had been altered with the inclusion of an off-campus ceremony in the Great Hall at Parliament House. It was the first time that Parliament House had hosted such an event and the ceremony had proved memorable. Additionally, in what was believed to be a world first, the entire ceremony had been videotaped and digitised for transmission on the World Wide Web. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the ceremony could be seen at URL <http://www.canberra.edu.au/uc/pr/grad97.html>

Cooperation with CIT

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide closer links between the two institutions, making it easier for CIT graduates to study at UC through the development of selected joint courses in early childhood education and design. Under the agreement graduates from relevant CIT Diploma courses will be given a year's advanced standing for the related undergraduate degree at UC and graduates from relevant Advanced Diploma courses will receive the equivalent of one and a half year's advanced standing.

Master Builders' Association Award

Council noted that recently completed extensions to Building 6 which house the School of Law had won a merit award in the Master Builders' Association Awards in the Extensions/Refurbishments \$2 to \$7m category.

Final Meeting of Professor I Moses

Council noted that this was the final Council meeting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor I Moses, who had resigned to take up the position of Vice-Chancellor at the University of New England on 1 July 1997. The Vice-Chancellor informed Council that Professor Moses had been at the University of Canberra for four years and, in that time, had been responsible for

many of the advances in the quality of teaching and learning at the University. He noted that her period at the University had been marked by creativity, far-sightedness and enormous energy. The Vice-Chancellor indicated that, when writing to the Chancellor of the University of New England, he had been pleased to advise that, in his opinion, the University was gaining the best Australia had to offer.

The Chancellor endorsed the words of the Vice-Chancellor on Council's behalf and thanked Professor Moses for her contribution to the University and to Council.

For Noting

Appointments and Awards

- Professor Livio Bonollo had been appointed to the Art and Design Accreditation Panel of the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies and had also been nominated to the Italo-Australian Commission set up to examine proposals for the granting of scholarships offered by the Italian Government to Australian students.
- Associate Professor John Dearn, Faculty of Applied Science, had been appointed as a member of the Selection Panel for the Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development's National Teaching Development Grants - Individual.
- Professor Ken Taylor had been appointed a member of the CIT Faculty Advisory Committee for Communication and Community Services.
- Professor Bob Kearney had been appointed to the Selection Panel of New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries research projects panel.
- Postgraduate student and executive officer of CUPA, Manik Datar, had won a book prize worth \$250 from Allen and Unwin for a work of prose fiction undertaken as a freelance writing project in her Professional Writing degree course.

Item 3: Proposed Statement on Fee-paying for Australian Undergraduates

Council received and considered a draft statement prepared by the Vice-Chancellor concerning the offer of courses to Australian undergraduate students on a full-fee paying basis. Council noted that the matter had been discussed at Academic Board, the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee and the Council's planning day.

Resolution No. C52/4

Council accepted the statement (see [Attachment](#)) as its policy in respect of the matter of the introduction of places in undergraduate courses for Australian students on a full-fee paying basis.

Item 4: Review of the Ngunnawal Centre

Council received and considered the Report of the Review of the University of Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Activities and discussed in some depth the role of the Vice-Chancellor's Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and the extent to which the Ngunnawal Centre had met its aims.

Resolution No. C52/5

Council referred the report to the Vice-Chancellor for consideration by the University of ways in which the recommendations might be implemented.

Item 5: Report of Planning Meeting of 16/17 May

Council received and considered the Report of the Planning Meeting of 16/17 May 1997.

Resolution No. C52/6

Council endorsed the six objectives given below as the basis for the formulation of a strategic plan for 1998-2000:

What we do -

- Offering undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education programs which are intellectually stimulating and appropriate to the professions;
- Creating, collecting, advancing and disseminating knowledge and enquiry in ways which are closely linked with and enrich the University's professional focus and that strengthen the knowledge and intellectual base of the professions;

How we do it -

- Continuing to enhance the quality of the University's intellectual, cultural and physical environment, and ensuring that its strengths are vigorously promoted and marketed;
- Ensuring flexible provision of the University's academic programs, infrastructure and facilities to ensure the wide availability of the University's professional education;

Our relationships -

- Providing intellectual leadership and service to the professions, and to the wider society, particularly the ACT and the local region; and
- Providing a complete intellectual resource, from training for admission to the professions, to continuing education within the professions, and research for the professions to enable them to serve the society from which they are drawn.

Council noted that, following the adoption of the University's objectives, it was now necessary to formulate the strategies, including implementation strategies, to achieve those objectives, to identify the tasks to achieve the desired outcomes, and to formulate a one-year business plan to support the overall three-year strategic plan.

Council members were invited to provide additional comments to the Vice-Chancellor's Policy Adviser, Ms Christine Wise.

Item 6: Report of Academic Board

Council received and considered the report of Academic Board.

Review of the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (CELTS)

Council noted the report of the Review and the high praise of the Panel for the Centre. Council also noted the response made by the Centre to the recommendations contained in the report, and that Council would be kept informed of progress on the implementation of the recommendations.

Change in Academic Board Meeting Dates for 1997

Council noted the changes to the dates on which Academic Board would meet for the remainder of 1997.

Item 7: Report of Student Services Committee

Council received and noted the report of the Student Services Committee.

Item 8: Audited Accounts of the Australian Mathematics Trust

Council received and noted the 1996 audited accounts of the Australian Mathematics Trust.

Item 9: Submission to the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy

Council received and noted the submission to the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy.

Item 10: Use of the Seal

Council received and noted a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the use of the University Seal.

Item 11: Other Business

Report of the Chair of the Finance Committee

Council received and noted the Statement of Income and Expenditure (including capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment) for the five periods ended 15 May 1997.

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm and was followed by a presentation on marketing of the University by Mr Richard Andrews, Director of Community Relations.

Attachment

(from [Item 3](#))

Full-fee paying Undergraduate Students

The University of Canberra believes that Australia's capacity to meet the challenges of the early 21st century will depend upon the willingness of our society to educate itself to the highest level. All Australians should be encouraged to seek the highest level of education appropriate to their abilities and aspirations, and access to tertiary education, like access to secondary and primary education, should be provided by society in its own interest. Where private benefit is associated with the securing of university qualifications, that benefit can be and is being regulated through the HECS scheme. It must be remembered that higher education, whatever the original motivations of the student, benefits society in many ways. Higher education provides a universal public benefit as well as individual private benefits.

Although governments have from time to time wondered what might be the optimal level of participation, a felt national need to widen the provision of higher education has been shared by both Australian society and successive Australian governments since the end of the second world war. The outcome has been a world-class university system educating some 650,000 students, including scores of thousands from outside Australia attracted by its quality. This is a marked change since the times of enrolments of about 30,000 (and no foreign students) of half a century ago.

The University greatly regrets the clear sign that Australian governments, at least, have lost sight of this national aspiration. It sees the introduction of full-fee places for a proportion of undergraduate students as a further weakening of what until recently had been a strong bipartisan agreement that greater provision of higher education was in the national interest.

In practical terms the University is unable to be sure, at this point, whether or not there are any potential students for whom a full-fee place at a nominated university is an attractive alternative to a HECS-

funded place at another university or in another course at the same university. It is not sure what should guide the setting of fees, what courses would be most appropriate for any such fees, and what should happen at the end of the first year were a full-fee student to successfully complete. It is aware of heavy penalties if it accepts fee-paying students but still has unfilled HECS places. Something will be known about all these matters once the enrolment patterns for 1998 have emerged. The University will not, therefore, provide full-fee places for undergraduates in 1998. It will review its position for later years as reliable information becomes available.

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