Minutes of Council Meeting No. 74

held at 4.30 pm on Wednesday 7 February 2001 in the Council Room

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PRESENT:

Ms W McCarthy (Chancellor)
Professor D Aitkin
Professor M Brennan
Ms J Coggins
Ms I Fraser
Ms Y Hanbidge
Mr B Hayward
Mr D Kleeman
Adoption of Agenda

Council confirmed the order of the agenda with Items 3 to 8 inclusive listed for discussion, and Items 3 and 8 to be discussed in camera at the end of the meeting.

Item 1: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council received the minutes of Council Meeting No. 73 of Wednesday 6 December 2000.

Resolution No. C74/1/1

Council agreed to accept the minutes of Council Meeting No. 73 as a true record of proceedings.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
A Designation of Adjunct Professors

Council noted that adjunct professors and honorary professors appointed to the National Institute of Governance should be designated "Adjunct Professor of Governance" and "Honorary Professor of Governance".

Members observed that it would be useful to form a selection committee, including external members of Council, to vet applications for appointments to adjunct and honorary positions prior to formal Council approval being sought.

Resolution No. C74/1/2

Council agreed to the designations "Adjunct Professor of Governance" and Honorary Professor of Governance for the following and future appointments to the National Institute of Governance:

Adjunct Professors of Governance

Paul Barratt  
Michael Delaney  
Julian Disney  
Frances Hinton  
Alison McClelland  
Sheryle Moon  
James Porter  
James Service  
Ann Sherry  
Suzanne Vardon

Honorary Professor of Governance

Anthony Blunn

B Date for Strategic Planning Meeting

Council noted that a date should be set for discussion of the University's strategic plan and that, as this process would have an impact on the recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor, it should be held before June. The Vice-Chancellor advised that he would write a paper for the April meeting of Council on the University's current position and options for the future. The Chancellor invited suggestions on other perspectives.

Members observed that the strategic planning process should be inclusive, and that wide discussion was
needed to generate a sense of enthusiasm. Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor would circulate a draft paper to the University community via the e-mail system seeking input. The Vice-Chancellor commented that it would not be appropriate for him to contribute after that point.

Council noted the importance of accountability measures to monitor whether the University was achieving its objectives, and if not, the reasons for this. Council noted that outcomes would be process-driven. An important strategic question was whether the University should run programs for the local community even if there were insufficient numbers for them to be viable.

**Item 2 Council Membership**

Council received and noted a memorandum from the Secretary advising that Ms Jacqui Burke had resigned from Council following her election to the ACT Legislative Assembly on a countback following the recent resignation of the Chief Minister.

Council noted that the Chancellor had written to the Chief Minister advising that the terms of membership of six members of the Council appointed by the Chief Minister would expire on 6 April 2001, and asking for members to be re-appointed or new members appointed in good time. Council noted Ms Burke's resignation and the action taken by the Chancellor to advise the Chief Minister of this and other impending vacancies.

Council received a letter from Mr Patrick O'Flaherty, postgraduate student member of Council, advising of his resignation.

*Resolution No. C74/1/3*

Council received and noted the resignation of Mr O'Flaherty and asked the Vice-Chancellor to consult with CUPA regarding the nomination of a postgraduate student to be appointed as postgraduate student member of Council for the remainder of the term of office (until 26 September 2001). Council noted that should CUPA be unable to nominate a person by 23 February, then the Secretary would proceed with a by-election.

**Item 3 Chancellor's Report**

The meeting was closed for consideration of this matter which is recorded separately in the confidential minute book.

**Item 4 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Council noted the following matters:
The Wider Community

National Youth Science Forum

The University of Canberra hosted the 2001 National Youth Science Forum in January 2001 when school students from all over Australia stayed at the University of Canberra for the two-week Forum. During their stay the students, who are all about to enter Year 12, visited science, technology and engineering centres, met current students and graduates in the field and undertook communication and personal skills workshops.

The University

Conferring Ceremonies 18-19 December 2000

On 18 and 19 December 2000 the University conducted six conferring ceremonies in the Great Hall of Parliament House for 1700 students who completed their studies in 2000. The speakers at the conferring ceremonies included:

- Ms Lindy Hyam, Chief Executive of Australia’s International Development Program;
- Mr John Boshier, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Engineers (Australia);
- Dr Ken Boston, Director-General, NSW Education Department;
- Ms Julie McCrossin, media personality;
- Dr Paul Wellings, Deputy Chief Executive of CSIRO and Head of its Environmental Sciences; and
- Mr Michael Bryce, Design Consultant to the Queensland Government and SOCOG.

During the ceremonies, Doctoral degrees were awarded to three candidates:

- Dianne Jolley, *The accumulation and storage of selenium in Anadara trapezia*
- Marian Scarrabelotti, *A longitudinal study of memory and metamemory impairment in multiple sclerosis*
- Barry Roantree, *Development of a methodological framework for design education in the Vocational Education and Training Sector.*

Burton Medal

The Chancellor awarded the 2000 Burton Medal to Maria Kubik, who graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science specialising in the Conservation of Cultural Materials. The Burton Medal is the University’s most prestigious award and is presented to a student with outstanding academic performance as an undergraduate and who has made a significant contribution to the University or the wider community.
ACT Minister for Health, Michael Moore, presented graduation certificates to the students of the Refresher Course for Registered Nurses on 15 December 2000. Of the 21 graduating students, 18 were recipients of ACT Government Scholarships made available to encourage nurses to refresh their qualifications with a view to returning to a nursing career.

Enterprise Agreement

The enterprise Agreement finalised at the end of November 2000 goes further in consolidating conditions than any other university, according to the Director of Human Resources, Karl Dubravs and NTEU’s Dale Kleeman. As well as simplifying and enhancing conditions, the agreement for 2000-2003 sets out a series of three per cent annual salary increases. The success of the negotiations, which makes UC one of the first universities to settle an agreement without industrial action, was attributed to the good relationship built up between management and the NTEU over the years.

Road Ready Program

The Centre for Professional and Vocational Education in the Division of Communication & Education recently completed a new project to increase awareness and reduce risk-taking among young drivers in the ACT. The program, Road Ready, uses small group activities targeted to young drivers six to 24 months into their provisional licence. The Novice Driver Safety Project Steering Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, recommended that the ACT driver licencing arrangements should be amended to include an intervention which allows successful participants to drive without their P plates and receive an additional demerit point allowance.

Council also noted the following matters.

- Professor Marie Brennan has been nominated to the Commonwealth Territories Selection Committee for Rhodes Scholarships.
- Lecturer in the School of Professional and Community Education, Jennifer Martiniello, was awarded the 2000 Canberra Critics Circle Award for Literature. Jennifer received the award for her work in editing the indigenous anthology, *Writing Us Mob: New Indigenous Voices*, for raising awareness of indigenous literature, and for the consistent development of her own poetry and fiction.
- Associate Professor Satendra Nandan of the School of Creative Communication and Culture Studies has been offered an honorary appointment as Professorial Associate to the ARC Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, Charles Sturt University, ACT Campus.
- Three UC journalism students won Ken and Yasuko Myer Fellowships for 2001. Amy Bainbridge has been assigned to *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*, Karen Ingram will work for *The Phnom Penh Post*, and *Monitor* intern Liz Gooch will write for *The Bangkok Nation*. The Myer Fellowships, which were established by Honorary Professor Richard Broinowski, are worth $3,000 each, covering the cost of airfares and accommodation.
The Vice-Chancellor reported the following matters.

A Admissions

The Vice-Chancellor estimated that for 2001 there would be approximately 200 enrolments over the undergraduate DETYA base load of 5010. Council noted that the University had previously taken a decision to reduce undergraduate over-enrolment, which was funded only at the marginal rate. Enrolments had been reducing by approximately 200 per annum over the previous 3 years.

Council noted that median entry scores for 2001 had risen from a UAI of 83 to a UAI of around 85. Council also noted that students with a UAI below 73 would be accepted only in exceptional circumstances. Evidence suggested that students with a UAI of 73 and upwards had a greater success rate, with an expectation that attrition rates would be lower during 2001. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed a plan to raise the minimum UAI to 75 and to establish 150 discretionary places for applicants who could satisfy a small committee that they merited a place after consideration at interview of special reasons or a portfolio of work.

Council noted that at postgraduate level it was clear the whole university sector was affected by the reduction in postgraduate funding. Enrolment of approximately 150 equivalent full-time students for higher degrees by research was appropriate for the University, and the outlook for 2001 was positive.

B Medical School

Council noted that the Porter Committee had held its final meeting and had made recommendations to the ACT Minister of Health. The Minister had agreed to form a committee, of which the Vice-Chancellor was a member, to consider how an independent medical school might proceed. The Vice-Chancellor believed that the ACT Government preferred a collaborative model for the medical school. Support for this model had been indicated by regional medical associations.

C Special treatment for fee-paying students

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the "money for marks" issue, which was currently receiving attention in the media. He advised that the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AV-CC) had made a public statement on the issue. The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had received a letter from a student alleging favourable treatment for fee-paying students at the University of Canberra. He advised that he would invite the student to discuss the matter with him, and if allegations proved to have substance, he would publicise relevant issues. Council noted that Queensland University of Technology was to conduct an enquiry into allegations, and the University of Wollongong had already denied allegations about its staff. It was expected that the matter would arise at other universities during the media campaign.

Council was advised that a Senate Enquiry into Higher Education Study in Australian Institutions was in
process and part of its brief was to investigate the pressures of commercialisation on Australian universities.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Council that senior staff were already aware that maintenance of academic quality was a crucial contemporary issue. He suggested that past experience showed that staff of the University were inclined to take a firm view of standards, and in one instance an entire class of international students who did not meet the required academic standard had been failed. Council noted that Academic Board had asked the Vice-Chancellor to investigate any potential breaches of the AVCC *Code of Ethical Practice in the Provision of Education to International Students by Australian Universities*, and the University Education Committee had discussed how this could be carried out. Outcomes should be available in a few months time.

The Chancellor asked that should Council members be approached directly regarding this issue they immediately notify the Vice-Chancellor.

### Item 5 Federal Government's Innovation Action Plan for the Future

Council received a transcript of the Prime Minister's speech announcing the Federal Government's *Innovation Action Plan for the Future*, a tabled summary of the implications of the Action Plan from Professor Kennedy, and a briefing note from the National Tertiary Education Union tabled by Mr Kleeman.

Professor Kennedy reported that:

- as yet there were no guidelines for the *Action Plan*;
- the 5 year timeline for the *Action Plan* covered two election periods and it appeared to be more of a policy statement than a commitment;
- the $2.9 billion was not all earmarked for the higher education sector;
- no money had been provided for the Humanities - a statement was needed on how research in this area would be supported;
- 2000 additional places for courses with information technology and science components would be provided each year for 5 years - universities would bid for places, and this University would only be successful in this process if it had innovative methods of course design, teaching and assessment in place by mid-2001;
- postgraduate student loans were to be provided, but guidelines were not yet available. This might open opportunities for some graduates wishing to continue but would be an additional financial commitment for them on top of HECS debt;
- unlike the launch of other Government programs, no packet of information had been provided, therefore detail was sketchy. The Vice-Chancellor did not see any benefit in making critical public comments about the *Action Plan*, although some areas of the business sector had expressed dissatisfaction.
Council noted that little was known about the Opposition's On-line University proposal. Most universities were already gearing up for on-line learning in one guise or another.

**Item 6 Report Card for 2000**

Council received and noted reports from the three Academic Divisions of their activities during 2000. Council noted that the reports would form part of the University's Annual Report to the ACT Legislative Assembly. Members observed that it would be useful to include a statement of the core business of each Division in the Annual Report as well as highlights for the year. The Vice-Chancellor undertook to incorporate such statements into the Annual Report.

Council noted that the position of Director of the Centre for Developing Cities would be advertised shortly.

Council noted that the National Institute for Governance report was not a divisional activity and had therefore not been included in the reports. Professor Edwards advised that she would provide a capability statement for the information of members.

Council noted advice that some students from the School of Environmental Design had expressed dissatisfaction with a proposal to change the name of the School to "School of Design". Members were advised that the name change had been recommended by the panel which had investigated future directions of the School, and it was understood that a majority of staff of the School had supported the proposal. Council noted that the matter would be forwarded to Council for ratification. The Vice-Chancellor undertook to discuss the matter with Mr Hayward.

**Item 7 Draft 2000 Financial Statements**

Council received the draft 2000 Financial Statements and two tabled amended pages from the Director, Financial Services, and noted that the draft statements had been provided to the ACT Auditor-General's Office for the purposes of their audit review work. Mr Westerman summarised and explained the statements.

Council noted that a presentation by a respected DETYA source to the Heads of Schools and Senior Managers' Forum had identified that the University of Canberra was 1 of 14 universities of the 38 whose financial base gave cause for concern. He had identified that the University should look to forming partnerships (including with industry), as diversification was essential.

Council observed that its financial situation appeared to be quite stable, with money being invested in new activities such as income earning property (new building). The University was conservative about income and expenditure. Council also observed that the University had few significant other assets (such as property holdings). Mr Westerman predicted that turnover this year would exceed $100m, including UC College, and that the University had achieved a revenue increase of $6m. over the previous year.
Council noted that the University had had 6 years of surpluses.

Council noted that Commonwealth revenue had not increased much and that fees and charges from market expansion had increased 11.3% to be 31% of total revenue. Council noted that there had been an expansion of offshore programs in 2000, and research grant income had increased, mainly due to the expanding activities of AGRECON (owned 50% by the University). Some members of Council suggested that funding for higher education had not been a priority issue for government, and that perhaps it was time for members to take every opportunity to raise awareness of the issue.

Council was advised that there was a need for an assessment of opportunity costs compared with profits for new programs and activities. As new activities emerged and increased, strains on staff and concerns about quality arose. Council noted that academic staff received additional remuneration for offshore teaching which they undertook.

**Resolution No. C74/1/4**

Council accepted the draft unaudited financial statements and authorised the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to sign the statements for transmission to the Auditor-General.

Council was advised that this was the last Council meeting to be attended by Mr Mackintosh, who had been a member of the University Council since February 1990. Council thanked Mr Mackintosh for his service to Council and the University, particularly his substantial contribution to its financial management. Members marked their appreciation by acclamation.

**Item 8 Appointment of Adjunct Professors**

*An additional matter was discussed in camera at the end of the meeting and Resolution No. C74/1/5 is recorded separately in the Confidential Minute book.*

Council received a proposal, including a brief *curriculum vitae*, for the appointment of an adjunct professor in the National Institute of Governance.

**Resolution No. C74/1/6**

Council agreed to appoint The Hon. Jim Carlton as Adjunct Professor of Governance in the National Institute of Governance for an initial period of 3 years from 7 February 2001.

**Item 9 UC Staff Superannuation Fund - Appointment of Trustee**

Council received a paper from the Vice-Chancellor seeking re-appointment of Dr Michaela Anderson as a Director of UC Superannuation Fund Ltd, which acts as Trustee of UC Staff Superannuation Fund.
Resolution No. C74/1/7

Council re-appointed Dr Michaela Anderson as a Director of UC Superannuation Fund Ltd for a further period of three years.

Item 10 Report on AV-CC Services For 2000

Council received and noted a memorandum from the Secretary attaching a report on the activities of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee during 2000. Council also noted the AV-CC priorities for 2000 which had not been achieved.

Item 11 Use of the Seal

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

Item 12 Other Business

Nomenclature for Professor

Council received a paper from the Vice-Chancellor advising that Professor Robert Kearney, Professor of Environmental Science, had relinquished his position of Head of School of Resource and Environmental Science and had requested that his designation be changed to reflect his academic specialisation. Council noted that Professor Kearney had now opted to work part-time for the University, concentrating on externally-funded research projects into fisheries management.

Resolution No. C74/1/8

Council re-designated Professor Robert Kearney as Professor of Fisheries.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.