Minutes of Council Meeting No. 86

held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 5 February 2003 in the Council Room

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PRESENT:     Ms W McCarthy (Chancellor)
             Ms D Casey
             Professor R Dean
             Dr R Foxwell
             Ms Y Hanbidge
             Mr D Kleeman
             Ms A Langley
             Ms F Powell
             Mr M Rosser
             Associate Professor F Stravens
             Mr R Taylor
             Ms A Trimmer
             Dr H Watson
             Mr S Wong
             Mr G Dennett (Secretary)

APOLOGIES:     Ms A Cheung
               Mr J Clapham
               Ms F Hinton
               Dr M Sargent

IN ATTENDANCE:    Ms M Brooks (Minutes Secretary)
                  Professor M Carroll
                  Associate Professor A Cheetham
                  Professor A Cripps
                  Ms L Jennings
                  Professor M Khadra
                  Professor E More
                  Mr R Poke
                  Associate Professor J Rayner
                  Ms Christine Stephens
                  Mr A Westerman
Council confirmed the order of the agenda with Items 3 to 6 inclusive listed for discussion. The Chancellor drew to the attention of Council a paper outlining the procedure for disclosure of interests by members should they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered.

Item 1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council received the minutes of Council Meeting No. 85 of Wednesday 4 December 2002.

Resolution No. C86/1

Council accepted the minutes of Council Meeting No. 85 of 4 December 2002 as a true record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment —

Item 3 Vice-Chancellor’s Report - Strategic Planning

Amend final sentence to read:

"Council noted that the draft had been discussed by the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee and that there was continuing significant input from Heads of Schools and the Divisions."

Item 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

A Courses and Awards Amendment Statute 2002 (No 2)

Council noted that Resolution No. C84/14 from the minutes of Meeting No. 84 of 2 October 2002 was incorrect.

Resolution No. C86/2

Council amended Resolution No. C84/14 to read:

1. Council exercised its powers under section 40 of the University of Canberra Act 1989 and made the Courses and Awards Amendment Statute 2002 (No 2); and

2. Council authorised the Secretary, on behalf of the Chancellor, to transmit the above-named Statute to the Executive of the Australian Capital Territory for approval and notification.

B Australian Mathematics Trust

At its last meeting, Council made an interim decision regarding membership of the Board of the Australian Mathematics Trust, pending advice on whether membership of the Board provided appropriate coverage of all of the Board’s areas of responsibility or provided the breadth of views necessary for the enterprise.

Council noted that since that time the Vice-Chancellor had received advice that in 2001 the Board, under the direction of the Chair of the Board, Professor Don Aitkin, undertook an extensive review and consultation process concerning membership of the Board, addressing the needs of the Board, the skills of the existing membership, the wishes of the bodies which nominate members of the Board, and discussion of the long term needs of the Trust and how the Board might use its membership to best meet those needs. Council noted that Professor Dean was satisfied that the Board had undertaken appropriate consideration of its needs and the skills which were required of its membership and that it had taken into account those matters about which Council members had expressed concerns.

Council noted that as a result the Vice-Chancellor was forwarding the Board’s recommendation that the terms of membership on the Board of the following persons be renewed for terms as set out below —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Reappointed to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Don Aitkin</td>
<td>14 August 2004</td>
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</table>
Council noted that it might be useful in the future if the terms of half of the membership of the Board were staggered to ensure appropriate succession planning. Members also suggested that it might be helpful to invite appropriately qualified persons to attend Board meetings as observers, as they would then have the required knowledge to join the Board if necessary. Council observed that, as far as possible, membership of the Board should be as diverse as the community which it represented.

**Resolution No. C86/3**
Council rescinded its decision No C85/24 and exercised its power under Section 6 of the Trust Deed and reappointed the abovenamed members to the Board of the Australian Mathematics Trust for terms as set out above.

**Item 3 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

**Conservation and Heritage Management Courses**

The Vice-Chancellor advised that approaches to potential donors for financial assistance had resulted in many expressions of support, but additional resources had not been forthcoming. However, Council noted that the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, headed by Mr Taylor, had offered scholarships for indigenous students, and negotiations were under way with the University of Melbourne regarding some cooperative teaching of core course content.

**Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape, Environment and Minerals Exploration (CRC LEME)**

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University had ceased to be a formal member of the CRC LEME, but retained an interest in the Centre through the contribution of two key members of the University's research staff. Council noted that some endeavours of the CRC LEME had been transferred to the Australian National University, and the CRC's education programs were now based in Adelaide.

**Visit to Vietnam and Thailand**

Council noted that in January the Vice-Chancellor had conferred degrees on graduates of the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA TESOL) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Vice-Chancellor advised that it was evident that the University was well regarded in Vietnam, and attendance at an alumni function was a reflection of appreciation of the University's efforts in that country.

Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor had also recently visited Dhurakijpundit University in Bangkok, with which UC was developing a jointly-badged Masters degree in Marketing Communication.
The following matters were also noted by Council.

**The Wider Community**

The Vice-Chancellor gave a lunchtime lecture in the National Capital Authority series discussing the future of higher education and its potential to contribute to the development of the 'Creative Industries' in the ACT.

The Vice-Chancellor was an invited speaker at a major symposium of the Biochemical Society (UK) in December, addressing the topic of the control of accumulation of oxidised proteins in ageing and in disease by their removal through degradative events.

**Canberra Bushfires**

The University assisted the ACT Emergency Services by making space available in the University Residences either to firefighters or people needing temporary accommodation. The Vice-Chancellor had advised staff that the University would assist colleagues who may have suffered property loss or damage in any ways possible and staff have been reminded to take advantage of the University’s Employee Assistance Program, which provides a free counselling service for staff and their immediate families. Staff have also been able to take advantage of special Miscellaneous Leave provisions if they need to take action associated with the emergency fire situation. At the latest count, four members of university staff had lost their houses in the bushfires. The University closed temporarily on 21 January 2003 for half a day when levels of smoke being drawn into the air-conditioning systems raised the possibility of the University’s fire alarms being activated at a time when all fire-fighting resources were required for bushfire duties.

**The University**

**Strategic Planning**

Council noted that as internal consultations were still proceeding, the Vice-Chancellor proposed to bring a revised document to the April Council meeting, by which time more information in relation to the Australian Universities Quality Audit visit would be available.

**Student Enrolments**

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University would meet its undergraduate target for 2003 admissions, and there had been an increase in all fee-paying categories from 2002 levels. Council noted that the University’s average University Admissions Index (UAI) for school leavers was 82.5, and for mature age students was 83.5. Council noted that thirty Chancellor’s Scholarships had been offered to students from the ACT region with a UAI above 95, a pleasing result. Council noted that the University’s minimum UAI for entry to all courses remained at 73.

**Reconstituting a Postgraduate Students’ Association.**
Council noted that the Secretary was continuing discussions with Ms Cheung (postgraduate member on Council) and other postgraduate students concerning the two alternative models for a new postgraduate student association, to be voted on by postgraduate students at the beginning of Semester 1.

Conferring Ceremonies

Council noted that the 2002 Semester Two conferring ceremonies were conducted in the Great Hall of Parliament House on 18 and 19 December 2002, with a total of 2463 awards being conferred including 737 awards conferred in absentia.

Council noted that at these ceremonies the University awarded honorary doctorates to the Executive Director of Canberra Institute of Technology, Mr Peter Veenker and to Professor Don Aitkin, former Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Appointment of Adjunct Professors

Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor had appointed the following new Adjunct Professors in the Division of Health, Design and Science —

- Dr Nicholai Petrovsky, Adjunct Professor of Medical Informatics, for a three year period from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005.
- Dr Nicola Sasanelli, Adjunct Professor of Science and Technology, for a three year period from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005.

UC Seminars/Presentations

Council noted a list of seminars and presentations in which staff members had recently participated.

Item 4 Forwarding Annual Financial Statements to Auditor-General

Members received a tabled copy of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2002, and noted a paper from Mr Adrian Westerman, Chief Financial Officer, advising that the financial statements had been prepared in accordance with the appropriate accounting standards.

Resolution No. C86/4

In accordance with Section 35 of the University of Canberra Act 1989, Council authorised the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor to sign the annual financial statements on behalf of Council and to forward a copy of them to the ACT Auditor-General.

Item 5 Report from Commercial Advisory Board

UC Brisbane Campus (UCBC)

The Vice-Chancellor advised that, following the support of Council and the Commercial Advisory Board, the University had fulfilled its strategy to obtain a new relationship in which it controlled all aspects of marketing and delivery of courses at UCBC. Council noted that a new agreement had been signed with Dynamic Management Group (DMG) and a financial basis effected which was fair and which allowed the University to make clear budgetary projections, which had been supported by the Commercial Advisory Board.
Council noted that teaching would commence in February 2003 and that the University was accelerating the establishment of administrative support at UCBC. The Vice-Chancellor advised that a process was in train to select a head of campus to succeed Professor Brian Andrew, inaugural head, who would complete his duties in mid-2003.

Council noted that during a recent visit to Brisbane Mr Westerman and the Vice-Chancellor had obtained a commitment from the South Bank Corporation to make an agreement directly with the University to ensure continuation of tenancy, even in the event of changes to DMG. The Vice-Chancellor advised that officials of the Queensland Office of State Development had been positive about UCBC, and in particular the availability of additional domestic undergraduate places in Brisbane, which had an unmet demand; attracting international students to Brisbane; and the positive effect on local employers. Council noted that the Office had asked how it might assist the University.

Item 6        Report on Harmony Day

Council received a paper from Mr Sam Wong, Convenor, Harmony Day Steering Committee, and Professor Elizabeth More, Chair, Equal Opportunity Committee, recommending that Council endorse a public statement of commitment to a culturally diverse and inclusive University community to be released on Harmony Day, 21 March 2003. Council noted that Harmony Day would coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Mr Robin Poke, Manager Public Relations and Community Relations, outlined to Council activities to take place on Harmony Day, and invited the participation of members.

Members noted that at Meeting No. 47 on 21 August 1996 Council had adopted a Policy Against Racial Discrimination which encouraged "the affirmation of the cultural identity of individual students and staff".

Resolution No. C86/5

Council endorsed the recommendation of the Equal Opportunity Committee that the following statement be issued on Harmony Day 2003 as a press release, and announced formally at the presentation of UC Harmony Day Awards to students and staff, subject to the inclusion of a statement regarding the development of on-going relationships —

"Australians - no matter what their gender, sexual orientation, age, ability or economic status - come from various linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. Cultural diversity encompasses all these issues. The University of Canberra is committed to providing an equitable learning and working environment that promotes and recognises the diversity of our students and staff. The University has a responsibility to be relevant to the diversity of Australian society by pursuing inclusive policies, programs and practices.

With these responsibilities in mind, the University affirms —

- the importance of multiculturalism for a healthy community;
- the cultural and intellectual contribution of our University from immigrant communities and overseas;
- the benefits to Australian society of ongoing relationships between members of a culturally diverse university community;
- the need to build on our cultural diversity to fight racism at all levels; and
- its commitment to advance reconciliation with indigenous people.

The celebration of Harmony Day recognises and promotes cultural diversity as a core value of the University, celebrating and honouring our differences, identifying the common ground, creating competitive advantage through our diversity, and providing a supportive environment to meet the needs of our students, staff and the broader community."

Item 7        Report from Dean of Students

Council received and noted a report from the Dean of Students for the period January 2001 to October 2002.
Item 8   Items for Information

Council received and noted information items of relevance to members.

Item 9   Other Business

A  Vote of Thanks
Council offered a vote of thanks to Ms Ilona Fraser, retiring Council member.

B  Attendance of Student Members
Members observed that it was often difficult for student members to attend Council meetings held outside of semester teaching times, and asked the Secretary to investigate whether Council might facilitate their attendance in any way.

C  Meetings with Divisional Staff
Council noted the suggestion that an opportunity for Council members to meet members of the divisions before each Council meeting might be considered for reintroduction. Council recalled that in the recent past Faculties had hosted visits of Council members, thus providing an opportunity, particularly for external members, to meet with members of academic and general staff and to observe the operations of Faculties. Council asked the Secretary to ascertain whether a sufficient number of members might be available to attend such functions prior to scheduled Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.30 pm.