

University of Canberra

COUNCIL MEETING No. 149

held on Friday 30 March 2012 at 9.00 am in the Council Room

PRESENT: Mr J Mackay AM (Chancellor)
Dr T Calma
Professor G Cho AM
Ms I Davis
Ms A Ellis
Dr M Kennedy
Mr B Mewett
Mr H Mott
Mr J Paris
Professor S Parker (Vice-Chancellor) (until 10.25)
Ms P Power AM
Dr S Ryan
Mr D Trewin AO
Ms M Storti (Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE:	Dr D Hamilton	Professor F Shannon
	Professor C Kayrooz	Professor M Skidmore
	Mr B Lines	Ms V Williams
	Professor L Pratchett	Mr P Hill (A&G Unit)
	Dr M Sainsbury	

Council met in closed session from 9.00 – 9.30 am for the discussion of confidential items.

Opening and Apologies

No apologies were received.

Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda was confirmed as presented.

Resolution C149/1

Council agreed to the recommendations contained in Agenda Item 15 – Flying Minute No. 24.

Declaration of Interests

No new declarations were received.

Item 1: Confirmation of Confidential Minutes of Meeting No.148

Resolution C149/2

Council approved the confidential minutes of Meeting No. 148 held on 17 February 2012 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

2.1 GP Superclinic

The minute for this item is recorded in the confidential minutes.

2.2 Subacute Hospital

The minute for this item is recorded in the confidential minutes.

2.3 Structural Adjustment Fund

The minute for this item is recorded in the confidential minutes.

Resolution C149/3

Council agreed that further negotiations with the ACT Government should stipulate that agreement with respect to the future relationship between the University and CIT should be reached before 30 June 2012 so that the University is able to move forward in pursuing its strategic interests.

Item 3: Confidential Minutes of Council Committees

The minute for this item is recorded in the confidential minutes.

Resolution C149/4

Council:

1. ratified the resolutions arising from the matters considered at the 29 March 2012 meeting of the joint meeting of the Nominations and Senior Appointments and Honorary Degrees committees; and
2. received and noted the minutes of the Campus Development Board meeting held on 14 February 2012.

Item 4: Appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

The minute for this item is recorded in the confidential minutes.

Resolution C149/5

Council agreed to the recommendation made by the Nominations and Senior Appointments Committee to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) subject to satisfactory referee reports.

Item 5: Chancellor's Opening Comments

The Chancellor reported that Graduation Ceremonies held on 26-28 March 2012 had been very successful and reflected well on the University.

The Chancellor requested that the use of buses to transfer people to and from the ceremonies be investigated as a means of overcoming the parking difficulties experienced in the Parliamentary Triangle.

Council noted that meeting invites would be sent to members for future ceremonies.

Council noted that the Chancellor and Mr Trewin would be part of a delegation visiting Soochow University in April 2012 which could result in the formation of a joint commitment between the universities.

Item 6: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 149

Resolution C149/6

Council approved the minutes of Meeting No. 148 held on 17 February 2012 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Item 7: Matters arising from the Minutes

7.1 Performance Review of Council

Council noted a review of the performance of Council would be included on the agenda for the 27 April 2012 meeting.

Resolution C149/7

Council received and noted the list of actions arising.

Item 8: Vice-Chancellor's Report

Farewell to Professor Carol Kayrooz

Professor Parker reported that this would be the last meeting attended by Professor Carol Kayrooz before she retired from the University. With standing acclamation, Council expressed its warmest appreciation to Professor Kayrooz for her commitment to the University and leadership in teaching and learning over many years.

Semester 1 Enrolments

Professor Parker reported that the University had achieved its load plan target and that the revenue flowing from this would be reported at the April 2012 meeting.

Professor Parker noted that there had been a decline in onshore international commencing students but that the overall position remained satisfactory.

Council noted that postgraduate enrolments remained concerning but that this was an area where the ANU had been aggressive in the market. The University was seeking to regain market share.

Japanese Language Program

Professor Parker reported that a review of Japanese language program was currently underway and no decision would be made until the report was finalised at the end of April 2012.

Professor Parker noted that enrolments in Japanese language courses had been declining across the sector and that it was most likely not sustainable in the demand driven environment as well as being vulnerable to the loss of staff.

Council noted that the report from the review of the program would be considered by Academic Board and, should it be deemed necessary, follow the normal procedures for course closure.

Council discussed if some form of subsidisation should be provided for courses in the deregulated market, or if a policy should be developed to maintain those regarded as valuable to the University. Council noted that it would be difficult to determine how many courses should be subsidised and that the University would need to be selective about those which it chose to support. Council noted that the decline in Japanese language teaching mirrored an increase in Mandarin language teaching as language teaching followed broader global trends and shifts.

The Secretary was requested to respond to the representations received from Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA on behalf of Council.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Mr Trewin commented that the five priority themes adopted for the allocation of monies received from the Student Services and Amenities Fee were represented a good use of the money.

Resolution C149/8

Council received and noted the report from the Vice-Chancellor.

Item 9: Financial Report

Mr Lines reported as follow.

- The negative operating result was usual for the time of year and resulted because revenue was received from students in March 2012.
- The first of three budget reforecasts would be undertaken following the student census conducted on 2 March 2012.
- A new line, 'Depreciation and Amortisation', had been included in the Income Statement due to the increased capital program of the University.

Resolution C149/9

Council noted the February 2012 report on the financial performance of the University Group.

Item 10: 2011 Financial Statements

Ms Williams commented that the 2011 financial result was positive because of capital grants but also showed that the University was close to achieving a break even operating position.

Professor Parker commented that the University had paid \$7.2m in payroll tax in 2011 and that the Canberra Institute of Technology was exempt from this tax.

Council provided the following comments on the Financial Statements.

- Page 6, Subsequent Events, the intention to form a new joint venture, *University of Canberra Institute of Technology*, was reported. This may need to be altered as reporting was linked to the date of signing which had not yet occurred.
- Page 41, Dr Ryan's title was incorrect.

Resolution C149/10

Council:

1. resolved that the 2011 Financial Statements showed a true and fair view of the financial position of the UC Group and that there are reasonable grounds to believe the University and the UC Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due; and
2. certified and accepted the 2011 Financial Statements for signature.

Item 11: Strategic Review – Faculty of Business, Government and Law

Council received a presentation from Professor Lawrence Pratchett, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Government and Law. The main points of the presentation were as follows.

- The merger between the Faculties of Business and Government and Law had been handled cooperatively and successfully. It had achieved efficiency dividends for the new faculty and would also allow extended services to be provided to students. The faculty was a major financial contributor to the University and was strong and sound.
- A new unified vision for the faculty had been developed around the three core social institutions: business, government and law. Three core values had also been identified for the faculty - enterprise and innovation, social value and responsibility and sustainability - which would inform research and teaching.
- In 2012 the faculty will be launching new degree offerings, reviewing postgraduate programs to better understand market requirements, developing new transnational links and reviewing quality processes.
- The challenges faced by the faculty were to reduce staff/student ratios, improve and modernise facilities and accommodation and improve research performance.

The following points were noted in discussion.

- The contribution made by the faculties to the University was not equal at present. Over time all faculties would be required to make the same percentage contribution to the University.
- Options for improving the faculty's accommodation were being investigated including the renovation of Building 6, or moving to the Innovation Centre. Funding would, however, need to be found before works could proceed.
- Council noted that the matter of capital funding for the faculty would be raised at the Campus Development Board for advice.
- Following the merger, the Board of Studies for Law operated on the delegated authority of the Faculty Board and would follow faculty processes. Some degree of autonomy was required for accreditation purposes.
- The strategy used to improve research performance will be to give priority to a few selected areas.
- Growth strategies would not be limited to domestic markets but extend to international markets.

Resolution C149/11

Council received and noted the presentation from Professor Pratchett, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Government and Law.

Item 12: Annual Report 2011

Council extended its appreciation to all staff responsible for the production of the Annual Report.

Resolution C149/12

Council approved the text of the annual report of the University for 2011 and authorised transmission of the published annual report to the Legislative Assembly of the ACT.

Item 13: Report on the Exercise of Financial Delegations

Resolution C149/13

Council received and noted the report provided on the exercise of financial delegations.

Item 14: Reports, Minutes and Recommendations from Council Committees

Resolution C149/14

Council received and noted the minutes of the following committee meetings:

- Audit and Risk Management Committee – 10 February 2012
- Finance Committee – 10 February 2012
- Joint Audit and Risk Management Finance Committee – 10 February 2012.

Item 15: Flying Minute No. 24

Resolution C149/15

Council received and noted the resolution passed by flying minute and agreed to record the resolution in the minutes of Meeting No. 149 as a record of the resolutions of Council.

- **Flying Minute No 24 – 2 March 2012**
Recommendation: Council appoint Mr Harrison Mott to the Student Conduct Committee with immediate effect.
Recommendation passed.

The meeting was closed at 10.30 am.