

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. C206

CONFIRMED Minutes of the University Council meeting
held at 9.00am on Friday 28 February 2020
in the Council Room, University of Canberra.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The web version of these minutes has been edited to remove the confidential minutes of the Closed Session and management actions arising from the meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

At the date of this meeting, the following people are the members of the University Council:

Member	Position	Term Commenced	Term Ends
Professor Tom Calma AO	Chancellor (s11(1)(a))	1 January 2014	31 December 2022
Dr Chris Faulks	Deputy Chancellor (s11(1)(d))	1 January 2014	30 June 2020
Ms Belinda Robinson	Acting Vice-Chancellor & President (s11(1)(b))	13 January 2020	5 April 2020
Professor Elisa Martinez-Marroquin	Chair, Academic Board (s11(1)(c))	1 January 2020	31 December 2022
Dr Tom Karmel AM	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	19 November 2018	18 November 2021
Mr Glenn Keys AO	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	1 July 2017	30 June 2020
Mr Barry Mewett	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	21 October 2011	20 October 2020
Ms Annabelle Pegrum AM	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	19 November 2018	18 November 2021
Dr Michael Schaper	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	19 November 2018	18 November 2021
Mr David Sturgiss	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	23 January 2018	22 January 2021
Ms Patricia Kelly PSM	Ministerial Appointee (s11(1)(d))	9 April 2019	8 April 2022
Assoc Prof Kate Pumpa	Elected Academic Staff (s11(1)(e))	1 January 2020	31 December 2021
Ms Melissa Hankinson	Elected General Staff (s11(1)(f))	1 January 2020	31 December 2021
Mr Anthony Davidson	Elected PG Student (s11(1)(g))	1 January 2020	31 December 2020
Ms Emma Montgomery	Elected UG Student (s11(1)(g))	1 January 2020	31 December 2020

1.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor opened the meeting at 9.00am with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members and attendees.

The Chancellor advised Council that a request for leave of absence had formally been received from Council Member Dr Michael Schaper for the period 20 January 2020 to 20 July 2020.

RESOLUTION C206/1

The Council resolved to **approve** an unpaid leave of absence for Dr Michael Schaper from 20 January 2020 to 20 July 2020.

Present:

Professor T Calma AO	Chancellor
Dr C Faulks	Deputy Chancellor
Ms B Robinson	Acting Vice-Chancellor and President
Prof E Martinez-Marroquin	Chair, Academic Board
Dr T Karmel AM	External Member
Ms P Kelly PSM	External Member
Mr G Keys AO	External Member
Mr B Mewett	External Member
Ms A Pegrum AM	External Member
Mr D Sturgiss	External Member
Assoc Prof Kate Pumpa	Academic Staff Member
Ms Melissa Hankinson	General Staff Member
Mr Anthony Davidson	Postgraduate Student Member
Ms Emma Montgomery	Undergraduate Student Member

In attendance:

Professor G Crisp	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic (DVCA) (Parts 1-4)
Professor L Sullivan	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation (DVCRI) (Parts 1-4)
Ms V Williams	Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure (VPFI)
Mr Ian Cox	Acting Vice-President, University Relations and Strategy (VPURS) (Parts 1-4)
Ms W Flint	Chief Executive, People and Diversity (CEPD) (Parts 1-4)
Mr E Wells	General Counsel and University Secretary (GCUS)
Ms S Norton	Deputy University Secretary (minutes)(DUS)

Approved Leave of Absence:

Dr M Schaper	External Member (until 20 July 2020)
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1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chancellor called for any declarations of interest in addition to those included in the Register of Standing Interests. The following declarations were made.

- Council Member Melissa Hankinson declared an interest in relation to Item 4.3.1 TEQSA Compliance Project Resourcing as the paper's author.
- Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Ms Belinda Robinson, advised that she is on the Board of Online Education Services (OES) and is the Chair of UWS Enterprises.

- Chancellor Tom Calma advised that he has stepped down as Chair of the Charles Perkins Trust but remains as a Trustee and has been appointed as the Patron of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.
- Council Member Glenn Keys advised that his company, Aspen Medical, is providing advice and support to other academic institutions in relation to COVID-19.

1.3 REVIEW OF AGENDA

The Chancellor called for any other business.

- Council Member Patricia Kelly requested that a paper be prepared for the next Council meeting in relation to sustainability and action to reduce the University's carbon footprint.
- Council Member Annabelle Pegrum requested that a paper on the strategic competitive environment, specifically in relation to UNSW be presented to the next Council meeting.

PART 2 CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 CONFIRMATION AND/OR NOTING OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLUTION C206/2

The Council resolved to **approve** the minutes of the University Council meeting C205 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 December 2019 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLUTION C206/3

The Council resolved to **note** Flying Minute 2019/FM3 dated 18 December 2019.

2.2 MATTERS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR NOTING FROM COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION C206/4

The Council resolved to **accept** the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 12 February 2020.

RESOLUTION C206/5

The Council resolved to **accept** the unconfirmed minutes of the Nominations and Senior Appointments Committee meeting held on 29 November 2019

2.3 OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING OR RATIFYING

RESOLUTION C206/6

The Council resolved to **note** the Workforce Profile Report.

RESOLUTION C206/7

The Council resolved to **ratify** the affixing of the University Seal to document 2020/1 listed on the University Seal Register.

RESOLUTION C206/8

The Council resolved to **accept** the Nominations and Senior Appointments Committee Annual Report for 2019.

RESOLUTION C206/9

The Council resolved to **accept** the Finance Committee Annual Report for 2019.

RESOLUTION C206/10

The Council resolved to **accept** the Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Report for 2019.

RESOLUTION C206/11

The Council resolved to **accept** the Planning and Development Committee Annual Report for 2019.

RESOLUTION C206/12

The Council resolved to **accept** the Legislation Committee Annual Report for 2019.

RESOLUTION C206/13

The Council resolved to **approve** the letter of support for UCX Ltd.

3.1 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST

Council noted the items listed on the Action Sheet.

3.2 ANNUAL PLAN

The Council noted a number of administrative amendments to the Annual Workplan.

RESOLUTION C206/14

The Council resolved to **accept** the University Council Annual Workplan 2020, as amended.

3.3 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor provided a verbal report and advised the following.

- Professor Paddy Nixon will commence on 6 April 2020, after arriving in Canberra on 25 March and will be welcomed at Bimbimbe by a group of Ngunnawal elders.
- Recent events or meetings attended include:
 - Fulbright Scholarships Gala Dinner on 27 February 2020;
 - Universities Australia conference where he spoke about Indigenous employment; and
 - Meeting with representatives of Minister Tehan as part of a delegation of University Chancellors.
- The Minister has only received 13 submissions on Academic Freedom so all universities have been given an extension for another week.
- An open invitation is extended to all Council members to attend the graduation ceremonies to be held at the end of March.
- The Chancellor acknowledged the achievements of the Canberra Capitals in reaching the final of the Women's National Basketball League.
- COVID-19 is impacting significantly on the sector at present, particularly those universities with high numbers of international students.

RESOLUTION C206/15

The Council resolved to **accept** the Chancellor's Report.

3.4 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Acting Vice-Chancellor gave an overview of the key matters outlined in the report and requested that it be taken as read.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised that she had recently attended the following events or meetings.

1. Meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Head of Service to discuss a number of key issues including:
 - how the ACT Government can assist the University financially in relation to COVID-19;
 - the ACT Education Strategy and opportunities for the University to partner with government, business and both the ACT and regional communities;
 - the impact of the pressure on the sector over the past decade to increase international students as a way of offsetting cost increases and subsidising domestic programs;
 - the University's 30th anniversary celebrations; and
 - the upcoming review of the University of Canberra Act.
2. Meeting with the ACT Opposition Leader, to be followed up with a comprehensive briefing regarding the issues discussed with the Chief Minister.
3. Meeting with Minister Mick Gentleman regarding the University's capability to assist with the recovery of Namadgi National Park after the recent bushfires.
4. Attended the Canberra Region Joint Organisation meeting to discuss regional issues with NSW Mayors and Council General Managers from around the region.
5. Attended Universities Australia plenary meeting and discussed COVID-19, the ERA review in 2020 and performance-based funding to promote growth in enrolments.

In response to questions or comments from Council members the Acting Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- there is no formal advice regarding the UNSW ACT campus announcement, but it is likely to be May;
- there is a focus within the ACT government on vocational education pathways and this should be included for discussion at the Strategic Planning Day;
- there is concern about the strategic direction of the Australian Institute of Sport given the policy of devolution to the states which appears to be inefficient and is impacting on grassroots sport, however, it may create an opportunity for more collaboration; and
- the University will be looking strategically at our online learning strategy for undergraduates based on national trends.

RESOLUTION C206/16

The Council resolved to **accept** the Vice-Chancellor's Report

PART 4 MATTERS FOR DECISION AND/OR DISCUSSION

4.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

There were no reports submitted to the meeting.

4.2 CFO'S REPORT

4.2.1 Financial Management Report December 2019

Ms Vicki Williams, Vice-President Finance and Infrastructure (**VPFI**), provided a summary of the key issues addressed in the Financial Performance Report for December 2019 and advised that the Report only provides a preliminary indication of the end of year results. The audited financial statements will be submitted to Joint Audit and Risk Management and Finance Committee meetings in March prior to consideration by the Council on 3 April.

RESOLUTION C206/17

The Council resolved to **note** the Financial Management Report for December 2019, including the Interim UC Group Results.

4.3 STRATEGIC FUNDS

4.3.1 TEQSA Compliance Project Resourcing

The VPFI provided an overview of the business case for funding to provide additional resources to support the TEQSA compliance project team.

RESOLUTION C206/18

The Council resolved to **approve** an additional budget allocation of \$435,878 from strategic funds to resource the required TEQSA compliance project team from May 2020 to December 2021.

4.4 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

4.4.1 Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION C206/19

The Council resolved to approve the appointment of:

1. Assoc Professor Kate Pumpa as a member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a term commencing 28 February 2020 and ending on 31 December 2021; and
2. Ms Melissa Hankinson as a member of the Legislation Committee for a term commencing 28 February 2020 and ending on 31 December 2021.

4.4.2 Novel Coronavirus Response

The Acting Vice-Chancellor tabled two addendums to the paper that provided updated information on the current impact of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, both financial and non-financial as well as actions currently being taken by the University to manage those impacts.

RESOLUTION C206/20

The Council resolved to **accept** the report, including the tabled addendums, on the Novel Coronavirus Response and requested that the Audit and Risk Management Committee provide ongoing updates through the Major Risk Update report until the Committee determines that the health risk has been resolved.

4.4.3 Academic Freedom – UC Position

Professor Leigh Sullivan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation (**DVCRI**) and Prof Elisa Martinez-Marroquin, Chair of Academic Board provided an overview of the process undertaken in developing the recommendations, including the deliberations of the Academic Freedom Working Party.

Council members noted that the University has been granted an extension to the submission deadline.

RESOLUTION C206/21

The Council resolved to **approve** the following, as recommended by Academic Board, as the University of Canberra position on proposed changes to the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA).

1. If there is to be any amendment to HESA, UC supports the proposed change of terminology from “free intellectual inquiry” to “freedom of speech and academic freedom”.
2. UC does not support the proposed inclusion of a definition of academic freedom in HESA.
3. If a definition of academic freedom is to be included in HESA, the proposed definition should be amended as follows.

“Academic freedom”, for the purposes of this Act and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (TEQSA Act) and any standards made under that Act, comprises the following elements.

- a) The freedom of academic staff to teach, discuss, and research and to disseminate and publish the results of their research.
- b) The freedom of academic staff and students to engage in intellectual inquiry, ~~to express their opinions and beliefs,~~ and to contribute to public debate, in relation to their subjects of study and research.
- c) The freedom of academic staff and students to express their opinions in relation to the higher education provider in which they work or are enrolled, ~~where such opinion is based on their area of expertise.~~
- d) ~~The freedom of academic staff, without constraint imposed by reason of their employment by the university, to make lawful public comment on any issue in their personal capacities.~~
- e) The freedom of academic staff to participate in professional or representative academic bodies.
- f) The freedom of students to participate in student societies and associations.
- g) The autonomy of the higher education provider in relation to the choice of academic courses and offerings, the ways in which they are taught and the choices of research activities and the ways in which they are conducted.

4.4.4 UC Bushfire Response

Professor Lyndon Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, provided an overview of the University’s response to the recent bushfires.

The Chancellor acknowledged the work that had been done and asked that the thanks of the University Council be passed on to staff.

RESOLUTION C206/22

The Council resolved to **accept** the report on the University of Canberra's response to the Australian bushfires.

4.5 COMMITTEE REPORTS**4.5.3 Academic Board**

The Chair of Academic Board provided an overview of matters considered at the meeting of Academic Board on 12 February 2020 and advised the following in response to questions and comments from the Council.

- A review of Academic Board and Academic Governance will be undertaken over the next six months.
- An Action Plan will be developed following the results of the Annual Self-Assessment Survey.
- 2020 will be a year of learning and better understanding of the role of Academic Board.

RESOLUTION C206/23

The Council resolved to **accept** the report from the Chair, Academic Board

4.6 PRESENTATIONS FROM MANAGEMENT**4.6.1 Brand Marketing Strategy**

Mr Ian Cox, Acting Vice President University Relations and Strategy introduced Mr Ashley Zmijewski, Director Marketing who provided a briefing and presentation on the University's current Brand Marketing Strategy.

RESOLUTION C206/24

The Council resolved to **accept** the report and presentation on the Brand Marketing Strategy and requested an update on progress at the June 2020 Council meeting.

4.6.2 Digital Student Journey

Ms Rebecca Armstrong, Deputy Director, Digital, Information and Technology Management, presented an update on the implementation of Digital Student Journey Project.

RESOLUTION C206/25

The Council resolved to **accept** the report and presentation on the Digital Student Journey.

4.6.3 Faculty of Business Government and Law Annual Report

Professor Wendy Lacey, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business Government and Law, presented the annual report for the Faculty, provided an update to incorporate end of year data and advised the following in response to questions and comments from the Council.

- A strategic decision has been taken to exit the Doctor of Jurisprudence due to poor uptake and focus instead on niche products.
- The University is offering a Graduate Certificate in Government Law starting 2nd semester to attract APS staff.

- There is a focus in accounting on work-based learning to expose University of Canberra students to employers early in their studies.

RESOLUTION C206/26

The Council resolved to **accept** the annual report and presentation from the Faculty of Business Government and Law.

4.6.4 Finance and Infrastructure Portfolio Report

The VPFI provided an overview of portfolio activities and objectives with particular focus on:

- Campus improvements, construction projects and developments;
- TEFMA Benchmarking
- Digital Learning
- IT Managed Services, efficiency tools and satisfaction benchmarking
- Continuous Process Improvement
- Student Load

RESOLUTION C206/27

The Council resolved to **accept** the annual Portfolio Report and presentation from the Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure.

The Council moved into Closed Session.

PART 5 CLOSED SESSION

THE MINUTES OF THIS SESSION ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

Council moved out of Closed Session.

PART 6 MEETING FINALISATION

6.1 REVIEW ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

There was no additional discussion.

6.2 MEETING EVALUATION

Council members discussed the Consent Agenda format and agreed that it had been effective so would be continued until further notice.

RESOLUTION C206/29

The Council resolved to approve the adoption of the Consent Agenda format until further notice.

6.3 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday 1 May 2020 in the Council Room, University of Canberra.

6.4 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.55pm.