

Communique

University Council Meeting C255, 10 July 2025

The University of Canberra Council met for the fourth time in 2025 on Thursday, 10 July. A reflection on NAIDOC Week was given by Council member Adjunct Professor Kieran Hynes.

Council endorsed the University's response to the External Corporate Governance Review conducted by Professor Ian Chubb and Ms Sue Chapman.

The Vice-Chancellor's Report included: updates on fiscal sustainability, noting the June results showed an operating surplus of \$5.9m (approx.); noted the 2024 University Annual Report to the ACT Government had been tabled in the Assembly; outlined meetings held by the VC with potential future partners; and provided an update on Advancement, which is a key VC focus, noting the recent Alumni mail-out, and planning of a structured program for alumni engagement and fundraising.

Council noted further development and consultation on the Reconnected Strategy, noting the long-term strategy for the University is to pursue growth. Consultation undertaken across the university has seen hundreds of pieces of feedback received.

An update on the Education Transformation and Growth (ETaG) program was noted. The ETaG descriptor will be replaced with the *Education Plan* and use of *UC Online* and *UC Blended*. The University will continue to develop new courses and units for online and blended teaching in a planned way within approved budgets, in alignment with University KPIs and where student demand can be identified.

New strategic financial objectives were approved on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The approved financial KPIs will better measure financial sustainability in a holistic manner across different dimensions and are designed to promote growth of institutional wealth.

The updated Council Governance Charter was approved, pending minor amendments from UC Legal.

The Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor reported on recent activities including University Chancellors Council (UCC) activities attended. The UCC Report on Social Licence will be released shortly with a range of recommendations relevant to the university.

The elected student representatives presented a report on behalf of the Student Representative Council (SRC), highlighting attendance at a national SRC roundtable; and progress on the SRC 2025 framework and goals. The SRC is seeking Federal Government policy review regarding international student visa restrictions on internships which count unpaid internships in the 48 hours per fortnight workcap; and are seeking UC policy clarity regarding AI as students are reported to be unclear on academic expectations.

Professor Barney Dalgarno presented a report on the Faculty of Education. Council commended the work of the Faculty including the upward trajectories in student load and financial results, the industry partnerships, the UC STEP 3-year pilot, successful micro-credentials, and its collaborative research.

Finally, the Chancellor acknowledged Professor Maree Meredith, PVC Indigenous Leadership, for her contribution to the university including the Indigenous Leadership Plan.

The resolutions passed during the meeting follow.

Prepared by:		Submitted by:	
Name	Stephanie Payne	Name	Patricia Kelly PSM
Position	University Secretary	Position	Acting Chancellor
Date	21 July 2025	Date	21 July 2025

Council Resolutions C255, 10 July 2025

RESOLUTION C255/3	The Council resolved to confirm as a true and accurate record the Unconfirmed Minutes C254, 15 May 2025.
RESOLUTION C255/4	The Council resolved to adopt the resolutions of all items not starred in the C255 Agenda of 10 July 2025.
RESOLUTION C255/5	The Council resolved to accept the Vice-Chancellor's Report.
RESOLUTION C255/6	The Council resolved to note the Re-Connected consultation framing paper and engagement update.
RESOLUTION C255/7	<p>The Council resolved to note that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UC has received a proposal from ECA to establish a foreign branch campus in India to start in Semester 2, 2026. ECA is also exploring a similar model in the Philippines that is not as advanced as the India option. 2. UC intends to sign a non-binding Letter of Intent to examine the proposals and develop a business case for VCG and Council consideration, unless directed otherwise by Council. 3. Further advice will be provided to Council at its 4 September 2025 meeting.
RESOLUTION C255/8	<p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note that the University will continue to develop new courses and units for online and blended teaching in a planned way within approved budgets, in alignment with University KPIs and where student demand can be identified; 2. Note that ETaG revenue and expenditure has been incorporated into the business-as-usual budgets of faculties and business units; 3. Note that staff on fixed-term contracts and time-limited expenses (such as subscriptions) will only be continued where there is a demonstrated business need, and these expenses can be accommodated with Council approved budgets;

	<p>4. Note that online and flexible teaching will be integrated into faculty and business unit business plans, budgets and risk registers;</p> <p>5. Note that as part of Reconnected 2025-2027, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor will develop an Education Plan and provide updates to Council as part of this program (to replace reporting on ETaG provided during 2024); and</p> <p>6. Note the discontinuation of the ETaG descriptor of the program of work and replacement with the Education Plan, and the use of UC Online and UC Blended.</p>
RESOLUTION C255/9	The Council resolved to approve the proposed University strategic financial objectives.
RESOLUTION C255/10	<p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the summary of the University's strategic investment reserves. 2. approve the governance approach, including the delegations of authority, with respect to the University's strategic investment reserves.
RESOLUTION C255/11	The Council resolved to approve the Council Governance Charter, incorporating suggested amendments subject to advice from UC Legal.
RESOLUTION C255/12	The Council resolved to approve that Wells Review Recommendation 7a be closed.
RESOLUTION C255/13	The Council resolved to approve the recommended immediate updates to financial delegations.
RESOLUTION C255/14	The Council resolved to approve the appointment of Dr Martin Laverty as the Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee effective immediately.
RESOLUTION C255/15	The Council resolved to approve amendments to delegations as a result of revisions to the HDR Policy, the HDR Procedure, and the HDR Scholarships (Including RTP-Funded Scholarships) Procedure.
RESOLUTION C255/16	The Council resolved to approve the consequential changes to the Delegations of Authority Policy due to the revised Scholarships, Prizes, Medals and Awards Policy and Procedures.
RESOLUTION C255/17	The Council resolved to accept the Chancellor's Report.
RESOLUTION C255/18	The Council resolved to accept the Student Report.
RESOLUTION C255/19	<p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. accept the Academic Board Report 2. note the unconfirmed Academic Board minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2025.
RESOLUTION C255/20	<p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the FC Unconfirmed minutes 2025/4, 18 June 2025. b) accept the Financial Management Reports for May 2025. c) note the proposed approach and timing for the development of the 2026 Budget.
RESOLUTION C255/21	The Council resolved to note the Unconfirmed PDC minutes 2025/4, 25 June 2025.
RESOLUTION C255/22	The Council resolved to note the Faculty of Education update.
RESOLUTION C255/23	The Council resolved to note the Chancellor's approval of the conferral of awards.
RESOLUTION C255/24	The Council resolved to ratify the affixing of the University Seal to the following documents, as recorded in the University Seal Register: 2024/1, 2024/2, 2025/1, 2025/2 & 2025/3.

RESOLUTION C255/25	The Council resolved to note the appointment of Jess Reed as the interim CEO of UCX Ltd during an extended CEO leave of absence.
RESOLUTION C255/26	The Council resolved to note the report on the Exercise of Financial Delegations.