The following summary reports from the New South Wales Chapter to the Company on matters specified in Clause 19.3 in the Constitution of Australian Catholic University Ltd.

1. **Chapter Membership**

   **External Members**
   - Br Kelvin Canavan fms AM (Acting Chair)
   - Rev Dr Gerard Kelly
   - Dr Robert Frater, AO
   - Mr Greg Whitby
   - Mr Michael Krawec
   - Rev Peter Williams AM
   - Sr Marilyn Kelleher sgs
   - Sr Patricia Malone rsj
   - Ms Kerrie Field (resigned)
   - Justice Scott Mitchell (resigned)
   - Mr Otto Henfling (resigned)
   - Mr John Carroll
   - Br Tony Whelan cfc AM

   **ACU Staff**
   - Prof Greg Craven (Vice Chancellor)
   - Prof Marea Nicholson (Assoc. Vice Chancellor, Sydney)

   **ACU Students**
   - Mr David Orr (SRA President Strathfield)
   - Miss Natalie Cook (SRA President North Sydney)

2. **Chapter Meetings**

   New South Wales Chapter meetings were held on 31 March 2014, 26 May 2014, 11 August 2014 and 27 October on Strathfield Campus.

   During 2014 Br Kelvin Canavan continued as Acting Chair and chaired all four meetings.

3. **Major Agenda Items**

   **3.1 ACU Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020**
   During the first meeting of 2014, Dr Stephen Weller presented to the Chapter the new Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020. The Chapter discussed in particular the direction the University was taking with the development of a refreshed Mission Statement.

   In the August meeting of the NSW Chapter Ms Evelyn Picot, Director of Planning & Strategic Planning was invited to present to Chapter on the new Strategic Plan. The Chapter expressed its interest in the measurements that had gone into the development of the Strategic Plan and also how it would affect individual staff.
The New South Wales Chapter recommended “that based on information presented by OPSM, the NSW Chapter conveys to the Vice Chancellor support for the emerging Strategic Plan 2015-2020”

3.2 Naming of Spaces on the Sydney Campuses
A major agenda item and project of the NSW Chapter for 2014 was the collating of information regarding the Naming of Spaces on the Sydney campuses. A sub-committee of the Chapter was formed to formalise a document outlining the spaces on the Sydney campuses that had been named over many decades to honour of particular people.

During the year the NSW Chapter accepted two proposals to name spaces on the Sydney Campus:
- Proposal to name the refurbished Psychology clinic in honour of Mother Mary Aikenhead, founder of the Sisters of Charity.
- Proposal to name the Thomas More Law Academy’s Moot Court in honour of the Hon. Barry O’Keefe.

3.3 MOU between Notre Dame and ACU
Of interest to the NSW Chapter was the development of an MOU between ACU Sydney campuses and Notre Dame University in Sydney. The NSW Chapter recommended that this be a standing item throughout the year. The AVC and Strathfield Student President updated Chapter regarding various events and conversations that had taken place between ACU and Notre Dame University.

3.4 Mission & Identity
The review of Mission and Identity remained a discussion point for the NSW Chapter during 2014. Chapter enquired how the Mission and Identity was being embedded within the Sydney campuses programs from many of the guest presenters including Student Engagement, Research and Education.

3.5 25th Anniversary Celebrations
The NSW Chapter received regular updates from the AVC Sydney regarding the planning of the 25th Anniversary celebrations from the Associate Vice Chancellor Sydney.

3.6 New Research Institutes
The Chapter discussed the establishment of the new research institutes in the University. Professor Wayne McKenna, Director of Research presented to the NSW Chapter in the October 2014 meeting. The Chapter discussed with Professor McKenna their concerns regarding the impact of the institutes on existing staff research. Chapter also enquired into availability of information on the institutes (websites) and the quality of researchers and supervisors.

The recommendation was passed that “The Chapter notes with appreciation the attention to the Particular Objects of ACU: “to educate and research specifically within the Catholic intellectual tradition” 2.5b”

3.7 Review of Core Curriculum
The Chapter expressed interest in the outcome of the review of the Core Curriculum and requested the Associate Vice Chancellor Sydney update the Chapter as the information was available.

3.8 NSW Chapter Membership
Due to a number of resignations of Chapter members in 2014 the NSW Chapter discussed the need to recruit new members. The NSW Chapter examined the needs of the Sydney Campus and looked at appropriate areas in which to seek new membership. The Acting Chair was to interview potential candidates prior to recommendations to the AVC Sydney and the Vice-Chancellor.

4. Presentation by Senior Staff and Chapter Members in 2014

Briefings were provided by:
- Dr Stephen Weller, Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
  - Futures Project Update
  - Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020
5. AVC (Sydney) Reports to Chapter
The NSW Chapter continued throughout the year to express their appreciation for the driven leadership and the considerable patience of Professor Marea Nicholson, the AVC Sydney.

The Associate Vice-Chancellor Sydney presented Chapter with a detailed written report, distributed at each meeting to serve as a focus for discussion. The report included updates on:

- The Sydney Campus Master Planning
- Catholic Partnerships
- Upcoming event
- Student Enrolment
- Student Experience
- Research & Knowledge transfer

6. Evaluation
A brief evaluation of the four 2014 meetings (on 27 October) indicated members were generally pleased with the modius operandi of Chapter.

7. Expanded Chapter membership
To increase the skill set in Chapter five new members were appointed in February 2015 by the Vice-Chancellor, namely;

- Professor Jose Aquilera - Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, St Vincent's Private
- Ms Talitha Fishburn – Barrister
- Mr Michael McMahon - General Manager of Burwood Council
- Ms Michelle Wilson - Executive Director of St Vincent's Clinic
- Mr Raymond Wooby - Principal: Freeman Catholic College, Bonnyrigg Height

Br Kelvin accepted the invitation from the Vice-Chancellor to Chair the New South Wales Chapter (2nd March 2015). Br Kelvin has served on the Chapter continuously since the inaugural meeting on the 18 March 1991.

8. Assessment from Chair, New South Wales Chapter
Over the past twelve months the NSW Chapter has addressed the Catholic identity of the University in a general way. Regular reports from Professor Marea Nicholson, AVC Sydney and visiting senior staff provided an overview of the Catholic dimension of ACU in Sydney and Chapter members expressed appreciation with efforts made on Strathfield and North Sydney campuses. Members are invited to the various Liturgical celebrations and other religious gatherings.

Chapter membership and in particular the four Religious members, have a reasonable knowledge of and appreciation for the history and mission of our university. A particular interest in the provision of Religious Education programs has led to some discussion with members expressing hopes and expectations.

A focus of Chapter meetings in the past twelve months has been on the re-structuring of ACU faculties and associated senior appointments. Senior staff members have been readily available to brief Chapter. At our most recent meeting, 9 March 2015, four recently appointed Professors in Education and two from Health Sciences accepted invitations to participate in an extended Chapter meeting.
Chapter has continually expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Vice Chancellor and senior ACU staff to build ACU into “one of the leading Catholic universities in the world”.

The Chapter in recent years has not addressed specifically Clause 19.3 of the Constitution.

A personal reflection

In recent years I have become concerned with what I see as the task facing ACU in Sydney. I sometimes express this as a ‘refounding’ of the university.

Staff turnover associated with retirements and expanded enrolments present a major challenge. I now know very few senior staff in the faculty of Education and I keep asking myself how we are going to transmit to the new leadership cohort a passion for the Catholic thrust, culture and identity of the university and an appreciation of the story over the past 25 years. I am not questioning the good will of senior staff. The continuing challenge is to support them to internalise ACU’s Catholic Identity.

Linked to this “re-founding” and staff turnover are relationships with long term clients or partners, particularly in the area of education.

Br Kelvin Canavan fms
Chair, New South Wales Chapter
15 April 2015