

## **SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 9 APRIL 2025**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chancellor welcomed Senators and attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

The Chancellor acknowledged the final meeting for three Senators after a significant length of service:

- Professor Elspeth Froude (elected Academic Staff member);
- Ross Fox (Chapter Nominee ACT); and
- The Hon. James Douglas KC (Panel Nominee (QLD)).

The Chancellor also acknowledged the final report of Fr Anthony Casamento, Vice-President noting the conclusion of his contract at the end of April.

### **2. Report from Chancellor**

The Chancellor provided an update to Senators relating to Senate and Senate Sub-Committee Membership and highlighted the following:

- Anne Kirwan was nominated by the ACT Chapter for a three-year term, subject to approval at the AGM on 16 May 2025, following the conclusion of Ross Fox's term.
- Marita Corbett was recommended by the Senate Standing Committee and approved by the Senate as the Queensland Panel nominee for a three-year term, also subject to approval at the AGM on 16 May 2025, following the conclusion of the Hon. James Douglas KC's term.
- Professor Michael Champion and Associate Professor Monica Wong were elected as Academic Staff Senators for three-year terms commencing 1 May 2025, following the conclusion of Professor Elspeth Froude's term.
- Francine Pirola was approved in principle as the New South Wales Senate Panel nominee, pending formal approval via circular.
- Robert Baker was re-appointed as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further three-year term, from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2028.

### **3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President**

The Vice-Chancellor and President provided an overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- Funding highlighted in the Report included:
  - a co-investment research translation partnership with Breakthrough Victoria valued at \$14m;
  - \$5m in funding for the ENVISAGE program;
  - ACU's inaugural Australia's Economic Accelerator (AEA) grant in medical science to the value of \$487k; and
  - \$250k in philanthropic funding from the Emerge Group for a project in Timor Leste;
- ACU collaborated on a landmark United Nations (UN) initiative focused on improving the mental and physical health of the judiciary. This globally significant initiative provided international recognition of ACU's Thomas More Law School;

- According to QS World University Rankings by Subject, ACU achieved its highest-ever global ranking for theology. ACU was ranked number 22 in the world and number one in Australia for Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies; and
- The impact of Ministerial Direction 111 on international student recruitment and significant implications for universities and the economy.

#### **4. 2024 Financial Statements**

The Chief Operating Officer provided an overview of the key highlights from the 2024 Financial Statements including the Directors' Report and External Auditor Report.

Senate:

- a. Approved the 2024 Annual Financial Statements, including the Directors' Report, and authorised the signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor; and
- b. Authorised presentation of the accounts to Members of the Corporation and to the appropriate authorities.

#### **5. Mission and Identity**

The Chancellor and Senate acknowledged Fr Anthony Casamento's service to ACU.

The Vice President spoke to a number of mission-based activities, events and training programs for staff and students.

#### **6. DVCRE Research and Enterprise Roadmap**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise presented the Research and Enterprise Roadmap to Senate

Senate discussed and provided feedback on the strategic direction, Mission driven research excellence and engaged impact: In service of a flourishing humanity.

#### **7. Report from Corporation Secretary**

The Corporation Secretary presented updates in relation to:

- Delegations of Authority and Policy Register;
- Deeds of Access, Indemnity and Insurance;
- Annual Protected Disclosures Report; and
- Contract Execution Register.

#### **8. Report of the Academic Board**

The Chair of Academic Board advised Academic Board met in February and a brief update was provided at the February Meeting of Senate.

Professor McKenry spoke to the catholicity of the curriculum and noted the approval of double degrees on offer for 2026.

#### **9. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee**

Senators discussed the report which included a summary of items discussed at the 14 March meeting of Finance and Resources Committee, from which the '2024 Directors Report and Financial Statements' and the 'Gender, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report (4th Quarter 2024)' were referred to Senate.

#### **10. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee**

Senators discussed the report which included a summary of items discussed at the 19 March meeting of Audit and Risk Committee, from which the 'Information Technology and Cyber Security Report' and the 'Sexual Misconduct Report' were referred to Senate.

#### **11. Report of the Honorary Awards Committee**

Senators discussed the report of the 3 March meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee.

#### **12. Reports from State Chapters**

Senate noted the following Reports from State Chapters:

- Report of the ACT State Chapter meeting of 20 March 2025.
- Report of the NSW State Chapter meeting of 24 February 2025.
- Report of the Queensland State Chapter meeting of 18 March 2025.
- Report of the Victorian State Chapter meeting of 4 March 2025.

The meeting was rendered inquorate part way through the Agenda, and a number of items were circulated for formal resolution following the meeting.