Senators at meeting

- The Hon. John Fahey AC GCSG, Chair & Chancellor *
- Mr Julien O'Connell AO, Pro-Chancellor **
- Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG, Vice-Chancellor and President *
- Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP **
- The Hon. James Douglas **
- Mr Stephen Elder OAM KSS **
- Dr Doseena Fergie OAM **
- Mr Ross Fox **
- Associate Professor Elspeth Froude *
- Mr Gerard Goodwin-Moore *
- Professor Margot Hillel OAM **
- Ms Chanchal Kaur *
- Mr Tim Kirk **
- Mr Karl Morris AO **
- Dr Judith Norris **
- The Hon. Barbara Perry *
- Ms Annette Schmiede **
- Ms Bernadette Steele **

Apologies

None

Attendees at meeting

- Dr Stephen Weller, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer *
- Dr Diane Barker, Director of Governance *
- Professor John Niland AC, Independent Reviewer **
- Ms Simone Chetcuti, Director, Office of Vice-Chancellor and President *
- Mr Hugh McCuaig, Governance Officer *

The Meeting was conducted using webconference. The platform was Microsoft Teams.

* present in the Peter Cosgrove Centre
** present using videoconference

Part A – Procedural

1   Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Prayer

The Acknowledgement of Country was given by Dr Doseena Fergie.

The Opening Prayer was led by Most Reverend Anthony Fisher.

2   Welcome and Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Senators, Professor Niland, Dr Weller and attendees to the meeting.

The Chancellor acknowledged the retirement of Professor Margot Hillel, Chair, Academic Board since 2012 and who had been a member of staff for 34 years. Senators joined the Chancellor in thanking Professor Hillel for her significant contributions to academic governance and development in the University in her role as the Chair of the Academic Board, to the Senate during this period and for her many contributions to the University's cultural life including the University's art collection, the Poetry Prize and the Book of the Year.

3   Minutes

3.1   Minutes of Meeting held on 11 June 2020

Resolution S 2020/061
Senate confirmed the Minutes of Meeting 03/2020 (11 June) of Senate as a true and accurate record. There was one correction (commencement date for Professor Hillel as the Chair of the Academic Board, correct year 2012).

4   Business arising

4.1   Recruitment of Vice-Chancellor

Item 5.2 from Minutes of Meeting 03/2020 (11 June) (refer Agenda Item 6.1, Chancellor's Report)

4.2   COVID-19 Recovery Management Plan

Item 6.2 from Minutes of Meeting 03/2020 (11 June) (refer Agenda Item 7.2, COVID-19 Recovery Management Plan)

4.3   Rome Campus Developments

Item 7 from Minutes Meeting 03/2020 (11 June) (refer Agenda Item 8, Rome Campus)

4.4   External Governance Review

Item 10.1 from Minutes Meeting 03/2020 (11 June) (refer Agenda Items 13.1, External Governance Review)

5   Register of Interests

Declarations of interests were made as follows which will be recorded in the University Declarations Register:

  i. Detail removed
 ii. Detail removed
iii. Agenda Item 15.4.2; Recommendations for Title of Emeritus Professor; Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Greg Craven; reason: Emeritus Professor nomination for Professor Craven.

iv. Agenda Item 15.4.2; Recommendations for Title of Emeritus Professor; Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Greg Craven; reason: Emeritus Professor nomination for Professor Craven.

Part B – For Discussion (Governance and Strategy)

6   Chancellor's Report
For noting

6.1   Recruitment of Vice-Chancellor and President (progress report)
Confidential Item

Text removed

Resolution S 2020/062
   i.   Senate noted the Progress Report for the recruitment of the Vice-Chancellor and President;
   ii. Senate approved the appointment of Professor Zlatko Skrbis to be the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University for a five year term (renewable by Senate) effective 11 January 2021.

Text removed

The Chancellor thanked the Selection Committee for their efforts to produce recommendations for a new Vice-Chancellor and President. The Chancellor thanked Dr Weller for co-ordinating the selection process and for providing the Chancellor with ongoing advice and guidance in terms of governance, protocol and process.

Resolution S 2020/063
Senate noted the Report from the Chancellor.

7   Vice-Chancellor and President's Report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to his Report which included:

   * Enrolments
   * Enhancing Philosophy at ACU (appointment of Professor John Haldane – Professor of Philosophy of Education)
   * News and acknowledgements
   * Media Reports
   * External meetings and events
   * Report from the Provost (incorporating Education & Innovation portfolio) (including course innovation; digital innovation)
   * Report from the Chief Operating Officer (including Gender Equality Initiatives, Quarter 2, 2020)
   * Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (including ARWU Rankings; Leiden Rankings; Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences appointments)

7.1   COVID-19 Recovery Management Plan

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the University's response to the pandemic focusing on the University's online learning and professional experience initiatives across the range of disciplines in addition to measures implemented for the Melbourne and Ballarat campuses. Senate discussed mental health issues and services for students and staff at the Melbourne and Ballarat campuses.

Resolution S 2020/064
Senate noted the COVID-19 Recovery Management Plan (June 2020), as detailed in Document 7.1.

7.2   COVID-19 Financial Impact (incorporating June Forecast)

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the COVID-19 Financial Impact Report (including the June Forecast). Senate noted the the amended financial covenants for 2020-2022 which were approved at the June meeting.

Senate noted that the University would continue to moderate reductions in expenditure by deploying the *Reinvestment Fund* initiative enabling a commitment to funding the University's core activities and staff. Detail removed.

Text removed

Resolution S 2020/065
Senate noted the COVID-19 Financial Impact Report (incorporating June 2020 Forecast), as detailed in Document 7.2.

7.3   2020 Graduation Changes due to Pandemic

The Vice-Chancellor provided Senators with the rationale for proposed resolution to cancel graduation ceremonies for 2020 and offer students the option of formal campus-based photography sessions.

Resolution S 2020/066
Senate approved Option 2 as contained in Attachment A of report, the cancellation of all graduations for the remainder of 2020 and that ACU offers students the option to attend campus-based photography sessions in regalia with their families, as detailed in Document 7.3.

7.4   Higher Education Funding Reforms

The Vice-Chancellor outlined the features of the Higher Education Funding Reforms: Job-ready Graduates Package from the Commonwealth Government which incorporates changes to rates of funding for Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs), three-year guarantee of base funding levels (pending endorsement from the Treasurer) and a potential increase in institution funding based on the location of their campus(es) (regional and high growth metropolitan).

Senate discussed and affirmed its commitment to, and investment in, teaching and research in the arts (including the Arts Intensification Strategy) in the light of the proposed significant increase in student contributions required to study undergraduate humanities subjects as part of the reforms. Senate acknowledged the MOU with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation and the new Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation.

The Vice-Chancellor provided the background for other proposed Commonwealth Government reforms, including:

- the Indigenous, Regional and Low-SES Attainment Fund (IRSLAF) which would have a value of $500 million per annum nationally and would be funded through the combining of various equity and access funding measures (including the Higher Education Participation & Partnerships Program);
- greater discretion for higher education institutions to offer sub-bachelor and postgraduate courses instead of funding on the basis of designated relevant courses.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that Government's reforms would need to be legislated and may be introduced to Parliament in August enabling implementation from 2021.

7.5 TEQSA

Senate noted that ACU's TEQSA registration which was due to expire on 30 July 2022 had been extended to July 2025. Senate noted that TEQSA's registration renewal status report for ACU had provided a list of action areas for improvement for July 2025. ACU's CRICOS (Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students) registration had also been renewed for a period of seven years to 17 February 2027.

Resolution S 2020/067
Senate noted the Report from the Vice-Chancellor and President.

8 Rome Campus

Text removed

Resolution S 2020/068
Senate noted the Rome Campus Report, as detailed in Document 8.

9 Melbourne Campus Development

Dr Weller spoke to the Melbourne Campus Development Report.

Resolution S 2020/069
Senate noted the Melbourne Campus Development Report.

10 Blacktown Campus Development

Dr Weller spoke to the Blacktown Campus Development Report. Discussion included course promotion, the virtual open day and first preference enrolments. Dr Weller stated that actual enrolments would be known in October including the potential link between enrolments at the Blacktown and Strathfield campuses.

Resolution S 2020/070
Senate noted the Blacktown Campus Development Report.

11 Confidential Item removed

12 Faculty of Education and Arts

It was noted that the presentation from Executive Dean, Faculty of Education and Arts, Professor Elizabeth Labone would be postponed to the Planning Day scheduled for 15 October.

13 Governance

13.1 External Governance Review

13.1.1 Update on the Mandatory External Governance Review

Dr Weller provided an update on The Mandatory External Governance Review.

Resolution S 2020/072
Senate noted the update on the progress of the two external reports that form the independent review of governance, as detailed in Document 13.1.1.

13.1.2 Academic Governance Processes Review and ACU Action Plan

Dr Weller provided an update on the Academic Governance Processes Review and the Action Plan. Professor Hillel answered questions

regarding the implementation of recommendations from the review. Senate acknowledged the number of commendations contained in the report.

Text removed

Resolution S 2020/073
Senate noted:
   i. The External Review of Academic Governance Report produced by Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester, dated June 2020; and
   ii. The Action Plan approved by Academic Board on 8 July 2020, which recommends the adoption of the Recommendations of the Review.

13.2 Strategic Plan Performance Report (2nd quarter)

Dr Weller introduced the second quarter performance report against the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 being the first report for the new strategic planning period referred to Senate. Text removed

Dr Weller advised that the Director of Planning and Strategic Management, Dr Omer Yezdani, will contact Senators subsequent to the meeting so that additional input can be provided.

Resolution S 2020/074
Senate noted the Performance Report against the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for the 2nd Quarter 2020, as detailed in Document 13.2.

13.3 Protected Disclosures Policy and Procedure

Dr Weller introduced the proposed amendments to the Protected Disclosures Policy and Procedure as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee from its meeting of 22 July 2020 (Agenda Item 15.2.2 refers). Dr Weller acknowledged Dr Barker as the Responsible Officer under the Policy and for producing the proposed resolution and documentation.

Resolution S 2020/075
Senate approved the amendments to the Protected Disclosures Policy and Procedure, as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee from its meeting of 22 July 2020, as detailed in Document 13.3.

13.4 Review of Senator Workload and Remuneration Policy

Dr Weller provided the background for the proposal to revise the *Senator Workload and Remuneration Policy* and rename it the *Senator Workload Recognition Policy* and the recommendation to approve a new policy, *Student Members of Senate and Academic Board Workload Recognition Policy*.

Resolution S 2020/076
Senate approved the:
   i. Revised Senator Workload and Remuneration Policy (renamed *Senator Workload Recognition Policy*); and
   ii. New policy, *Student Members of Senate and Academic Board Workload Recognition Policy.*

13.5   Contract Execution Register
Confidential Item

Dr Weller spoke to the Contract Execution Register for the period May to July 2020.

Resolution S 2020/077
Senate noted the Contract Execution Register for contracts executed pursuant to section 127(1) of the Corporations Act for the period 28 May 2020 to 23 July 2020.

13.6   Chapter Reports

13.6.1   New South Wales

No report since the last meeting.

Ms Schmiede provided an informal update from the August meeting regarding the Blacktown Campus. Ms Schmiede commended the professionalism and depth of information provided as part of the Blacktown Campus development presentation given by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer (Paul Campbell).

13.6.2   Victoria

Mr Elder spoke to the Report from the 16 June 2020 Meeting of the Victorian Chapter.

13.6.3   Queensland

No report since the last meeting.

On request from Mr Douglas, the Chancellor requested that arrangements be made (for Mr Douglas) to become a member of the Queensland Chapter.

13.6.4   ACT

Mr Fox spoke to the Report from 28 May 2020 Meeting of the ACT Chapter.

Resolution S 2020/078
Senate noted the formal Reports from the Victorian and ACT Chapters (from their meetings of 16 June 2020 and 28 May 2020), as detailed in Documents 13.6.1 and 13.6.4.

Part C – For Discussion (Reporting Committees)

14   Academic Board

14.1   Report from Meeting of 8 July 2020

Professor Hillel spoke to the Report from the 8 July Meeting of the Academic Board.

Resolution S 2020/079
Senate noted the Report from the Academic Board from its Meeting of 8 July 2020, as detailed in Document 14.1.

14.1.1   Review of Academic Board

Refer agenda item 13.1.2 under Governance Items.

14.1.2   Widening Participation Strategy

Resolution S 2020/080
Senate approved the Widening Participation Strategy, as approved by Academic Board on 8 July 2020 (Resolution AB 2020/127).

14.1.3   Master of Teaching (Secondary) (Leading Learning)

Resolution S 2020/081
Senate approved the new course proposal and curriculum plan for the Master of Teaching (Secondary) (Leading Learning), to be offered at the Melbourne campus, for implementation from Summer Term 2021.

14.1.4   Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Resolution S 2020/082
Senate approved the new course proposal and curriculum plan for the Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, to be offered at the Blacktown, Brisbane, North Sydney and Melbourne campuses, and online, for implementation from Semester 1, 2021.

14.1.5   Graduate Certificates in Information Technology

Resolution S 2020/083
Senate approve the new course proposal for the following award courses:

Graduate Certificate in Application Development
Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics
Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security
Graduate Certificate in Data Science,

to be offered at the Brisbane, North Sydney and Melbourne campuses, and online, noting approval by Academic Board by circular resolution.

15   Sub-Committees of Senate

15.1   Finance and Resources Committee

The Pro-Chancellor spoke to the Report from the 21 July 2020 Meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee.

Resolution S 2020/084
Senate noted the Report from the Finance and Resources Committee from its Meeting of 21 July 2020.

15.2 Audit and Risk Committee

15.2.1 Report form Committee

Dr Weller spoke to the Report from the 22 July 2020 Meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee including:

- TEQSA Renewal of Registration Preliminary Status Report Text removed;
- Internal Audit Status (text removed);
- Cyber Security Update Report;
- Risk Profile;
- Policy Endorsements (Enterprise Risk Management Framework, Risk Management Policy, Fraud and Corruption Control Framework, Thematic Functional Reviews Policy, and the Internal Audit Policy).

Resolution S 2020/085
Senate noted the Report from the Audit and Risk Committee from its Meeting of 22 July 2020.

15.2.2 Protected Disclosures Policy and Procedure

Refer Agenda Item 13.3 under Governance Items.

15.3 Senate Standing Committee

No Report since the last meeting

15.4 Honorary Awards Committee

15.4.1 Report form Committee

Resolution S 2020/086
Senate noted the Report from the Honorary Awards Committee from its meeting of 6 August 2020 will be referred to the Senate meeting of 15 October 2020 for noting and approval.

15.4.2 Recommendations for Title of Emeritus Professor

The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Hillel left the meeting for this agenda item.

The Chancellor advised that, from its meeting preceding the Senate meeting (6 August), the Honorary Awards Committee considered nominations against the relevant criteria contained in Statute 12 (Title of Emeritus Professor) and resolved to recommend to Senate that titles of Emeritus Professor be approved by Senate for Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG and Professor Margot Hillel OAM.

Resolution S 2020/087
Senate approved the title of Emeritus Professor for Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG, as detailed in Document 15.4.1, commencing 11 January 2021.

Resolution S 2020/088
Senate approved the title of Emeritus Professor for Professor Margot Hillel OAM, as detailed in Document 15.4.2, commencing 7 August 2020.

The Chancellor congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Hillel for their accomplishments and commitments to continue to contribute to the University's pursuits and plans leading to the granting of titles of Emeritus Professor.

Part D – For Noting

16   Actions Register

Refer Agenda Item 4 (Business Arising)

17   General Business

17.1 PM Glynn Institute

Mr O'Connell provided a brief update on the initiatives and activities of the PM Glynn Institute including recent publications (copies of which had been sent to Senators), public policy issue podcasts and planned visits (including Mrs Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong who would give the PM Glynn Lecture on Religion, Law and Public Life). Mr Elder commended Mr O'Connell, Michael Casey (Director) and the staff and members of the Institute for conducting policy analysis and research which addresses issues of importance to the Church.

18   Close of Meeting

The Chancellor thanked Senate for their contributions to the meeting.

Senate noted the next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Thursday, 15 October 2020 at the MacKillop Campus in North Sydney. The Planning Day is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 October 2020.

19   Closing Prayer

Senators read the Closing Prayer.

Dr Stephen Weller
Secretary to Corporation