

**Non-Confidential Minutes of Meeting of ACU Senate  
Meeting 04/2019 on 8 August at 9.00 am  
Held in The Polding Room  
Level 18, Tenison Woods House  
8-20 Napier Street, North Sydney**

**Senators at meeting**

- The Hon. John Fahey AC, Chair & Chancellor
- Mr Julien O'Connell AM, Pro-Chancellor
- Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG, Vice-Chancellor and President
- Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney
- Mr Michael Benson
- The Hon. Justice James Douglas
- Associate Professor Elspeth Froude
- Professor Margot Hillel OAM
- Mr Tim Kirk
- Ms Danielle Leahy
- Dr Judith Norris
- Dr Josephine Ryan
- Ms Annette Schmiede
- Ms Bernadette Steele

**Apologies**

- Mr Stephen Elder OAM KSS
- Mr Ross Fox
- The Hon. Barbara Perry

**ACU Staff at meeting**

- Dr Stephen Weller, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer
- Dr Diane Barker, Director of Governance
- Mr Paul Campbell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer (for Blacktown Campus Item, Agenda Item 8)
- Mr Omer Yezdani, Director, Planning and Strategic Management (for Strategic Planning Item, Agenda Item 9)
- Ms Simone Chetcuti, Director, Office of Vice-Chancellor and President
- Mr Hugh McCuaig, Governance Officer

*Mass was held before the meeting, at 9.00 am in Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel and was celebrated by Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP. The Mass was concelebrated by Academic Coordinator (Catholic Programs,) Fr Jamie Calder SJ who gave the Homily.*

## **Part A – Procedural**

### **1 Welcome and apologies**

The Chancellor acknowledged the sad news that mother of Member of Senate Stephen Elder, Billie Elder, passed away on the Monday of the week of the Senate meeting, as acknowledged at the Senate Mass.

The Chancellor acknowledged the birth of the second child of Member of Senate Ross Fox and extended the congratulations of Senate to Ross, his wife and family.

### **2 Minutes of Meeting held on 13 June 2019**

Resolution S 2019/052

The Minutes of Meeting 03/2019 (13 June) of Senate were confirmed as a true and accurate record, as detailed in Document 2.

### **3 Business Arising**

#### **3.1 Freedom of Speech, Item 5.2 from Minutes**

The Chancellor stated that an update on the progress of the Freedom of Speech Code would be provided in his report (Agenda Item 5); and the Vice-Chancellor's Report (Agenda Item 6).

#### **3.2 Blacktown Campus, Item 6 from Minutes**

The Chancellor stated that the Blacktown Campus would be addressed under Agenda Item 8.

#### **3.3 Senate Review, Item 10.1 from Minutes**

Dr Weller provided an update on the Senate Review. Text removed. The review will be conducted during the first quarter 2020. It is anticipated that the Independent review of Academic Governance Processes will be conducted in the second quarter 2020. This will permit changes as required to be implemented in the second half of 2020 leading to preparations for the application for re-registration with TEQSA in 2021 under the guidance of the Standards and Compliance Committee.

### **4 Register of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest against specific agenda items.

## Part B – For Discussion (Governance and Strategy)

### 5 Chancellor's Report

#### 5.1 Freedom of Speech

The Chancellor provided the background for the initiative of the Senate and the University to develop a free speech code based on the model drafted by former High Court Chief Justice The Hon. Robert French AC. This context provided a framework for the Vice-Chancellor's update on the Code as part of his report.

#### 5.2 Participation in Events since the Last Meeting

The Chancellor informed Senate that he had participated in events since the June Meeting of Senate including the following:

- ♦ Blessing of the Triptych of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom and Conferral of Honorary Master of Arts for Ms Chiara Perinetti Casoni;
- ♦ Meeting with Mayor of Blacktown, Stephen Bali MP (also NSW Member for Blacktown)

### 6 Vice-Chancellor and President's Report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the Report which included:

- ♦ Blacktown Campus developments
- ♦ Report on Vice-Chancellor International Trip
- ♦ National School Resourcing Board - Extension
- ♦ Legal Symposium on the Uluru Statement
- ♦ ACU commissioned triptych installed and blessed at our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel
- ♦ Freedom, Autonomy and Responsibility Conference
- ♦ Honorary Doctoral degree for The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC
- ♦ Upcoming Public Debate - Does Australia need a Charter of Human Rights?
- ♦ Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA)
- ♦ Executive Planning Group (EPG) Retreat, 14-15 August 2019
- ♦ Gender Equity Initiatives Report
- ♦ Work Health and Safety Report
- ♦ Staff appointments and reappointments
- ♦ Report on Vice-Chancellor meetings and events with various stakeholders
- ♦ Confidential item removedMedia Reports
- ♦ Vice-Chancellor's external engagements, hosted events and speeches
- ♦ Reports from the Provost; Chief Operating Officer; Vice President; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Innovation; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Co-ordination

#### *Freedom of Speech Code*

Following on from the Chancellor's introduction, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the University supported values of freedom of expression and academic inquiry. The General Counsel had been requested to produce a draft free speech code to formalise the University's commitment to embrace these values. The exercise would involve a review of university statutes and policies which will interact with the code. It was noted that Senate would be consulted during the process of the development of the Code. In response to a question from Senate, it was agreed that Members of the Academic Board should be involved in the development of the code and review of governing documents.

### *Performance Based Funding*

The Vice-Chancellor referred the attention of Senators to the Federal Government's proposed performance-based funding allocation applying to new undergraduate places above the 2017 cap level. Each year, and beginning in 2020, a specified level of *growth funding* would be subject to performance measures. The proposed scheme would grow year-on-year above 2017 levels until a maximum of 7.5% of a university's funding is allocated on a performance basis.

In response to a question from Senate, the Vice-Chancellor outlined the membership of the expert panel which would lead the consultation with the sector on the implementation of the performance based funding scheme and which had been selected by Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education. The panel was chaired by Professor Paul Wellings CBE, Vice-Chancellor of Wollongong University and included five additional Vice-Chancellors (including Professor Craven).

The scheme proposed by the Federal Government measured performance across four areas:

1. student success, measured by the rate of attrition;
2. equity group participation, measured by participation rates for Indigenous, low socio-economic status, and regional and remote students;
3. graduate employment outcomes, measured by the overall employment rate of graduates available after graduating, and
4. student experience, measured by student satisfaction with teaching quality drawn from the Student Experience Survey.

Senate discussed this performance metric. Text removed.

Senate discussed the Productivity Commission Research Paper on the Demand Driven Funding System (DDS) which was released in June 2019. Specific text removed.

### *Vale*

Sister Anne Derwin, much-loved and well-respected member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph congregation and beyond.

## **7 Melbourne Campus Development (Update)**

Notation:

Dr Weller spoke to the Melbourne Campus Development (Update), as detailed in Document 7, as extracted from the Report from the Finance and Resources Committee, Agenda Item 12.1.

## **8 Establishment of the Blacktown Campus**

Dr Weller introduced the item of the establishment of the Blacktown Campus, as detailed in the Report from the Standing and Finance Committee (Document 12.1). Dr Weller introduced Mr Paul Campbell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, who addressed specific questions from Senate in relation to the proposal.

Specific text removed.

Under the guidance of the Chancellor, Senate reflected on the report and recommendations from the Finance and Resources Committee, the issues discussed during the meeting and its support in principle for establishing the Blacktown Campus to service and support the educational and training needs of the population of Western Sydney in pursuit of and reflecting the mission of the university.

Resolution S 2019/053

Senate:

- i. Endorsed the establishment of *The ACU Blacktown Campus*;
- ii. Text removed re specific resolution

## 9 Strategic Plan 2023

Dr Weller introduced Dr Omer Yezdani, Director, Planning & Strategic Management and Monica Chen, National Manager, Strategic Planning for this agenda item. Dr Weller provided an outline of the process leading to the development of the proposed content for the Strategic Plan, including the listening exercise, Profile Taskforce and engagement with 700 staff and stakeholders, which would be presented at the meeting. Dr Yezdani provided the presentation to Senate, as detailed in Document 9.

Senate discussed the six proposed Strategic Initiatives in the Plan, their alignment with the stated Mission, Values and Principles and the effectiveness of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to evaluate the university's attainment of the Strategic Initiatives. Archbishop Fisher commended the presentation for its embrace of Catholic values in the identification of the Strategic Initiatives. The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of student and staff engagement with the proposed Plan. Dr Weller advised Senate that, subsequent to the meeting, the proposed Plan would be progressed in consultation with the Senior Executive Group and Executive Planning Group and in turn referred to the October Meeting of Senate for endorsement. There may be an opportunity for Senators to be consulted leading up to the October meeting.

Specific discussion and agreement included:

- ♦ Affirmation of the aim to increase participation and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and those from low socio-economic communities;
- ♦ Degree of adoption of the results of the Character Taskforce exercise into the content of the presentation;
- ♦ Need to ensure the concepts and terminology contained in the Plan are accessible and sufficiently explained for students – and meaningful for staff in its connection to Portfolio, Faculty and Directorate Plans and their own professional workplans;
- ♦ In regard to KPI's, the need for the MyVoice instrument to capture the engagement of staff with the Mission and values of the University – in addition to satisfaction with the infrastructure of their campuses;
- ♦ Recognition of the importance of professional development for professional staff as part of their ongoing formation, development and attainment of their own work objectives to contribute to the performance goals of the new Plan and the university.

## **10 Governance**

### **10.1 Contract Execution Register**

Resolution S 2019/054

Senate noted the Contract Execution Register for the period 28 May 2019 to 29 July 2019, as detailed in Document 10.1.

### **10.2 Chapter Reports**

#### **10.2.1 New South Wales**

Ms Schmiede spoke to the Report from NSW Chapter (3 June) complementing her verbal report provided to Senate at the June Senate meeting.

Resolution S 2019/055

Senate noted the Report from 3 June 2019 Meeting of the NSW Chapter, as detailed in Document 10.2.1

#### **10.2.2 Victoria**

Mr O'Connell spoke to the Report from Victorian Chapter (18 June).

Resolution S 2019/056

Senate noted the Report from 18 June 2019 Meeting of the Victorian Chapter, as detailed in Document 10.2.2

#### **10.2.3 Queensland**

No Report for this meeting of Senate.

#### **10.2.4 ACT**

Ms Leahy spoke to the Report from the ACT Chapter (23 May).

Resolution S 2019/057

Senate noted the Report from 23 May 2019 Meeting of the ACT Chapter, as detailed in Document 10.2.4

## **Part C – For Discussion (Reporting Committees)**

### **11 Academic Board**

Professor Hillel spoke to the Report from the Academic Board from its meeting of 26 June 2019.

Resolution S 2019/058

Senate noted the Report from the Academic Board Meeting of 26 June 2019, as detailed in Document 11.

### **12 Sub-Committees of Senate**

#### **12.1 Finance and Resources Committee**

The Pro-Chancellor spoke to the Report from the Standing and Finance Committee from the Meeting of 15 July 2019 which included the Melbourne Campus Update (refer Agenda Item 7), Blacktown Campus Establishment (Agenda Item 8), the June Forecast and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Staff Trend Report.

Resolution S 2019/059

Senate noted the Report from the Meeting of the Standing and Finance Committee of 15 July 2019, as detailed in Document 12.1.

#### **12.2 Audit and Risk Committee**

Dr Weller spoke to the Report from the Audit and Risk Committee from the Meeting of 24 July 2019 which included risk management (including cyber security) and internal audit.

##### **12.2.1 External Audit Contract**

Dr Weller spoke to the External Audit Contract documentation including the proposed six year cycle of external audit contract review and process for the appointment of external auditors (including the tender process). Text and resolutions removed.

Resolution S 2019/061

Senate noted the Report from the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee of 24 July 2019, as detailed in Document 12.2.

#### **12.3 Honorary Awards Committee**

The Chancellor stated that there was no report for this meeting, however, the Committee would convene after the Senate meeting to discuss a number of nominations for Honorary Doctorate which have been received from Corporation, Senate, Chapter and the professoriate.

#### **12.4 Senate Standing Committee**

No report for this meeting of Senate.

## **Part D – For Noting**

### **13 Actions Register**

Refer Business Arising (Agenda Item 3)

### **14 General Business**

#### **14.1 PM Glynn Institute**

The Pro Chancellor provided an update on developments in the PM Glynn Institute. This included the publications, *Amen, A history of prayers in Parliament*, PM Glynn Institute Occasional Paper; *Federation's Man of Letters*, Patrick McMahon Glynn by Anne Henderson; and *Patrick McMahon Glynn, A New Perspective*, fold out reference. Mr O'Connell advised that Mrs Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, had agreed to deliver the 2020 PM Glynn Lecture on Religion, Law and Public Life. Senate noted plans of the Institute to look at how to develop its use of social media and podcasts once the migration of the website to the ACU site had been completed later in the year.

#### **14.2 Senator Tim Kirk attends IACHE**

Mr Kirk provided an account of his participation in the IACHE (Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education) program in Boston.

### **15 Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 17 October 2019 at the MacKillop Campus in North Sydney.

### **16 Closing Prayer**

Senators recited the Closing Prayer.

The Meeting closed at 2.15 pm.