

# COUNCIL NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES



Minutes of the 510<sup>th</sup> meeting of **COUNCIL** held at 2.00 pm on **Monday 17 August 2020** via Zoom.

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**PRESENT**

Mr David Gonski AC, Chancellor  
Mr Warwick Negus, Deputy Chancellor  
Professor Ian Jacobs, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Professor David Cohen, President of the Academic Board  
Dr Jennifer Alexander  
Dr Raji Ambikairajah  
Ms Maxine Brenner  
Mr Jack Campbell  
Mr Matthew Grounds AM  
Mr Mark Johnson  
Associate Professor Louise Lutze-Mann  
Professor Kristy Muir  
Mr James Rogers  
Mr Constantine Tsounis  
Ms Jennifer Westacott AO

**APOLOGIES** Nil

**IN ATTENDANCE** Scientia Professor George Williams AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning & Assurance  
Professor Eliathamby Ambikairajah, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Enterprise  
Professor Eileen Baldry, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Equity Diversity & Inclusion  
Professor Merlin Crossley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic  
Professor Nicholas Fisk AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research  
Professor Anne Simmons AM, Provost  
Ms Fiona Docherty, Vice-President, External Engagement  
Ms Shahina Mohamed, Chief Operating Officer, President and Vice-Chancellor's Office  
Mr Jon Paparsenos, Vice-President, Philanthropy  
Mr Andrew Walters, Vice-President, Finance & Operations  
Mr David Ward, Vice-President, Human Resources

Present for Item 12  
Professor Rorden Wilkinson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience

**SECRETARY**

Ms Elizabeth Grinston, General Counsel and University Secretary  
Mr James Fitzgibbon, Director of Governance  
Mr Mark Smith, Deputy Director of Governance

*For convenience, agenda items were taken out of order.*

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1. Welcome, apologies and leave of absence

The Chancellor expressed his respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and extended his respects and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of all the lands from which members and attendees were joining the Council meeting.

Council noted there were no apologies for this meeting.

The Chancellor welcomed all members and attendees to the meeting and took the opportunity to welcome Scientia Professor George Williams, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Planning & Assurance, to his first Council meeting as a member of the University's Management Board.

## **2. Declarations of interest and conflicts of interest**

### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the declarations and conflicts of interest provided at this meeting.

#### **Note for the record**

The Chancellor informed Council that various members would need to declare an interest in relation to Item 11.2 Recommendations from Honorary Degrees Committee. Council agreed to note the various interests from members in relation to Item 11.2 and that all members remain present for this item.

### **2.1 Register of Interests**

#### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the Register of Interests provided at this meeting.

#### **Note for the record**

Council noted the updated declaration from Dr Ambikairajah in that she was no longer a Director of the Sydney School of Entrepreneurship, however she was a member of the School's Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

The Chancellor requested that Governance remove interests that are no longer current and beyond a determined timeframe, after considering best practice (**Matters Arising**).

## **3. Minutes of previous meetings and business arising (other than business in this agenda)**

### **3.1 Minutes of Council meetings held on 15 June and 8 July 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

Council confirmed the minutes of the meetings held on 15 June and 8 July 2020 as an accurate record and authorised the Chancellor to sign them.

### **3.2 Matters arising and business carried forward**

#### **3.2.1 Term 1, 2020 WAMs and failure rates**

#### **3.2.2 myExperience – Term 1, 2020 results and gender**

#### **3.2.3 Update on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing**

#### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted:

1. the response to questions raised on Term 1, 2020 WAMS and failure rates;
2. the response to questions raised on Term 1, 2020 results and gender; and
3. the Update on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing.

#### **Note for the record**

Council noted that all additional matters arising and business carried forward were either completed or in progress.

#### **4. Adoption of items for noting and approval, and starring of items**

Council received and carried a motion for the adoption of the non-confidential and confidential items for noting.

### **MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY**

#### **5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor to Council [Open Session]**

- 5.1 Commonwealth and State Government Relations**
- 5.2 Faculty and Divisional Changes**
- 5.3 Educational Delivery and Student Load**
- 5.4 Financial Implications and Plan**
- 5.5 Workforce Implications and Plan**
- 5.6 Freedom of Speech at UNSW**

#### **6. Report on the proceedings of the Academic Board**

Professor Cohen spoke to this item.

Professor Cohen highlighted for Council:

- the amendments to the UNSW Rules regarding membership of the Academic Board;
- the response from industry groups regarding the employability of the University's students; and
- the presentation received at the July 2020 Board meeting regarding the future of assessment.

Council discussed with Professor Cohen:

- the overall reaction from the academic community regarding the new Faculty structure – Council noted that the overall response from faculties had been positive in nature and that the methodology the University was utilising helped position the University for the future; and
- the review of the PhD program and whether skills in entrepreneurship should be part of the PhD program – Professors Cohen and Fisk advised that they would provide this request to the PhD review team.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Cohen for his report.

#### **6.1 Report to Council by President of the Academic Board**

##### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the report to Council by the President of the Academic Board.

#### **6.2 Confirmed Minutes of Academic Board meeting held on 23 June 2020**

##### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the confirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 23 June 2020.

#### **6.3 Unconfirmed Minutes of Academic Board meeting held on 28 July 2020**

##### **RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 28 July 2020.

#### **6.4 Report on the establishment of a Degree, Diploma, Certificate or Other Award Program by Academic Board**

**RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the report on the establishment of a Degree, Diploma, Certificate or Other Award Program by Academic Board.

**7. Finance and Business Committee Report**

**7.1 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of Finance and Business Committee Meeting held on 4 August 2020**

**7.2 2020 Quarter 2 Financial Report**

**8. Audit Committee Report**

**8.1 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2020**

**8.2 Report on red-rated Internal Audit Actions**

**9. Risk Committee Report**

**9.1 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of Risk Committee Meeting held on 3 August 2020**

**9.2 UNSW Safety and Wellbeing Report – Quarter 2 2020**

**10. 2025 Council Sub-Committee Report**

**10.1 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of 2025 Council Sub-Committee Meeting held on 4 August 2020**

**11. Honorary Degrees Committee Report**

**11.1 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of Honorary Degrees Committee Meeting held on 21 July 2020**

**11.2 Recommendations from Honorary Degrees Committee**

**12. Student Experience Plan**

**RESOLVED**

Council received and noted the Student Experience Plan.

**Note for the record**

Professors Crossley and Wilkinson spoke to this item.

Council noted the presentation 'A new student experience – Listening, Challenging, Supporting'.

Council discussed with Professors Crossley and Wilkinson the student satisfaction and participation rates for the myExperience survey. Council noted the University was planning to investigate the response rate by students to ascertain whether it was possible to achieve a higher satisfaction/participation rate.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Wilkinson for the presentation. Professor Wilkinson left the meeting at the end of this item.

## ITEMS FOR APPROVAL AND NOTING

### 13. Register of Use of Seal and University Name and Arms

### 14. Amendments to the University of New South Wales Rules

#### RESOLVED

Council:

1. received and noted the report Amendments to the University of New South Wales Rules; and
2. approved the amendments to the University of New South Wales Rules, to take effect from 17 August 2020.

### 15. Report of Approved Policy Documents

#### RESOLVED

Council received and noted the report of Approved Policy Documents.

### 16. 2020 Council Election Results

#### RESOLVED

Council received and noted the 2020 election results for staff and student positions on Council.

### 17. Statutory Liability Insurance Coverage

#### RESOLVED

Council received and noted the briefing, following the whistleblower training provided to Council on 15 June 2020, on UNSW's Statutory Liability insurance cover in relation to its exposures under the whistleblower provisions of the Corporations Act and the Public Interest Disclosures Act.

### 18. Business without notice

*Item 1 : Length of Meeting*

#### RESOLVED

Council resolved to extend the 17 August 2020 meeting to 5.30pm pursuant to the requirements of Council resolutions CL96/60 and CL03/25.

## 19. COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY SESSION

Management left the room before the start of the Council members only session.

There being no other business, the Chancellor declared the meeting closed at 4.50 pm and moved into the Council Members Only Session.

The next Council meeting will be held on 12 October 2020.

SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

Presiding Member

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Mr David Gonski AC  
Chancellor  
12/10/2020