Vice Chancellor's Report

A copy of the Vice Chancellor's Report to Council can be accessed from the following website:


The Vice Chancellor updated members on the implications of the 2014 Federal Budget for the higher education sector. Members noted the following key issues arising from the 2014 Budget:

- The demand driven system will continue and will be extended to sub degree qualifications and to private providers.
- The government had essentially created a ‘voucher’ system, with the value of the voucher related to the area/discipline of study.
- Fee and provider deregulation will be introduced from 1 January 2016. All students commencing from 14 May 2014 will be subject to the new system. There were no limits to either the fees that institutions may charge or to student borrowings via the HECS-HELP system.
- The threshold of recovery of HECS-HELP loans will be reduced from approximately $56,000 to $50,000.
- From 1 June 2016 the annual indexation applied to HECS-HELP debts will increase from the CPI rate to the yield on the 10 year government bond rate, capped at 6% per annum.
- HECS-HELP debt is estimated by the government to significantly increase [from $28.1 billion in 2013-14 to $54.4 billion in 2017-18] and ‘doubtful debt’ is estimated to increase from 17% in 2013-14 to 23% in 2017-18.
- The indexation for university funding will be reduced.
- There will be a 10% cut in the Research Training Scheme, which could be recovered from students via fees.
- While the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and the Future Fellows scheme have been retained, the Australian Research Council will be subject to major funding cuts.
- The Medical Research Fund will be established on 1 January 2015 to provide additional funding for medical research.
- The Education Investment Fund will be abolished and the funds will be applied to the asset recycling fund, resulting in these funds being lost to higher education.
- The current eight Field of Education discipline clusters will be reduced to five discipline tiers; disciplines will be reallocated within the five tiers and funding relativities will change. For example, under the new arrangement the government contribution to Environmental Studies will decrease by 45%, requiring a 110% change in student contribution to ensure a zero-sum outcome for universities.
- While in theory, student contributions will increase by 20% and government investment will reduce by a commensurate amount, outcomes will be less straightforward than this due to the changes to discipline clusters and funding relativities.
- Subject to Senate approval of the new arrangements, the University’s CGS receipts will be adjusted from 1 January 2016. The magnitude of the reduction will vary significantly.
from one Field of Education to another, with Environment, Science, Engineering, Social Studies, Communication and Creative Arts subject to the largest relative reduction.

Members noted that the total impact on 2016 CGS revenue was estimated to amount to $35.3m, equating to a 14% reduction in forecasted CGS revenue from the 2014 Budget projections. It was noted that, to recover the reduction in CGS revenue, fees would necessarily increase on average 25.1% and that work would proceed on the basis of the need to recover at least the amount lost in government funding. The Vice Chancellor advised that domestic student undergraduate fees would need to be set within a program range, rather than at the course level, and that the fees would need to be announced prior to students accepting 2015 offers.

Council discussed a range of matters arising from the 2014 Budget. The Vice Chancellor advised that, going forward, the University was well placed in terms of its ranking, location, comprehensive program range and sound financial position. He advised that the changes were an opportunity to review the current budget model, and that the University would need to prepare for a range of different scenarios. Members noted that key decisions would need to be made in the near future in order to best position the University while simultaneously reinforcing Griffith’s reputation and sustaining its commitment to excellence and equity.

ANNUAL REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2017

The Vice Chancellor reported to Council on the University’s performance against the targets in the Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

ONLINE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

The Academic Provost updated members on activities that had been undertaken to progress the online partnership strategy subsequent to the April 2014 meeting.

Members noted that building an online presence and cultivating strategic partnerships to grow student numbers was in keeping with the goals and targets of the Academic Plan 2013-2017, and the University’s Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

The Academic Provost responded to queries from members about a range of issues including maintaining the University brand, ensuring distinctiveness, quality assurance, return on investment, retention and completion rates, program delivery, timetabling, staffing, target markets and English language proficiency for admission. Members noted that it was intended to launch the first program by March 2015, with two programs launched by July 2015.

Council resolved to endorse the recommended online partnership strategy.

HEAD OF SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Council resolved to offer Professor Andrew O’Neil an appointment as the Head of School, Government and International Relations for the period 3 June 2014 to 2 June 2019.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council resolved to confer the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professor Bruce Burton in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.
NAMING OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES, BUSINESS BUILDING (G42) GOLD COAST CAMPUS

On the recommendation of the Finance and Resources Committee, Council resolved to approve:

a. In recognition of the generous financial and personal contributions made by Mr Raymond James, that one of the MBA lecture rooms in the Business building (G42), Gold Coast campus be named the ‘Raymond James Lecture Room’ for a five year period commencing 1 July 2014 up to 30 June 2019;

b. In recognition of the sponsorship by the Southport Sharks, a seminar room on level 2 of the Business building (G42), Gold Coast campus be named the ‘Southport Sharks Seminar Room,’ with the option to renew on an annual basis.

AMENDED FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to approve with immediate effect an amended Finance and Resources Committee constitution (2013/0002830) to:

- Change the title of the Finance and Resources Committee to the ‘Finance, Resources and Risk Committee.’
- Amend clause 2 to clarify the Committee’s role with relation to risk by adding the sentence ‘The Committee is also responsible for advising Council on risk management in the University.’
- Amend clause 4 ‘Functions’ to clarify the role of the Committee in relation to the review of the Annual Financial Statements;
- Update clause 5c ‘Delegated Authorities’ to reflect that the schedule of financial delegations is subject to biennial rather than annual review;
- Update clause 11 to update the list of sub-committees reporting to the Finance and Resources Committee.

POLICY CHANGES

Council resolved to approve the following, with immediate effect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Brief Description of Changes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Dress Policy (new document no. 2014/0007023)</td>
<td>Addition of a brief description of academic dress to Sections 1 and 2, amend Section 4 to replace ‘Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) with ‘Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)’ and addition of a new clause 5 Authority to Determine Eligibility to Attend an Official Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Reporting of University Shareholdings Policy (new document no. 2014/0007009)</td>
<td>Updates to clause 3.1 Administration, clause 3.3 Sale of Shares and clause 4 Annual Review Timetable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approving Authorities for University Policies (new document no. 2014/0007034)</td>
<td>Changes to the approving authority for the Use of University Seal Policy (to Council from Vice President (Corporate Services), and the Fees and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Delegation of Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements: Schedule of Delegations (new document no 2014/0007042) | - Addition of new clause 2.3 to provide that no person has the authority to sub-delegate any of the authorized delegations; and the consequent deletion of sub-delegations A.1.1.6 and E.1.1.5  
- Addition of new delegation [E.1.1.5] authorizing the Vice President (Corporate Services) to sign agreements appointing or retaining recruitment/employment entities.  
- Amended D.2 to change the delegation to ‘Associate Publisher, Griffith REVIEW’  
- Addition of new delegations ([H.1.1.9] [H.5.5.1] [H.6.6.1] [H.7.7.1] [H.8.8.1] [I.1.1.4] [I.5.5.1] [I.6.6.1] and [I.7.7.1]) to provide identified officers with authority to sign project schedules under Research Collaboration Deeds entered into between the University and the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services and to sign the associated Assignment of IP Deed.  
- Amended H.4 to change the delegation to ‘Director, Molecular Basis of Disease Research Program’ from ‘Director, Genomics Research Centre.’  
- Deletion of delegation J.1.1.3 pertaining to the signing of Section 20 Notices under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000. |
<p>| Degree for Service Policy (2014/0007027) | Endorsed for a further five year period |
| Election of Members to Council Policy (2014/0007028) | Endorsed for a further five year period |
| Election of Members to University Committees Policy (2014/0007029) | Endorsed for a further five year period |
| Fees and Charges Policy (new document no. 2014/0007035) | Substitution of the words ‘teaching period’ for ‘semester’ throughout the policy and changes made to Section 2.1 Student Services and Amenities Fee; Section 3.2. Fee Schedules and Fee Inclusions; Section 3.6 Refund of Fees; Section 9 Penalties for Non-Payment or Partial Payment of Fees and Charges; Section 12 Payment Plans. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy/Matter</th>
<th>Endorsement Period</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraud Control Policy (2014/0007025)</td>
<td>Endorsed for a further two year period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraud Control Procedure (2014/0007026)</td>
<td>Endorsed for a further one year period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medal for Outstanding Service Policy (2014/0007032)</td>
<td>Endorsed for a further five year period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management Policy (2013/0014761)</td>
<td>Endorsed for a further two year period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Committee Meeting Procedures (new document no. 2014/0007013)</td>
<td>Revised format, and changes to clause 2 (5) Quorum and clause 4 Review of Committee Performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Health and Safety Accountabilities (new document no. 2014/0007041)</td>
<td>Amendments to reflect legislative changes and to update the responsibilities and accountabilities of University staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUNE 2014**