COMMENCEMENT OF NEW CHANCELLOR

Council welcomed Mr Henry Smerdon AM DUniv to his new role of Chancellor.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Members noted that the Honourable Ms Leneen Forde AC DUniv, former Chancellor, attended her last meeting of Council in April and concluded her final term of office on 31 May 2015.

Council resolved to adopt a minute of appreciation in recognition of Ms Forde’s extraordinary leadership and outstanding contributions to the University during her fifteen years as Chancellor [2000-2015], and in recognition of a life-time of notable achievements and distinguished service to the community.

VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Vice Chancellor’s Report to Council can be accessed from the following web site: link

ANNUAL REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2017

The Vice Chancellor reported to Council on the University’s 2014 performance against the targets in the Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

GRIFFITH 2020 PROJECT REPORT ON ACHIEVING THE GRIFFITH MODEL OF EDUCATION

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) provided an overview of the document Griffith Model of Education – Progress Report (2015/0000276). Members noted the wide consultation that had been undertaken with the University community about the Model. Council noted that the four key themes underpinning the Model were Flexibility; Quality; Market-informed Academic Planning; and Engaged and Relevant, and that the goals of the Model were to:

- Future-proof the University against the anticipated impact of a substantially reduced cohort of OP eligible students which would arise in 2019-20, and which due to the pipeline effect, would negatively impact student load for the first 3-4 years of the 2020 decade.
- Ensure that the University continued to thrive in the context of competitive challenges.
- Increase quality, market differentiation and reputation across-the-board.
- Optimise the student selection process as well as ensure attractiveness and flexibility for all applicants.
- Facilitate the potential for students to accelerate and complete their degrees;
- Design and implement the framework for a common, simplified Program Architecture for the University’s degrees and double-degree combinations.
- Align emerging academic calendar proposals with revised and streamlined procedures.

Council resolved to give in principle approval of the following two structural changes to the academic year:

a) A change in the default semester length for all Griffith coursework degrees from 13 weeks to 12 weeks, effective February 2017;

b) A new academic calendar involving three standard 12 week trimesters [T1, T2 and T3], effective as new degree commencement points from July 2017 for T2 and from October 2017 for T3.
GRiffith 2020 Progress Report on Research Initiatives

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor provided an update to Council on the following:

Areas of Strategic Investment

Council noted that the University was on track to meet its commitment pursuant to its Strategic Plan 2013-2017 to develop research areas which, by 2017, would be acknowledged as world class (top 200) and a small number that were considered world leading (top 20).

Council noted the following performance highlights which were a reflection of the ongoing success of the Areas of Strategic Investment Program:

- In 2014, for the second consecutive year, the University earned almost 50% of its total research income from Australian Competitive Grants.
- The University was ranked 8th in Australia for 2013 research publication points submitted under the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC), becoming the first university in 20 years to displace a Group of Eight university for HERDC publication points.
- Since 2010, the University has exceeded the world average for citation impact, which is a key indicator of research quality.
- The University’s trend for international collaboration has accelerated and blended successfully with the Asia-Pacific focus. Last year, 46.1% of Web of Science indexed articles included an international co-author (up from 21.5% in 2003), the People’s Republic of China became the University’s leading collaborating nation, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences became the University’s leading collaborating international institution.

Griffith 2020 Research Initiatives

Council recalled that at the 2015 Strategic Retreat, the Vice Chancellor announced the creation of a $20 million research funding package for the research elements of the Griffith 2020 vision.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor advised that while the ASI progress had been excellent, the required step change would not be achieved through a business as usual approach.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor advised that the general principles for investment in support of step change opportunities in research were:

- Concentrated investment in areas of critical mass, excellence or overall University strategic positioning;
- Prioritisation of initiatives that build national and international partnerships;
- Priorities may include key items of infrastructure, especially those critical to credibility in relation to partnership activities;
- Investment would be responsive to external funding opportunities;
- Leadership initiatives may drive some investment decisions;
- Investment must identify the step change that would be supported;
- Investment must leverage research performance and income.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor advised that between June and December 2015 draft proposals will be considered by the University Executive for prioritization for further development and/or funding allocation.

Update on Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor provided an update to members on Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). Council noted that the final data for ERA 2015 was submitted during March and that results would become available in late 2015 and would subsequently be reported to Council.
The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor discussed the general characteristics of the University’s ERA 2015 submission. He advised that the 2015 submission represented the University’s continued efforts to improve overall quality and to strengthen research capacity around the Areas of Strategic Investment.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL APPOINTMENT**

Council **resolved to offer** Associate Professor Lynne Briggs an appointment as Head, Human Services and Social Work from 2 June 2015 up to 26 October 2016.

**PRESENTATION: GRIFFITH CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PROGRAM**

Professor Brendan Mackey, Director, Griffith Climate Change Response Program (GCCRP) gave a presentation to Council. He advised members that human forced climate change impacts all aspects of human endeavour and that one of the biggest challenges for the 21st century will be climate change adaptation and mitigation. Members noted that the GCCRP facilitates an interdisciplinary approach through a core research network built around several of the University’s key centres and institutes.

The Vice Chancellor commented upon the impressive work currently being undertaken by GCCRP with the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). Members noted that GCCRP was currently hosting a delegation of Melanesian government officials under a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australian Awards Fellowship grant, in partnership with MSG.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Mackey for his very interesting and informative presentation.

**REVIEW OF SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

In accordance with the *University Reviews Policy*, an independent review of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice was undertaken in October 2014. Council endorsed the review report and implementation plan.

**AMENDED HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION**

Council **resolved to approve** an amended Honorary Degree Committee constitution (2015/0000263) with immediate effect.

**POLICY CHANGES**

Council **resolved to approve** the following amended policy documents, with immediate effect:

- Consultancy and Commercial Research policy (2015/0000260)
- Fraud Control Procedure (2015/0000264)
- Approving Authorities for University Policies (2015/0000266)

**JUNE 2015**