VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

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

NEW BUDGET MODEL

Council endorsed the new contribution margin budget model, for implementation in 2016.

The Chief Financial Officer briefed Council about the new budget model. He advised that the key benefits of the contribution methodology were:

- Provision of a complete and transparent picture of the University’s total income and expenditure, to better inform strategic decision making.
- Greater alignment with the University’s financial statements.
- Focus on long term revenue and cost structure to support ongoing financial sustainability.

Council agreed that the new budget methodology would better inform and support financial decision-making, and short and long term strategic planning. Council agreed that the change to the new model was necessary and would take the University forward in an increasingly challenging external environment.

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Council considered the paper entitled World University Rankings Performance Overview (July 2015) which discussed the University’s performance on the major world rankings released to date in 2015.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor referred Council to the following performance highlights, as detailed in the Performance Overview paper:

- Top 400 on four major rankings:
  - Leiden Ranking 2015;
  - Academic Ranking of World Universities 2014;
  - QS World University Rankings 2014;
  - University Ranking by Academic Performance 2014
- One of only two South-East Queensland universities listed on the ARWU listing, ranking equal 10th nationally.
- Ranked 52nd in the Asia-Pacific region and 8th in Australia on the Nature Publishing Index – Asia-Pacific (June 2015).
- Ranked 38th in the QS Top 50 under 50 (2014).
- Ranked 82nd in the Times Higher Education Top 100 Universities under 50 (2015).

Council noted advice that:

- University rankings have become a lucrative industry, requiring the sector to manage the challenges posed by the proliferation of rankings, in order to sensibly interpret outcomes for the benefit of stakeholders and consumers.
- Volume and quality are of equal importance for the University in enhancing its status as a comprehensive research intensive University.
- Research performance indicators used at all levels in the University continue to be reviewed and adjusted to maintain the volume/quality equilibrium.
- Top 300 positioning on several of the major rankings is possible for the University within a three to five year timeframe but Griffith must continue to manage its improvement on the major rankings to ensure that outcomes are consistent with strategic positioning, and to ensure that current performance is better reflected on each ranking.
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Council considered the paper *Achieving Griffith 2020 and Enabling the Griffith Model: Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar*. Council noted the role of the Griffith Model of Education in supporting the achievement of the Griffith 2020 strategic agenda.

Council noted that in accordance with enterprise agreement requirements, consultation about the proposed modifications to the academic calendar had been undertaken by the University with staff and unions, and that feedback received from the University community had been considered by management and incorporated as appropriate. Council noted the summary of the feedback received from staff and the NTEU.

Council noted that:
- The new trimester arrangements were student-centred in that they would provide clarity and flexibility of course delivery and would appeal to a number of different student cohorts; including Griffith College pathway students, international students, non-school leavers, and students who combined work and study.
- The University was already significantly involved in the delivery of courses across three semesters. It was noted that the new trimester arrangements would provide clear and simple rules for the delivery of courses across the semesters.

Council noted that the change to the academic calendar was an enabling first step and was not the whole strategy. The Vice Chancellor discussed the University’s imperative to ensure and sustain student load into the future through the provision of greater flexibility of delivery, and by offering a clear and attractive range of programs that would meet market expectations and that would attract enrolments. The Vice Chancellor advised that he expected student load would build slowly over time and he advised that the strategy would be carefully monitored with regard to cost.

Council noted that a Griffith 2020 implementation plan would be presented to the December 2015 meeting.

Council resolved to approve the proposed modifications to the academic calendar in accordance with the following in-principle approval given by Council (June 2015):
(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].

NAMING OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

*Wayne Goss Centre*

Council resolved to approve that the Information Services Centre (L03) at the Logan campus be renamed the ‘Wayne Goss Centre.’ Council noted Mr Goss’s lifetime of extraordinary service and contributions to the community. It was noted that, while Premier of Queensland, Mr Goss had been instrumental in establishing the University’s Logan campus to provide higher education services for the residents of Logan and surrounding districts. It was agreed that renaming the Information Services Centre as the Wayne Goss Centre would be a fitting way to honour Mr Goss’s outstanding service to the people of Logan, Queensland and Australia.
Council resolved to approve that Room 1.31 at the Queensland Conservatorium be named after Ms Nancy Weir AO. It was agreed that naming Room 1.31 as the ‘Nancy Weir Room’ would be a fitting way to honour Ms Weir’s long term contributions to the Conservatorium and the Queensland music community over several decades.

**DOCTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY AWARD – WOMEN OF INFLUENCE SCHEME**

Council noted the Honorary Degree Committee’s advice regarding the operation of a Women of Influence Scheme over the next five year period to increase the proportion of women Doctor of the University recipients by encouraging nominations from the University community that recognise women of national and international influence who had made significant contributions to state and national communities. It was noted that under the Scheme, the nominees need not necessarily have a direct connection with the University.

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Council congratulated Ms Rachel Hunter DUniv on her appointment as a Governor in Council member for the period from 23 July 2015 up to 30 October 2017.

Council noted that Ms Siobhan Fitzpatrick, elected undergraduate student member, had attended her last meeting. Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of Ms Fitzpatrick’s contributions to the work of Council, and to the work of the Misconduct Appeals Committee, during her term of office.

**SENIOR APPOINTMENTS**

Council resolved to offer Professor Michael Powell a further appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) for the period from 2 August 2015 up to 4 July 2016, pending the appointment of his successor.

Council resolved to approve the establishment of the position of Pro Vice Chancellor and Head, Logan campus and to offer Professor Lesley Chenoweth an appointment to this position for a three year term commencing 4 August 2015 up to 3 August 2018.

**PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

Council resolved to confer the title Professor Emeritus on Professor Roderick Drew and Professor Patrick Weller AO in recognition of their distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

**PRESENTATION: GRIFFITH INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM**

Professor Susanne Beeken, Director, Griffith Institute for Tourism (GIFT) gave a presentation to members about GIFT’s mission, its current activities and its key areas of research in the areas of Health, Experience and Well-being; Business, Destination and Organisational Viability; and Environmental Resilience and Nature Conservation, and she briefly discussed current research and outcomes in the areas of resilience, China tourism and tourist experiences and health.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Beeken for her very interesting and informative presentation.
POLICY CHANGES

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

Fees and Charges policy (2015/0000279)
Health and Safety policy (2015/0000295)
Non-Smoking policy (2015/0000296)
Approving Authorities for University Policies (2015/0000300)

Council rescinded the Smoking policy (2014/0007097).

AUGUST 2015