ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHANCELLOR

Council resolved to elect Ms Rachel Hunter DUniv to the position of Deputy Chancellor for a term of office from 6 October 2015 up to 31 December 2017.

VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Vice Chancellor’s Report to Council can be accessed here

UNIVERSITY BUDGET OVERVIEW

Council resolved to endorse the document Budget Overview (2015/0000313) which outlined the projected 2015 budget outcomes and canvassed the key contextual issues for the 2016-2018 Budget.

Council noted the report on 2015 budget outcomes, summarised as follows:

- The overall 2015 student enrolment was projected to be 1% below budget (3% higher than the previous year).
- Undergraduate and postgraduate CGS load growth was 1% above budget (4% growth year on year).
- International student enrolments were projected to fall 5% short of budget (3% lower than the prior year).

Council (October 2014) resolved to endorse a one year Budget for 2015 given the uncertainty at that time about the extent to which the government’s higher education reform package would be implemented. Council noted that the new Minister for Education and Training had recently announced that the proposed higher education reforms would not proceed in 2016, and that the government would undertake further consultation with the sector on future funding options. It was noted that the government did still intend to seek to implement the efficiency dividend.

Council agreed that due to the ongoing uncertainty of the political and policy environment, the University would return to a three year budget outlook for the 2016-2018 period. It was noted that the 2016-18 Budget would be formulated with regard to:

- The regulatory environment
- Domestic and international student demand
- Expense escalation factors

STUDENT COMPLAINTS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Academic Provost provided members with a brief overview of the Student Complaints Policy and Student Complaints Procedures, which would replace the Student Grievances Policy. Council noted that the Student Complaints Policy and Procedures would provide the mechanism for resolving complaints made by students about their treatment by the University; the quality of a service provided by the University; or the conduct of University staff or students.

Council noted that the establishment of a Student Ombudsman’s office and the creation of the new position of Student Ombudsman were central to the Students Complaints Policy and Procedures. The Academic Provost advised that the Student Ombudsman would act as a neutral arbiter and after
evaluating a student complaint, would recommend to the responsible officer of the University Executive how to best address and finalise the matter. Council noted that the Student Ombudsman would:

- Provide leadership in the handling of student complaints;
- Investigate whether the University had acted fairly and reasonably;
- Ensure that matters were dealt with consistently and in a procedurally fair manner.

On the recommendation of Academic Committee, Council resolved to approve the following policy changes, to take effect on a date to be determined by the Academic Provost, following the appointment of the Student Ombudsman:

(a) Rescission of the Student Grievance Policy (2015/6007004)
(b) Approval of the Student Complaints Policy (2015/6007041) and the Student Complaints Procedures (2015/6007034).

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - OUTGOING POSTGRADUATE STUDENT MEMBER

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

HEAD OF SCHOOL APPOINTMENT

Council resolved to offer Professor Geoffrey Tansley a further appointment as Head, Griffith School of Engineering for the two year period from 1 March 2016 up to 28 February 2018.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council resolved to confer the title Professor Emeritus on Professor Diego De Leo AO in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Council **resolved** to:

(a) declare as ex gratia University holidays Tuesday 29 December, Wednesday 30 December, and Thursday 31 December 2015.
(b) authorise the granting of equivalent time off in lieu of one or more of these days to staff required to work on any or all of those days.

PRESENTATION: CENTRE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Professor Rodger Tomlinson, Director, Centre for Coastal Management, gave a presentation to members about the Centre’s key research and collaboration, education and training, and community engagement activities.

Council that the Centre’s mission was to ‘build resilient coastal communities through targeted research and community engagement in the face of extreme events, urban pressures and climate change’ and that its scope was from the hinterland to the ocean.

Professor Tomlinson advised that the majority of research undertaken by the Centre was concerned with coastal erosion and beach management, and that the second major category of research related to extreme events and disaster management. Council noted that the Centre collaborated with national and international organisations, and internally with the Griffith Business School, and the Schools of Humanities, Environment, and Information and Communication Technology in undertaking its research.
Council noted that, to date, the Centre had undertaken more than 180 funded projects, in addition to numerous unfunded and student projects, and had received funding in excess of $23 million from federal, state and local governments, industry and competitive research grants, and that recent significant awards included the:

- Business-Higher Education Round Table Ashley Goldsworthy Award for Sustained Collaboration
- Australian Coastal Councils Awards for Research and Community Engagement
- Australian Coastal Society Award for Outstanding Contribution to Coastal Management.

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

**AMENDED ACADEMIC COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION**

Council resolved to approve an amended Academic Committee constitution (2015/6007029) with immediate effect.

**RESCISSON OF GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD CONSTITUTION**

Council resolved to approve rescission of the Griffith University Foundation Board constitution (2014/0005200) with immediate effect.

**POLICY CHANGES**

Council resolved to approve the following policy changes with immediate effect:

  [the Academic Misconduct Policy – Higher Degree Research Students policy has been rescinded]
- Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements: Schedule of Delegations (2015/0000316)
- Student Misconduct Policy (2015/6007043)

Council resolved to approve the following policy changes, to take effect on a date to be determined by the Academic Provost, following the appointment of the Student Ombudsman:

- Rescission of the Student Grievance Policy (2015/6007004)
- Approval of the Student Complaints Policy (2015/6007041) and the Student Complaints Procedures (2015/6007034).

**OCTOBER 2015**