VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Vice Chancellor’s Report to Council can be accessed [here](#).

UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2016-2018

Council **resolved to adopt** the *University Budget 2016-2018*.

The Vice Chancellor presented the 2016-2018 Budget to Council and discussed the following key issues impacting the Budget:

- Constrained revenue due to:
  - Low growth of domestic and international student load;
  - An historically low (1.75%) CGS indexation rate;
- Significant cost increases, which were primarily due to salary increases in accordance with current Enterprise Agreements, and also infrastructure cost increases.
- The requirement to maintain the University’s capacity for strategic investment and capital.

The Vice Chancellor advised Council that while the 2016-2018 Budget was necessarily conservative, this had sharpened the focus on efficient use of resources and cost containment. It had also presented opportunities to review the University’s processes and reduce inefficiencies by removing internal charges.

Council was advised that the Budget would maximise the resources available for the support and delivery of Griffith’s learning and teaching, and research agenda and would enable the University’s strategic agenda by:

- Continuing to devolve the budget to groups and divisions. Under this arrangement, groups and divisions have a high level of autonomy, and the capacity to carry forward funds for approved strategic purposes.
- Taking a whole of university approach to research funding.
- Prudent investment of Griffith 2020 strategic funds to support the development of new programs and research initiatives.
- Ensuring the ongoing financial sustainability of the University, and ensuring sufficient resources to: invest in physical and electronic infrastructure; leverage opportunities arising from the Commonwealth Games; and to continue with the Strategic Development Fund.

Council noted that in addition to setting aside an appropriate contingency, the University would employ a range of strategies to mitigate risks in relation to student load projections, and to maximise investment of research funds. The Vice Chancellor advised that budget managers would continue to maintain good budget discipline to maximise capacity within available resources.

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2018

Council **resolved to approve** the *Capital Management Plan 2016-2018*.

ACHIEVING GRIFFITH 2020 PROJECT

The Vice Chancellor presented the following Griffith 2020 progress reports to Council:


• *Endowment Fund Report* (Document no. 2015/0000337). Council noted advice detailed in the report about 2015 fundraising outcomes and new initiatives, proposed expansion of endowment to other applications, the new Endowment Distribution and Investment policy, and development of a standard Deed of Endowment to facilitate and expedite donations.

**DISESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, AND SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, LANGUAGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Council **resolved to approve**

(a) Disestablishment of the School of Humanities and the School of Languages and Linguistics from 31 December 2015.

(b) Establishment of the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science from 1 January 2016.

**REVIEWS OF THE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND STUDENT SERVICES AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that during 2015 the School of Government and International Relations, and Student Services and Student Success had been reviewed under the University’s policy. Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Council welcomed Mr Ritesh Chowdhary, elected postgraduate student, and Mr David Cody, elected undergraduate student, to their first meeting.

Council resolved to re-appoint Dr Robert Anderson OAM DUniv, Ms Sandra Anderson, Mr Craig Bassingthwaigte, and the Hon Robert Borbidge AO DUniv as additional members, for a further two year term of office up to 31 January 2017.

**APPOINTMENT OF DEAN (LEARNING & TEACHING) GRIFFITH SCIENCES**

Council **resolved to offer** Professor Robert Sang an appointment as Dean (Learning & Teaching) Griffith Sciences for the three year period from 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2018.

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT**

Council resolved to offer Professor Graham Cuskelly an appointment as Head, Department of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management for the five year period from 1 July 2016 up to 30 June 2021.

**PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

Council resolved to confer the title Professor Emeritus on Professor Ian Hamilton-Craig in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

**AMENDED AUDIT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION**

Council resolved to approve an amended Audit Committee constitution (2015/0000278) with immediate effect.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**
Council resolved to make the following appointments to University Committees:

Dr Naveen Sharma, re-appointed for a further term on the Academic Committee, and on the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee for the two year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2017. Associate Professor Liz Jones, re-appointed for a further term on the Equity Committee for the two year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2017. Mr Mark Gray, appointed as Chairperson of the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee for the two year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2017. Ms Rhonda White AO DUniv, re-appointed for a further term on the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee for the two year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2017. Ms Sharyn Donald, and Dr John Kearney, re-appointed for a further term and Ms Rebecca Frizelle appointed for a term on the Gold Coast Advisory Council for the three year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2018. The Hon Rob Borbidge AO DUniv, Mr Khory McCormick DUniv, Ms Libby Shakespeare, and Mr Terry Robertson DUniv re-appointed for a further term on the Griffith University Foundation Board for the three year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2018. Mr Anton Donker, re-appointed for a further term on the Tender Board for the two year period 1 January 2016 up to 31 December 2017.

2015 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Council noted the 2015 annual report to Council on Sustainability (2015/0000334).

POLICY CHANGES

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

- Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements: Schedule of Delegations (2015/0000330)
- Fees and Charges Policy (2015/0000327)
- Student Review and Appeals Policy (2015/6007050)
- Student Review and Appeals Procedures (2015/6007052)

Council resolved to endorse the Information Markers Policy (2013/0014851) for a further five year period up to 2020.

Council noted that the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee (5/2015) had approved a new Treasury Policy (2015/0000331), and had rescinded the Investment Policy.

DECEMBER 2015