ELECTION OF NEW CHANCELLOR

At the October 2014 meeting, the Honourable Ms Leneen Forde AC advised Council that she would not be available to serve a further term as Chancellor upon the conclusion of her current term of office on 31 May 2015. Council noted that under section 30(2) of the Griffith University Act, it was required to elect a Chancellor whenever there was a vacancy in the office.

At its December meeting, Council resolved to elect Mr Smerdon AM to a three-year term as Chancellor from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2018.

VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

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


UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2015

Council resolved to adopt the document Towards 2020 University Budget 2015 (2014/0007117).

Council recalled that it had endorsed the Budget Overview document at its October 2014 meeting, including the proposal for a one year Interim Budget for 2015 given the significant uncertainty arising from the government’s proposed Higher Education reform package.

Council noted that the structure of the 2015 Budget follows the model first introduced in 2007 but that this would be the last year of this budget model. Members recalled that a new budget model, based on a contribution margin approach, was being developed and that parallel reporting with the current Budget model would be undertaken in 2015 to enable the new model to be tested and refined in readiness for a 2016 introduction.

The Vice Chancellor advised that as student load accounted for the majority of the University’s revenue, it was a key driver of the Budget. In relation to the student load estimates detailed in the Budget, the Vice Chancellor advised that:

- A cautious approach was adopted with regard to 2015 load projections, and the projections had been subjected to testing.
- Modest growth was projected for next year; applications received to date indicated that the 2015 targets were achievable.
- There were early signs of a continued decline in non-school leaver numbers.
- There had been some stabilisation of international student numbers in Semester 2 2014, however the international student market remained uncertain, particularly given the fluidity of the Australian dollar, changes to the Australian Qualifications Framework requiring coursework masters programs to be a minimum of two years in duration, and the introduction by the University of higher English language requirements.

With regard to risk assessment, Council noted that the principal area of exposure for the University in the Budget was failure to recruit the projected number of students. Members noted that strategies for recruiting and retaining domestic, undergraduate and postgraduate students would be vigorously pursued.
ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2018

Council resolved to adopt the Engagement Plan 2015-2018: Engaging our Partners to be a University of Influence’ (2014/0007120).

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) provided an overview of the Engagement Plan. Council noted that the Plan was linked to the overarching goals of the Strategic Plan 2013-2017, and outlined initiatives to build on the University’s current strengths and promote the University’s values. It was noted that the Plan encouraged all disciplines and organizational units to collaborate in achieving the University’s strategic goals.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART

Council resolved to offer Professor Paul Cleveland a further appointment as the Director, Queensland College of Art for the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 or until such time as an appointment to the position is made, whichever is the sooner.

APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF SCHOOL / DEPARTMENT

Council resolved to offer:

- Professor Fabrizio Carmignani an appointment as the Head of Department, Accounting, Finance and Economics for a five year period from 1 January 2015 up to 31 December 2019.
- Professor Herman van Eyken a further appointment as the Head, Griffith Film School for a two year term up to 31 December 2016.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council resolved to confer the title Professor Emeritus on Professor Peter Healy, effective 20 March 2015, in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MS JANINE WALKER

Council noted that Ms Janine Walker, Director, Office of Human Resource Management had announced that she would retire from the University in January 2015.

Ms Walker was appointed Director, Office of Human Resource Management in 2001 and has played a key role in all of the University’s major staffing decisions and developments since that time. Ms Walker’s dedicated service in her role as Director, Office of Human Resource Management has greatly contributed to the advancement of the University over the last thirteen years.

Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contributions of Ms Walker to the development of the University, particularly in relation to the strong leadership that she has demonstrated over many years in her role as Director, Office of Human Resource Management.

PRESENTATION: LOGAN CAMPUS

Professor Lesley Chenoweth, Head, Logan Campus, gave a presentation to Council about the current activities of Logan Campus and its vision for the future.
At the conclusion of Professor Chenoweth’s presentation, the Vice Chancellor acknowledged her strong and inspirational leadership of the Logan Campus, and thanked Professor Chenoweth for her work in developing a very coherent and successful strategy for the campus. Members noted that Professor Chenoweth had achieved a deep level of engagement between the Logan campus and the local community.

PRESENTATION: SURGICAL INTEREST ASSOCIATION

Ms Siobhan Fitzpatrick, President gave a presentation to members about the Surgical Interest Association (Surgia). Council noted that Surgia is a student-run incorporated association established as a community of surgical professions, which promotes surgical education, knowledge, skills and research to health professionals and to the community.

Council noted that Surgia had won first prize at the 2012 Griffith Innovation Challenge, and the prize money that was awarded provided the capital needed to develop it as an association. Members were advised that since its inception in 2012, Surgia has grown to have a membership of more than 500 students, and 60 professional members. Council noted the achievements that had been realized by Surgia in the short time since its establishment and noted its current activities and future plans.

NEW GOLD COAST STUDENT GUILD CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to:
(a) Rescind the Griffith University Gold Coast Student Guild Constitution (2005/0030262);
(b) Approve the new Griffith University Gold Coast Student Guild Constitution (2014/0007111) with immediate effect.

2014 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Council noted the annual report to Council on Sustainability (2014/0007114).

2014 ANNUAL REPORT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMS AND OUTCOMES


APPOINTMENTS TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Council resolved to make the following appointments to University Committees:

- Uncle Graham Dillon, Chairperson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council for a further two year term from 1 January 2015 up to 31 December 2016.
- Mr Martin Watego for a two year term on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.
- Uncle Graham Dillon for a further three year term on the Gold Coast Advisory Council commencing 1 January 2015 up to 31 December 2017;
- Mr Terry Robertson for a further three year term on the Gold Coast Advisory Council commencing 1 January 2015 up to 31 December 2017;
- Professor Debra Henly for a further three year term on the Honorary Degree Committee commencing 8 April 2015 up to the first meeting of Council in 2018.
- Mr Nicholas Mathiou for a further three year term on the Honorary Degree Committee commencing 8 April 2015 up to the first meeting of Council in 2018.
POLICY REVIEW

Council resolved to approve the following, with immediate effect:

Amended Policies
Appointment of Academic Managers policy (2014/0007113)
Approving Authorities for University Policies (2014/0007118)
Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements Schedule of Delegations (2014/0007119)
Personal Relationships in the Workplace policy (2014/0007110)

DECEMBER 2014