COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
8 October 2013

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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


BUDGET OVERVIEW 2013-2014

Council 5/2012 resolved to change the timing of consideration of the University Budget from the September meeting of Finance and Resources Committee and the October meeting of Council to the November meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee and the December meeting of Council. The principal driver of the change was to allow more time to analyse second semester enrolments, the pipeline of which forms the major component of load projections for the following three years of the budget period.

Council considered the preliminary budget document ‘Budget Overview 2013-2014’ which had been reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee at its September 2013 meeting. It was noted that this document outlined the projected 2013 budget outcomes and canvassed key contextual issues for the 2014-16 Budget, with a particular focus on 2014.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the following key issues:

a) Projected 2013 revenue outcomes:

Student enrolments and related program funds such as the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships (HEPP) scheme account for 93% of General Fund revenue and 80% of total revenue. Load targets have been met or exceeded this year across almost all enrolment categories and it was anticipated that this would remain the case at year’s end. The additional revenue derived from exceeded student load would provide a buffer against future uncertainties and foreshadowed government funding cuts.

b) Projected 2013 expenditure outcomes:

All Groups and Divisions are in a stable financial position with expenditure appropriately under control and in line with budget allocations. In all cases, both a period and cumulative surplus was projected for the end of year in General Fund accounts. This projected expenditure outcome reflected the application of the long-standing ‘no deficit’ budget management principle, the requirement for executive budget managers to establish contingency amounts each year, and budget monitoring strategies. In addition, recently introduced monthly detailed expenditure reports for all groups and support services, showing year to date expenditure trends over the last 3 years, were being used to monitor expenditure.

The Vice Chancellor discussed the following key issues facing the University in the preparation of the 2014-16 Budget:

• Domestic student demand
The Vice Chancellor advised that the 2014-16 Budget would be prepared with a view to maintaining and enhancing the University’s position, taking into account the range of issues and challenges currently facing the University and the higher education sector.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Members noted that Ms Rachel Hunter DUniv and the Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo (Governor in Council members); Ms Kaye Dillon (elected general staff member) and Mr Chris Eigeland (elected undergraduate student member) had attended their last meeting and that Dr Dwight Zakus (elected academic staff member) had recently retired from the University. Council resolved to place on record its appreciation of the contributions of these members to the work of Council and its committees during their terms of office.

Council congratulated Dr Arthur Poropat (elected academic staff member) and Ms Satine Winter (elected postgraduate student member) on their re-election and noted that recently elected members; Associate Professor Liz Jones (academic staff member), Ms Emma Liversidge (general staff member) and Ms Angelica Triant (undergraduate student) would attend their first meeting in December.

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

In May 2003, Council adopted a framework for regular, five-yearly, systematic, independent reviews across the University. Council noted that the School of Pharmacy had been reviewed under the University’s policy. Council endorsed the review report and implementation plan.

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Council resolved to approve the disestablishment of the School of Public Health with effect from 31 December 2013 and the related arrangements as described in the paper ‘Proposal to Disestablish the School of Public Health’ (2013/0002799).

ACHIEVING HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) LOAD AND COMPLETION TARGETS: ENHANCING THE HDR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided an update to members about the University’s strategies to achieve its Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completion targets, and improve the HDR student experience. He noted that these issues were critical for building a strong research university.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) provided members with information about how Griffith compares with other universities in relation to:

- HDR as a percentage of student load (2012);
- total and commencing HDR enrolments and completions (2008-2012);
The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) also discussed initiatives to increase HDR enrolments and timely completions, and strategies to manage HDR growth and provided statistical information about the University’s HDR student demographics, including citizenship and enrolments by campus, commencements, applications by admission stage, and the impact of increased scholarship offers.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) advised that the HDR strategy involved every element of the University and that each had a role to play in engaging with the process to ensure its success.

**APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

Council **resolved to offer** Professor Ross Guest an appointment as Head, Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics for the period 30 January 2014 to 29 January 2019.

**APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF SCHOOL, PHARMACY**

Council **resolved to offer** Professor Andrew Davey a further appointment as Head, School of Pharmacy for the period 17 January 2014 to 16 January 2017.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

Council **resolved to approve** the Conflict of Interest policy (2013/0002805) with immediate effect. Members noted that the policy had been developed over a period of time and that a staff consultation process was undertaken earlier this year.

It was noted that the new policy outlined the University’s principles and procedures for the identification and management of actual or potential conflicts of interest to assist staff to appropriately address these issues and make appropriate disclosures about real or perceived conflicts as they arose. Members noted that a central register of disclosures would be maintained by the University.

**CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION AND SURVEILLANCE POLICY**

Council **resolved to approve** the Closed Circuit Television and Surveillance policy (2013/0002804) with immediate effect. It was noted that the new policy set out the arrangements to ensure that the University was compliant with the report recommendations of the Queensland Information Commissioner’s review of camera surveillance by Queensland government agencies and their compliance with the privacy principles in the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

**CHANGE OF NAME – SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

Council **resolved to approve** the change of name of the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group to ‘Griffith Sciences’ with effect from 1 January 2014. It was noted that the change of name would give the Group a short, easy to remember name, which would be more informative for the external community in terms of locating the relevant science disciplines and which would also be easier for internal usage.
CHANGE OF NAME: SCHOOL OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES

Council resolved to approve the change of name of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences to ‘School of Allied Health Sciences’ with effect from 1 January 2014. It was noted that the change of name reflected the broadening allied health focus of the School, including the addition of Nutrition and Dietetics and the proposed future incorporation of audiology, sports development and sports medicine.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Council resolved to approve the continued appointment of Ms Rachel Hunter DUniv and Ms Kaye Dillon up to and including the November meeting of Finance and Resources Committee.

AMENDED ACADEMIC AWARDS, PROGRAMS, NOMENCLATURE AND ABBREVIATIONS POLICY

Council resolved to approve an amended ‘Academic Awards, Programs, Nomenclature and Abbreviations Policy (2013/0006275) and an amended Schedule of Abbreviations for University Awards (2013/0007137) with effect from 1 January 2014.

AMENDED APPROVING AUTHORITIES FOR UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, an amended “Approving Authorities for University Policies” (2013/0002806) to include the new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Position Statement (2013/0002798); the new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) Position Statement (2013/0002797); the new Closed Circuit Television and Surveillance Policy (2013/0002804) and the new Conflict of Interest policy (2013/0002805).

AMENDED UNIVERSITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to approve, with immediate effect, an amended University Health and Safety Committee Constitution (2013/0002800) to update references to relevant legislation and position titles, to update terminology and to clarify the Committee’s responsibilities.

CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION REPORT: ‘AN EXAMINATION OF SUSPECTED OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND’

Members noted the Crime and Misconduct Commission Report: ‘An Examination of Suspected Official Misconduct at the University of Queensland.’

The Vice Chancellor advised that following the initial media reports about alleged misconduct at the University of Queensland, an internal audit was undertaken of the University’s admission processes. It was found that there were appropriate checks and balances in place to mitigate against this sort of issue arising at the University. He noted that the University had in place a number of existing policies and processes associated with public interest disclosures to facilitate the reporting by staff of concerns about misconduct.

The Vice Chancellor advised that following the recent release of the CMC Report, Executive Group would discuss the adequacy of current policies and practices in light of the Report’s findings to ascertain any implications for the University. In particular, he wished to ensure that the University’s framework and processes for disclosures about misconduct support staff to
report their concerns and also to ensure that disclosures would be managed appropriately should they arise.

**UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Council resolved to declare as ex gratia University holidays Friday 27 December, Monday 30 December, and Tuesday 31 December 2013 and to 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.

**OCTOBER 2013**