

COUNCIL NEWS
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
12 AUGUST 2019

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice Chancellor presented her [August](#) Report to Council and briefed members about the following matters:

Update on Strategic Plan Development

The Vice Chancellor provided a brief update on the development of the next Strategic Plan, noting it had progressed at a good pace. Consultations had been undertaken as part of the process with staff, students, alumni, and external stakeholders. The Vice Chancellor advised Council that the University's biomedical and pre-clinical research was currently somewhat fragmented across groups and campuses. She advised Council that leading biomedical researcher, Professor Jim McCluskey, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Melbourne had recently facilitated a discussion with research staff about a more coordinated, cross-collaborative approach across the three major research institutes.

French Review Model Code

The Vice Chancellor referred Council to the copy of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers (French Review) attached to her August report. The Vice Chancellor noted the French Review had concluded there was no freedom of speech crisis in Australian universities. However, universities were currently considering how to implement the French Review recommendations. The Vice Chancellor informed Council that a recent independent assessment of the University's policies concluded that Griffith's policies were largely aligned with the French Model Code. However, there was a policy gap to be addressed regarding staff and students speaking outside their discipline or study area; to address freedom of speech for professional staff; the intersection of student welfare concerns with freedom of speech, and arrangements for controversial speakers on campus. The Vice Chancellor advised the issue of freedom of speech was relevant to the entire University community. Consultations would be undertaken about the Model Code and the University's approach to addressing freedom of speech in policy before bringing a proposed policy to Council.

Tourism Confucius Institute

The Vice Chancellor noted the recent publicity and media attention about Confucius Institutes on university campuses. The Vice Chancellor advised Council the Griffith Tourism Confucius Institute (TCI) teaches Chinese language skills and culture to student cohorts including hotel staff, community organisations and the Queensland Police Service. It does not teach into the University's degree programs.

2020 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – PROPOSAL FOR ONE-YEAR TERM

On the recommendation of the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee (July 2019), Council **resolved to approve** adoption of a one-year term for the 2020 Capital Management Plan.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (INDIGENOUS) POSITION

Council **resolved** to approve the establishment of the position of Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous) with immediate effect.

In outlining the rationale for the new position, the Vice Chancellor advised Council that the Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous) would have a strategic leadership role, including helping coordinate the different elements of Griffith involved with supporting and promoting Indigenous staff and students. the position will be a member of Executive Group and will report directly to the Vice Chancellor. The position will also be the Deputy Head, Logan campus.

PRESENTATIONS

Brisbane Campuses Vision and Development Strategy

Council referred to the paper entitled *Northern Campuses Strategic Review* prepared by the Nous Group which detailed the review's scope, context, case for change and three emerging options, each comprising variations of development of a major new CBD campus and development of the Nathan campus. Council noted its previous endorsement of the proposed withdrawal from the Mt Gravatt campus over a five to seven-year period.

Council noted Campus Vision and Strategy Summit held on 1 August had engaged senior academic and professional staff in considering the three development options. Feedback from staff was very insightful and had been incorporated into the review.

Council noted that the strategy would be prioritized and developed within the constraints of the University's capital capacity.

Cyber Security – Mr Thomas King, acting Chief Digital Officer

Council noted Mr King's report on cyber security, circulated with the August meeting papers. He updated Council about a recent cyber security briefing he had attended at the Australian National University (ANU) and informed Council that Griffith had previously addressed most of the recommended cyber security activities. He informed Council that Griffith had joined with the sector in collaborating about cyber security to share information and leverage effort and learnings to collectively increase cyber security maturity. He briefly outlined the activities, benchmarking and independent assurance undertaken by Griffith to ensure effective management of evolving cyber security risks. He advised members that the next cyber security strategy would further increase the focus on partnering for capability.

Preparation for 2020 Student Recruitment – Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) and Vice President (Global)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) and the Vice President (Global) delivered presentations about 2020 domestic and international student recruitment strategic initiatives and activities already implemented, currently being implemented or planned for implementation, intended to optimize next year's load outcomes to mitigate the anticipated EFTSL decrease arising from the school leaver 'cliff' year. Council noted the 2020 school leaver cohort was projected to be 72% of the typical cohort resulting in an estimated 9-16% EFTSL decline for Griffith in 2020 commencing Commonwealth Supporting Places with a base decline of 11%. Risks and opportunities were also covered during the presentations.

New Models of Learning – Microcredentials and Digital Badges – Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor made a presentation to Council on new models of learning. Council was advised that microcredentials were 'stackable' mini-qualifications awarded in recognition of demonstrated skills, expertise and experience as certified by the University. Microcredentials facilitate partnering with industry to deliver professional development and are also attractive to mature age learners in a changing work environment, attracting people without a bachelors degree to upskill, and who may be eligible for credit for prior workplace learning.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor described the three types of microcredentials addressing entry to university; achievements within a degree; and continuing professional development. Microcredentials are evidenced by digital badges issued by the University. Digital badges are very secure and underpinned by metadata. The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor advised Council that digital badges were launched by Griffith in April 2019. More than 4000 badges have been issued to date to staff and students across a range of categories.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT ANDERSON OAM DUNIV

Council joined the Chancellor in congratulating Uncle Bob who celebrated his 90th birthday on 31 July. The Chancellor acknowledged Uncle Bob's extensive contributions to the work of the Council and to the University during his long involvement with Griffith.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – PROFESSOR PAUL MAZEROLLE

Council **resolved to adopt** a minute of appreciation in recognition of Professor Paul Mazerolle's outstanding leadership and contributions during his many years of distinguished service in the role of Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law).

PROFESSOR EMERITUS – PROFESSOR JOHN WANNA

Council **resolved to confer** the title of Professor Emeritus on Professor John Wanna with immediate effect in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEWS

Review of GUMURRII

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor presented the May 2019 report on the review of GUMURRII and outlined the Review Committee's recommendations. Council noted that the review report and implementation plan would be submitted to a future Council meeting following review and endorsement of the plan by Executive Group and the Academic Committee.

On the recommendation of the Academic Committee, Council **resolved to endorse** the:

- School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Review Report (2018/0002870) and Implementation Plan (2018/0002871).
- 18-month progress report for the 2017 Review of the School of Dentistry and Oral Health (2019/0004640).
- 18-month progress report for the 2017 Review of the School of Human Services and Social Work (2018/0002867).

AMENDED FINANCE, RESOURCES AND RISK COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

On the recommendation of the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee, Council **resolved to approve** an amended constitution document (2019/0000100) with immediate effect.

POLICY REVIEW

Council **resolved to approve** the following policies:

- Shareholding and Controlled Entities Policy (2019/0000081)
- Student Review and Appeals Policy (2019/1002162)
- Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements: Schedule of Delegations (2019/0000103)
- Approving Authorities for University Policies (2019/0000107)
- Council Meeting Procedures document (2019/0000101)

Council **resolved to rescind** the following policies:

- Controlled Entities Policy
- Administration and Reporting of University Shareholdings Policy

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