

Griffith Council News

October 2020

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor updated members about the following matters:

- *Council Membership*
 - Professor Liz Jones, elected academic staff member of Council was attending her last Council meeting. On behalf of the Council, the Chancellor congratulated Professor Jones on her new appointment and thanked her for her valued contributions to the work of Council during her period of office.
 - The current term of two Council appointed members would conclude at the end of 2020. The Council Nominations Committee was in the process of shortlisting potential candidates to put forward to Council for approval at its December meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council **resolved to appoint** Professor Eleanor Milligan to the Council for a term of office commencing 24 October 2020, up to and including 27 October 2021, being the balance of Professor Liz Jones' term of office.

APPOINTMENT TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Council **resolved to appoint** Associate Professor Vallipuram Muthukumarasamy to the Finance Resources and Risk Committee, from 24 October 2020, up to and including 31 December 2021.

DEPUTY CHANCELLOR TERM OF OFFICE

Council noted Ms Rachel Hunter PSM DUniv's term of office as Deputy Chancellor would expire on 31 December 2020. Council **resolved to appoint** the next term of office of the Deputy Chancellor to be three years from 1 January 2021 up to and including 31 December 2023. Nominations for the position of Deputy Chancellor would be invited from Council members prior to the December meeting of Council, and an election would be conducted at the December meeting, if required.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice Chancellor presented her [October Report to Council](#) and highlighted the following matters:

- *Voluntary Early Retirements*
 - The ATO had approved the University's application for a Voluntary Early Retirement scheme. The University was now in the process of progressing from the expression of interest stage to the formal application stage.
- *Job Ready Graduates Package*
 - The Federal Governments' Job Ready Graduates legislation was expected to pass Parliament shortly.

UNIVERSITY BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Chief Operating Officer presented the University Budget Overview to Council members, noting the projected 2021-2025 base case income was forecast to be materially lower than projected in the 2020-2025 strategy budget approved by Council in December 2019, and the highly uncertain operating environment, particularly the international student market and timing of international student access. In response, the University had prepared four alternative expenditure responses.

Following endorsement from the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee at its September 2020 meeting, Council **resolved to approve** the budget expenditure response which sought to achieve a net result break-even position in the near term, enabling the University to operate for the short to medium term on a 'maintain' footing.

CAMPUS MAJOR PROJECTS FUNDING RE-ALLOCATION

Council **resolved to approve** re-allocation of a portion of funds previously approved for projects relating to the Science Enabling Works program to works associated with a new program of work that prioritises efforts associated with decanting Sciences from N13.

DRAFT ACADEMIC PLAN

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor presented the draft Academic Plan (2020-2025): *Graduates confident to face the future*. The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor noted the draft Plan would be updated to reflect the impending Job Ready Graduates Package before being presented to Council for approval at its December meeting.

DRAFT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PLAN

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) presented the draft Research and Innovation Plan. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) noted the draft Plan may need to be updated to reflect any additional research funding coming out of the Federal Government budget (being released later that evening) before being presented to Council for approval at its December meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) presented a progress report to Council on University activities underway with regard to countering foreign interference.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Council **resolved to approve** the appointment of Professor David Grant for a further five-year term as Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) for the period from 18 January 2021 up to and including 17 January 2026.

CONFERRAL OF THE TITLE PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council **resolved to confer** the title of Professor Emeritus on Professor Alfred Lizzio from 7 October 2020 in recognition of his distinguished service to scholarship and the University.

POLICY REVIEW

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

Defence Security Policy (2020/2002180)	New Policy, to come into effect 4 January 2021
Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy (2020/0000051)	New Policy
Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee Constitution (2020/0000055)	New Constitution

Council **resolved to rescind** the following policies with immediate effect:

Health and Safety Policy (2017/0000507)	Replaced by the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy
Electrical Safety Policy (2015/0000070)	Replaced by the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy

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