

Griffith Council News

July 2020

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor updated members about future Council meetings, noting regular Council meetings would begin to transition back to face-to-face on campus meetings, subject to Government advice and social distancing restrictions.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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

- Griffith Success:
 - Griffith has been ranked number one in Australia for Nursing and Midwifery, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Law (including Criminology) in the Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020. The University's School of Nursing and Midwifery also ranked second globally, and Hospitality and Tourism Management ranked third globally.
 - Griffith will receive a bequest from the late John Douglas Forbes Nesbit for the general purposes of piano music at the QCGU.
 - Griffith's Annual Appeal was the most successful ever with 255 donors and \$151,409 donated.
- Sector and Government Engagement:
 - Engagement with the State and Federal Government continues regarding the University's Capital Program.
 - The Secure Corridor Framework has become an industry led proposal; only limited state government support is anticipated. Professor Sarah Todd is leading the Queensland efforts and is to be commended for her outstanding efforts. Current events in Melbourne are creating serious concerns and additional burdens on universities. As yet, no pilots have commenced.
- Response to Covid-19 and the Roadmap to Sustainability
 - Early discussions have commenced regarding a proposed Enterprise Agreement variation with both the NTEU and Together Union. There remains significant distance between the parties on the substantive issues.
 - The formal application for a Voluntary Early Retirement scheme has been submitted to the ATO, further information regarding the scheme and an expression of interest process will be made available to staff by the end of July.
- Admissions
 - There has been a 49.5% increase in domestic demand for Trimester 2. Both UQ and QUT have experienced slight year on year decline in market share.

HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM PACKAGE 2020

The Vice Chancellor provided an update to Council on the Federal Government's recently released Higher Education Reform Package noting the proposals are wide ranging and complex. While the package includes some positive proposed changes, including CPI indexation of universities' maximum basic grants and increased support for rural and regional students, including Indigenous students from regional and remote areas; the main changes adjust the student contribution for degrees – significantly increasing in areas such as humanities and social work.

Preliminary analysis on the impacts for Griffith indicate if there is no impact on student preferences the overall financial impact to Griffith will be modest. The package is yet to pass and may be introduced as early as the August sitting of Parliament.

ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY (R2S) UPDATE: FINANCIAL REPORT AND RESPONSE MEASURES

The Vice Chancellor provided an update to Council on the Roadmap to Sustainability (R2S) program, noting Strategy& had been selected as the external partner for R2S, commencing 6 July 2020. The Vice Chancellor outlined the revised long-term financial forecast noting the base case scenario had improved to a projected \$400m loss in revenue compared to budget over the 2020-2025 strategy period, up from a previously forecasted reduction from budget of approximately \$500m. This was largely due to domestic fee income restored to budget levels.

The Vice Chancellor stressed the significant risk in the revenue forecasts relating to international student commencements in 2021 and beyond. The recent events in Victoria, the limited success to date of any pilot programs commencing across the country and the complexity of negotiating a scalable secure corridor pilot program across two levels of government presents risk to the forecasts.

The Vice Chancellor noted the revised base case v2 outlined above required a salary saving against budget of \$50m, which would require a proposed Enterprise Agreement variation coupled with a Voluntary Early Retirement scheme, targeted Voluntary Redundancies and potential retrenchments to achieve.

Council endorsed the proposed approach and magnitude of the salary related financial measures summarised above and resolved to approve the necessary funding for the Voluntary Early Retirement, Voluntary Redundancy and retrenchment schemes.

ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY (R2S) UPDATE: LEARNING AND TEACHING PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor presented an update to Council on the Learning and Teaching Program Review component of the R2S program, noting the following:

- Griffith commenced a review of programs in mid-May 2020, considering costings, financial sustainability, profit margins, student demand, retention and employability rates of each course to identify programs that could be considered for review.
- Following announcement of the Federal Government's Higher Education Reform Package this review will be repeated to consider potential impacts of this package.
- The review also identified opportunities to amalgamate programs, reducing the delivery of repeat lectures and minimizing administrative burden. The amalgamation will be supported by parallel work around rationalizing assessment to further reduce workload.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND KPI UPDATE

Council noted the update on the Strategic Plan implementation and recognised the impact of COVID-19 on its implementation to date. Considering medium-term implications of COVID-19 a review of the timelines and KPI targets within the Strategic Plan would be undertaken early in 2021 and brought to Council for consideration and approval.

FOUNDATION BOARD CONSTITUTION

Council resolved to approve the Griffith University Foundation Board Constitution and the rescission of the Griffith University Foundation Board Policy.

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENTS

Council resolved to approve the following extensions of appointment:

- Professor Nick Buys to be appointed for a further two-year term as Dean, Learning and Teaching, Griffith Health for the period from 31 December 2020 up to and including 30 December 2022
- Professor Donna Pendergast to be appointed for a further two-year term as Head of School, Education and Professional Studies for the period from 1 January 2021 up to and including 31 December 2022.

RISK REGISTER RATIONALISATION

Council resolved to approve the revised risk reporting framework to simplify and rationalise the existing suite of risk registers, together with the necessary amendment to the Finance, Resources and Risk Committee Constitution to reflect the Committee's delegated authority to approve the University risk registers, rather than the previous suite of individual risk registers.

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