Minutes of the 469th Meeting of the Macquarie University Council held at the Council Room, Building E11A, Macquarie University, North Ryde at 4.12pm on Thursday 7 April 2016.

Present: Chancellor, The Hon M Egan
Deputy Chancellor, Ms E Crouch
Vice-Chancellor, Professor B Dowton
Mr K Ash
Mr B Crotty
Professor C Dean
Ms L Denby
The Hon P Forsythe
Ms D Hadwen
Professor R Howitt
Mr G Jones
Professor D Kane
The Hon S Nori
Ms J Qian
Professor D Verity
Mr J Wigglesworth

In attendance: Ms D Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar)
Mr T Beresford, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Mr J Gorman, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Nicole Gower, Director Human Resources
Professor S Handley, Executive Dean
Ms Melanie Harris, Director and Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Professor K Jameson, Executive Dean
Mr P Luttrell, General Counsel
Professor B Messerle, Executive Dean
Professor M Möllering, Executive Dean
Professor S Pretorius, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor J Simons, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Professor D Wilkinson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement and Advancement)

Apologies: Council
Mr C Darvall
Mr F Zipfinger

Executives
Professor P McNeil, Executive Dean

Secretariat: Ms E Lawler, Company Matters

1. QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor confirmed that a quorum was present. The Chancellor noted apologies from Council Members Mr Chum Darvall and Mr Frank Zipfinger and Executive Professor Patrick McNeil.
The Chancellor noted the meeting had been preceded by a Council Seminar on International Rankings provided by Dr Dan Guhr.

The Chancellor welcomed Deborah Hadwen to her first Council meeting since her appointment as a Council member.

The Chancellor also welcomed Tim Beresford to his first Council meeting since being appointed Chief Operating Officer and Professor Kevin Jameson to his first meeting as Acting Executive Dean FBE.

The Chancellor advised this would be Professor Verity’s last meeting as he retires from his role as Chair of Academic Senate. Council thanked Professor Verity for his valuable work both on Academic Senate and Council. Council noted Professor Mariella Herberstein would replace Professor Verity.

RESOLVED 16/09

Council resolved to excuse all Councillors absent from this meeting, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(i) of Schedule 1 of the Macquarie University Act 1989.

Kieren Ash joined the Meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest. Council noted an update of the Register of Interests would be conducted during April 2016.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items under sections 2, 3 and 4 were agreed for discussion.

RESOLVED 16/10

The Council resolved to note item 5.1 in the agenda.

4. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council noted there were no new matters raised by Council members prior to the Meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING
(Agenda items 2.1 and 2.2)

Council noted the minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED 16/11

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 February 2016 as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

Council noted the status of Matters Arising from previous meetings and noted that Action Item number 2 has been referred to the Student Experience Committee and can be removed from the Council action list.
6. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING
(Agenda item 2.3)

John Wigglesworth briefed Council on the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 24 March 2016, noting the key matters discussed were:

- Review of the 2015 financial statements and annual report, including:
  - a number of reports explaining the key areas of judgement and key accounting issues;
  - a paper on the internal control environment to provide comfort on the reliability of the financial processes; and
  - report from the NSW Audit Office as the external auditor;
- Reports from Internal Audit on audits completed since the last meeting;
- Report on the risk dashboard.

Mr Wigglesworth noted the financial statements would be considered later in the meeting.

Mr Wigglesworth advised the Audit and Risk Committee annual report was included in the papers. Mr Wigglesworth advised that the focus for the Audit and Risk Committee going forward will be:

- Focus on IT, with the added expertise of the new external member with IT expertise; and
- Interaction between the Audit and Risk and Finance and Facilities Committees, including a joint meeting each year.

Council noted the Audit and Risk Committee’s Annual Report for 2015.

Council noted the minutes of the 24 March 2016 Audit and Risk Committee meeting will be submitted to the June Council meeting for information.

7. MINUTES OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Agenda item 2.4)

The Deputy Chancellor took the minutes of the Student Experience Committee meetings of 15 February 2016 and 24 March 2016 as read and highlighted key items, including presentations received on:

- The University library;
- The new student discipline framework;
- The converged services project; and
- 2016 projects for the Student Representative Committee.

RESOLVED 16/11

Council RESOLVED, following the recommendation of the Student Experience Committee, that the Student Experience Committee be delegated authority to approve:

1. amendments and updates to the Constitution of the Student Representative Committee and associated documents; and
2. minor amendments to the functioning and operation of the Student Representative Committee.

Council noted the minutes of the 15 February 2016 and 24 March 2016 Student
Experience Committee meetings and noted that the minutes of 15 February 2016 Student Experience Committee meeting were consistent with the verbal report given at the February 2016 Council Meeting.

8. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING (Agenda item 2.5)

The Deputy Chancellor provided a verbal report on proceedings of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held on 5 April 2016, noting:

- The Chief Financial Officer’s Report was received. Mr Gorman provided Council with an overview of the University’s performance year to date;
- Minor changes to delegations were made;
- A presentation from National Australia Bank’s Chief Economist was received which will be made available to Council members;
- A presentation on the performance of the Macquarie University Hospital was received; and
- A presentation on the campus plan for the Faculty of Science and Engineering was received and a campus visit will be arranged in due course.

Council noted the verbal update from the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held on 5 April 2016 and noted the minutes will be provided to the June Council meeting for information.

Council members noted that non-confidential papers will be circulated to Council members on request.

9. MINUTES OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE AND STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPEALS MEETINGS (Agenda item 2.6)

11. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT (Agenda item 3.1)

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report and highlighted key matters, including:

- Admissions policy and HECS-HELP potential changes;
- National Innovation and Science agenda and visit by Chair of the Australian Innovation Council;
- FIRST Robotics Regional championships;
- ARC and NHRMC grant proposal submissions and improvement in success with NHMRC grants;
- Defence Trade Controls Act compliance implementation and implications across the University;
- Updates on student enrolment for Session 1 2016;
- Draft Reconciliation Action Plan update and changes to the oversight and carriage of Indigenous Affairs;
- Update on Macquarie University International College enrolments and management changes;
- Philanthropy update;
- Executive team changes;
- Update on wayfinding and campus signage update; and
- Plans for increasing alignment between MGSM and FBE.
Council discussed and noted the report.

12. ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT  
(Agenda item 3.2)

The Chair of Academic Senate took the report as read and highlighted key matters, including:

- Changes to rules on academic progression; and
- Progress on developing recommendations regarding academic integrity.

The Chair of Academic Senate explained the changes to the Academic Senate Rules as recommended by Academic Senate.

RESOLVED 16/13

Council resolved, following the recommendation of the Academic Senate, to approve the revised Academic Senate Rules as attached to the Report from the Academic Senate.

Council discussed and noted the report.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT  
(Agenda item 3.3)

Mr Beresford took the Health and Safety Report as read.

Council requested that more comprehensive staff data be incorporated in the Workplace, Health and Safety report.

Council discussed and noted the report.

14. 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL REPORT  
(Agenda Item 4.1)

Mr Gorman took the paper as read and highlighted key matters regarding the financial statements. Mr Wigglesworth confirmed the Audit and Risk Committee had reviewed the financial statements in depth and recommended the financial statements to Council for approval. Mr Gorman noted that the Auditor-General had approved the financial statements, subject to the meeting today.

RESOLVED 16/14

Council RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the 2015 Macquarie University Annual Report to Parliament, subject to minor amendment; and

2. Approve the affixing of the signatures of the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor to the 2015 Macquarie University Annual Report to Parliament.

RESOLVED 16/15
Council RESOLVED, following recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee and that in the Council’s opinion and to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1. The financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of the University at 31 December 2015 and the results of its operations and transactions of the University and Consolidated Entity for the year then ended.

2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015 and the Financial Statement Guidelines for Australian Higher Education Providers for the 2015 Reporting Period issued by the Australian Government (Department of Education).

3. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

4. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including complying with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Council FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. They are not aware of any circumstances, which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

2. In accordance with the Higher Education Support Act 2003, the amount of Australian government financial assistance expended during the reporting period was for the purposes for which it was intended and Macquarie University has complied with applicable legislation, contracts, agreements and programme guidelines in making expenditure.

3. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the University will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Council FURTHER RESOLVED to authorise the Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee to sign the 2015 Financial Statements and the Statement of Appointed Officers.

15. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION (Agenda item 4.2)

Professor Sakkie Pretorius provided a presentation on the University’s Research Framework, including:

- Strategic research framework - 10 year plan;
- Research objectives;
- Research priorities;
- Research excellence;
• Assessment of research quality;
• Performance in competitive grant funding;
• Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) ratings and performance;
• External research income growth;
• HDR completions growth;
• Research block grant income growth and ranking;
• New funding distribution methodology; and
• Research targets to 2024.

Council discussed the presentation and Professor Pretorius answered various questions from Council members.

Council noted the presentation and thanked Professor Pretorius.

16. DOCUMENTS SIGNED UNDER POWER OF ATTORNEY (Agenda item 5.1)

Council noted the report.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

Council noted the next meeting is to be held on 30 June 2016.

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

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Chancellor