COUNCIL DIGEST
An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Council at its meeting on 20 February 2020.

STRATEGY

Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Update
The Vice-Chancellor provided a strategic update, including the establishment of the Transition and Implementation Steering Committee to enable a smooth transition for operations, research and students in the disestablishment of the Faculty of Human Sciences; the 2020 outlook for international student recruitment; domestic enrolments following the new curriculum architecture, and the commencement of ‘O’ week activities with a particular focus on faculties.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to a presentation on the University’s response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) including the establishment of a University Taskforce; regular interfaces with key State and Federal government agencies, the NSWVCC, and Universities Australia; the communications plan for the broader University community as well as targeted communications with affected students; data on the number of students and courses impacted; and the activation of an Operations Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Engagement for the University Operating Plan 2020-2024
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report on the University Operating Plan including an overview of the approach to engagement with the University community; and the proposed key areas of focus: students first; coursework suite and delivery; focused investment in research, our people and the way we work.

Council discussed and noted the presentation, including the student lifecycle and the experience of postgraduate and high performing students; promoting the strengths of individual faculties and courses; and inclusion of alumni under the area of focus ‘our people’.

People and Culture ‘Your Say’ Survey 2019
The Vice-President, People and Services spoke to a presentation on the results of the ‘Your Say’ Survey 2019, including the response rates which are above industry average; and a performance overview compared to the 2016 survey.

Council noted and discussed the results, including strategies for increasing the response rate for casual staff; communication of the University’s 100% renewable energy position; positive feedback on the quality and collegiality of staff, workplace flexibility and work/life balance; and areas for improvement such as policies and processes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report for the Finance and Facilities Committee – 11 February 2020 and 28 November 2019 Meetings
The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee provided a report on the Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020, and of the Committee meeting held on 29 November 2019 highlighting that the majority of approvals were administrative in nature.

Report for the Nominations and Remuneration Committee – 11 February 2020 Meeting
The Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, provided a report on the Committee meeting held 11 February 2020, as well as the special meeting of the Committee meeting held on 20 February 2020 to deal with an arising vacancy on the Audit and Risk Committee membership.
STANDING REPORTS

Vice-Chancellor’s Report
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report highlighting key matters, including the establishment of a Bushfire Needs Grant to assist low SES students affected by the bushfires; the University being recognised as a Women in STEM Decadel Plan Champion; the leadership of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy in achieving an increase in Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) funding; and new Pro Vice-Chancellor appointments in the Office the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research); and the University’s sponsorship of Venture Café Sydney in developing an innovation community in the Macquarie Park District to respond to the recent bushfires.

Academic Senate Report
The Chair of the Academic Senate advised that the first meeting of the Academic Senate for 2020 had been held on Tuesday 18 February and that a report on the issues dealt with would be submitted to the 2 April 2020 Council meeting.

Health and Safety Report
Council discussed and noted the Health and Safety report.

University Discipline Committee Report
Council discussed and noted the University Discipline Report.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

Change of Name for Faculty of Medicine and Health Services
Council received and approved the change of name proposal for the Faculty, noting this had been discussed by the Faculty Board and that there was unanimous support to adopt the name Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences which reflects the new Departments, research and activity of the Faculty.