COUNCIL DIGEST
An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Council at its meeting on 25 June 2020.

STRATEGY

Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Update
The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the current operations of the University.

University Operating Plan 2020-2024 and Response to COVID-19
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to a presentation on the University’s response to COVID-19, including the approach of the COVID-19 Taskforce; impacts on the operating plan, operating model and University finances; and the University’s COVIDSafe plan.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced a presentation by the Vice-President, People and Services on the COVID-19 recovery workforce strategies. The Vice-President, Finance and Resources spoke to a presentation on COVID-19 recovery finances and scenarios.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to a summary presentation on the Operating Plan 2020-2024 moving forward and the process being stepped through with the University community.

Presentation on the Faculty of Arts
The Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts provided a presentation on the Faculty’s vision as a community of scholars and information against each area of focus in the Operating Plan 2020-2024, including:

- Australia’s employment market and the demand for Bachelor of Arts (BA) transferrable skills;
- focused investment in research including recent awards, appointments and other accolades, and recent book and film successes;
- digital transformation including teaching and learning online, and international student voices; and
- the new Faculty structure and excellence in collaboration within the new Arts Precinct.

Council discussed and noted the presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report for the Nominations and Remuneration Committee – 28 May 2020 Meeting
The Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, provided a report of the 28 May 2020 meeting. Council discussed the importance of the diversity of skills on Council.

Report for the Finance and Facilities Committee – 28 May 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 28 May 2020.

Report for the Audit and Risk Committee – 2 June 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 2 June 2020.

Report for the Honorary Awards Committee – 2 June 2020 Meeting
The Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Honorary Awards Committee, provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 2 June 2020 and spoke to the three honorary award nominations as recommended to Council for approval.

Report for the Student Experience Committee – 2 June 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Student Experience Committee provided a report of the meeting held on 2 June 2020 highlighting changes in the membership of the Committee.
STANDING REPORTS

Vice-Chancellor’s Report
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report highlighting key matters, including the University’s Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy), Dr Leanne Holt, was one of the winners of the 2020 CEW Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation Scholarships.

Academic Senate Report
The Chair of the Academic Senate provided a report of the Academic Senate meetings held on 7 April 2020 and 28 May 2020, including changes to academic policy as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; the recommendations of the external audit of Academic Senate by Emeritus Professor Richard Henry and the implementation plan in addressing these; and the recommendation seeking Council’s approval of amendments to the Academic Senate Rules.

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 including mitigation treatments.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

Academic Integrity Report
The Chair of Academic provided the report highlighting the establishment of an Academic Integrity Taskforce, implementation of a new management system for student discipline cases and additional Turnitin functionality to investigate ghost-writing.

Amendment of Faculty Rules
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the proposed amendments noting that the changes recommended are mainly due to the dissolution of the Faculty of Human Sciences and the reassignment of departments to other faculties. Council resolved to approve amendments to the Faculty Rules.

Review of the Emeritus Professor Policy
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report of the Review of the Emeritus Professor Policy. The Chair of Academic Senate advised the amendments streamlined the Policy and supporting Procedure and Selection Criteria whilst ensuring the integrity of the process remained high-quality. Council approved replacement of the existing Emeritus Professor Policy with the new Professor Emerita / Emeritus Policy.

OTHER BUSINESS

STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to this item including a statement of how student misconduct and freedom of speech matters are handled at the University, noting that a Freedom of Speech Policy was currently being developed in consultation with Academic Senate.