Minutes of the 492nd Meeting of the Macquarie University Council held at The Chancellery, 19 Eastern Road, Macquarie University, North Ryde at 4.15pm on 12 December 2019.

Present: Chancellor, Dr Martin Parkinson  
Deputy Chancellor, Ms Louise Mason  
Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Bruce Dowton (present for the entire meeting with the exception of Item 13 – refer to detail as included in minutes)  
Associate Professor Wylie Bradford  
Mr Chum Darvall  
Professor Catherine Dean  
Dr Evianne Grosvenor  
Mr Alex Hablutzel  
Professor Mariella Herberstein by video link  
Ms Deborah Hadwen  
Ms Jingmin Qian  
Mr John Wigglesworth  
Mr Frank Zipfinger

In attendance: Mr Robin Payne, Vice-President, Finance and Resources (present for the entire meeting with the exception of Item 13 – refer to detail as included in minutes)  
Ms Nicole Gower, Vice-President, People and Services (present from Item 1 to Item 12 – refer to detail as included in minutes)  
Ms Alex McCrostie, Executive Officer, Office of the Vice-Chancellor (present from Item 1 to Item 12 – refer to detail as included in minutes)

Apologies: Mr Michael Book

Secretariat: Ms Linda Breen, Council Secretary

1. QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor opened the meeting at 4.15pm and thanked those who attended the special Welcome to Country ceremony conducted prior to commencement of the Council meeting by Aunty Julie Janson (Darug Elder) and Walanga Muru (the University’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Engagement and Strategy Office).

The Chancellor noted that Mr Michael Book had been appointed to the membership of Council by the NSW Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education for a four-year term that commenced on 11 November 2019.

Council noted the apology of Michael Book who was not able to attend the meeting due to commitments made prior to his appointment.

The Chancellor confirmed that a quorum was present.

At his inaugural meeting, the Chancellor outlined his approach in furthering an open and inclusive Council that collegially works to advance the University in achieving its strategic objectives and continuing to bring quality higher education to our students and communities.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chancellor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Council noted Ms Jingmin Qian’s declaration.

There were no other new declarations of interest.

4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

(Agenda Item 1.3)

It was agreed to note the item at Agenda Item 6.1 (Power of Attorney Register).

5. **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

(Agenda Item 1.4)

The Chancellor advised that there had been no matters raised by Council members prior to the meeting that had not been included on the Agenda.

6. **SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED**

(Agenda Item 1.5)

Council noted the items seeking approval and requiring resolutions to be passed.

7. **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S STRATEGIC UPDATE**

(Agenda Item 2.1)

The Vice-Chancellor recommended that the report be taken as read and provided Council with a presentation, including:

- an introduction to the 2020 Budget taking into account the accelerating changes in the University’s operating environment and actions (short term and medium term) which will be undertaken in recalibrating our future;
- the Faculty of Human Sciences Workplace change proposal and key consultation timelines;
- the current recruitment freeze and the establishment of a special purpose Recruitment Exceptions Board to review appointments, ensure alignment with strategy and operating needs, and maximise redeployment;
- Faculty operating revenue and costs in 2019;
- development of a new plan and operating model to sit under the ‘Framing of Futures’ strategic framework, noting that a submission to be brought to the February 2020 Council meeting would foreground the detailed planning work with a view to implementation thereafter; and
- Executive bandwidth and support for change management.

Council discussed the report and presentation, including:

- the Government’s release of Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector particularly, increased sophistication in cyber-attacks and other areas of risk including staff and student personal data, and information security in relation to research collaborations with international partners;
- funding proposals submitted by the University for interventions to further improve graduate employment outcomes and student experiences;
- student recruitment and the diversity of approaches being used;
Council discussed the recent Town Hall address by the Vice-Chancellor.

Council thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his presentation and noted the report.

8. **2020 BUDGET AND 2020 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

(Agenda Item 2.2)

The Vice-President, Finance and Resources provided Council with a presentation in support of the paper submitted under Agenda Item 2.2, as recommended through the Finance and Facilities Committee. The presentation included:

- the operating environment;
- 2019 results outlook;
- 2020 Budget – Group;
- 2020 Budget – University;
- Capital Management Plan; and
- Funding.

The Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee provided comment to the 2020 Budget and Capital Management Plan as discussed at the 28 November 2019 meeting of the Committee.

Council discussed the recommendation, including:

- the separation in considering the performance of the parent versus its subsidiaries;
- the University’s credit rating and the Council’s comfort threshold in terms of any changes to this;
- the Government’s release of Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector particularly the cyber security area, noting the Vice-Chancellor’s advice that a submission on the University’s response to Guidelines would be brought to the next meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee;
- the University’s offerings (including fee waivers) and new products within an increasingly competitive market; and
- the controls put in place and the close monitoring of these by the executive group to protect the fundamental integrity, strategic objectives, student experience and financial stewardship of the University.

Council commended the Vice-President, Finance and Resources and his team for high quality Budget papers and agreed to amend the recommended resolution in line with the edits provided through the Finance and Facilities Committee.

9. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2019 FOR APPROVAL**

(Agenda Item 3.1)

The Chancellor took the draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2019 as read and called for any comments. There being none the following resolution was agreed.
RESOLVED 19/25

_Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 October 2019 as a true and accurate record of the meeting._

10. MATTERS ARISING
   (Agenda Item 3.2)

Council noted the status of the Matters Arising.

11. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2019 AND ANNUAL REPORT
   (Agenda Item 3.3)

The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee took the report of the Committee meetings held on 5 November and 28 November 2019 as read.

Council discussed and noted the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee special meeting held on 5 November 2019.

The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee spoke to the Annual Report to Council.

RESOLVED 19/26

_Council RESOLVED to accept the Finance and Facilities Committee Annual Report 2019._

12. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2019 AND ANNUAL REPORT
   (Agenda Item 3.4)

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee took the report of the Committee meeting held on 28 November 2019 and the Annual Report to Council as read.

Council discussed and noted the annual report and draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 28 November 2019.

RESOLVED 19/27

_Council RESOLVED to accept the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2019._

13. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOMINATIONS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2019 AND ANNUAL REPORT
   (Agenda Item 3.5)

The Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, took both reports as read.

RESOLVED 19/28

_Council RESOLVED to accept the Nominations and Remuneration Committee Annual Report 2019._
The Vice-Chancellor, Vice-President Finance and Resources, Vice-President People and Services and Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor left the meeting at 6.25pm.

Council moved in-camera and discussed the report and draft minutes of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting held on 29 November 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Finance and Resources re-joined the Meeting at 6.48pm.

14. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2019 AND ANNUAL REPORT**  
(Agenda Item 3.6)

The Chair of the Student Experience Committee took the report of the Committee meeting held on 28 November 2019 as read.

Council discussed and noted the report and draft minutes of the Student Experience Committee meeting held on 28 November 2019.

The Chair of the Student Experience Committee spoke to the Annual Report to Council, highlighting:

- students involved in decision making processes has resulted in 24/7 access to the library during examination periods;
- student involvement in the Committee had continued to improve this year; and
- student experience will continue to be an area of focus, particularly in relation to feedback from students via mediums such as the QILT survey.

Council discussed the annual report including QILT data and the improvement in response rates.

**RESOLVED 19/30**

*Council RESOLVED to accept the Student Experience Committee Annual Report 2019.*

15. **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**  
(Agenda Item 4.1)

The Vice-Chancellor took the report as read and invited comments from Council.

The Council discussed the report including partnerships and in particular expansion of external relationships (as reported under the Vice-Chancellor’s strategic update).

The Council noted the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

16. **ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT**  
(Agenda Item 4.2)

The Chair of the Academic Senate took the report on the 22 October and 26 November 2019 meetings of Academic Senate as read and briefed Council on the process that underpinned the recommendation of a title of Emeritus and the proposed amendments to the General Coursework Rules in primarily addressing new terminology under the University’s new curricula.

Council discussed and noted the report, including the recommendations for approval.
RESOLVED 19/31

Council RESOLVED to:

1. approve the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Michael Morgan; and

2. approve the proposed amendments to the General Coursework Rules with effect from 1 January 2020.

The Chair of the Academic Senate took the annual report to Council as read.

RESOLVED 19/32

Council RESOLVED to accept the Academic Senate Annual Report 2019.

17. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT
   (Agenda Item 4.3)

The Vice-Chancellor took the report as read, highlighting:

- the Health and Safety function was now part of the Vice-President, People and Services portfolio; and
- a proactive set of initiatives had been implemented across the campus in screening health and safety events as well as promoting good health and safety practice.

Council discussed and noted the Health and Safety report.

18. HONORARY AWARD RECOMMENDATION
    (Agenda Item 5.1)

The Chancellor took the paper as read.

Council noted the recommendation and agreed the awarding of an emeritus title for the former Chancellor was an appropriate and well-deserved recognition of the distinguished service and valued contributions provided by the Hon. Michael Egan AO over a period of 13 years.

RESOLVED 19/33

Council RESOLVED to award a Council Title of Emeritus to the Hon. Michael Egan AO – Award of Emeritus Chancellor.

19. CAMPUS ENERGY CONTRACT RENEWAL
    (Agenda Item 5.2)

The Chancellor took the paper as read. The Vice-President, Finance and Resources spoke to the paper.

The Council discussed the recommendation, noting that this had been considered at the 28 November 2019 meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee.

The Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee spoke to the recommendation Council agreed to receive and endorse the recommendation from the Finance and Facilities Committee that the University enter into a new 100% Renewable Energy Contract.
20. **POWER OF ATTORNEY REGISTER**  
   (Agenda Item 6.1)  

21. **OTHER BUSINESS**  
   (Agenda Item 7.1)  
   There were no matters of other business.

   **Next Meeting**  
   (Agenda Item 7.2)  
   Council noted that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday 20 February 2020 at 4.00pm at the North Ryde campus.

**CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.

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Chancellor  

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Date