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

STRATEGY

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

University Operating Plan 2020-2024 and Response to COVID-19
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to a presentation on development and implementation of a recovery plan focussing on two core elements of Operating Plan - Coursework suite and delivery; and Ways of working. Council noted that a forward strategy would be discussed at the 10 September 2020 Council Strategy seminar meeting. Council discussed the continued blended mode of learning and teaching.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced a financial update presentation by the Vice-President, Finance and Resources noting that this included material presented to previous meetings of the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. The Vice-President, Finance and Resources spoke to financial update as well as a presentation on student hardship scenarios.

The Vice-President, People and Services provided a presentation on the Professional Services Transformation project.

The Vice-Chancellor provided a presentation on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each pillar of the Operating Plan. Council noted that the KPIs provided a good line of sight and that data sets may be added or modified at the request of Council.

The Vice-Chancellor introduced a presentation by the Vice-President, People and Services on the Workforce and IR Strategy, with an update on staff communications and consultation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report for the Finance and Facilities Committee – 28 July 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 28 July 2020 including items approved by the Committee under the authority delegated to it by Council.

Report for the Audit and Risk Committee – 6 August 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 6 August 2020.

Report for the Student Experience Committee – 6 August 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Student Experience Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 6 August 2020.

STANDING REPORTS

Vice-Chancellor’s Report
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report highlighting key matters, including the new Clinical Education building which is currently being utilised by staff and students.

Academic Senate Report
The recently elected Chair of Academic Senate provided a report of the Academic Senate meeting held on 21 July 2020. The new Chair acknowledged the success of Academic Senate under the leadership of the Professor Mariella Herberstein and thanked her for her contributions during her tenure as Chair of Academic Senate.

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**

**Freedom of Speech Policy**
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report on the government-commissioned French review and the University’s response, including development of a Freedom of Speech Policy. The Chair of Academic Senate advised that the Academic Freedom Statement and Freedom of Speech Policy hold distinct differences, and these were discussed by the University community in supporting the scope of the Freedom of Speech Policy relating to the rights of all staff and students, not just academic staff. Council approved the new Freedom of Speech Policy.

**2021-2023 Calendar of Governance**
The Chancellor reported that a rolling three-year calendar had been developed to assist forward planning and provide a degree of stability to the schedule of meetings.