MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES - MEETING 13 August 2026

Statement of the University's Public Purpose

Macquarie University is established in the public interest by the Macquarie University Act 1989. The object of the University is the promotion, within the limits of the University's resources, of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence.

Statement of the Council's Role

As stipulated under part 4 of the Act, the Council acts for and on behalf of the University in exercising the University's functions. It has responsibility for the control and management of the University's affairs and may act in any matter relating to the University in the manner it considers best suited to promoting the University's objects and interests.

Place, Date and Background to the Meeting

The Macquarie University Council met on 13 August 2026 in the Council Room at the Wallumattagal Campus and addressed matters in accordance with its governance responsibilities and the annual agenda plan.

Strategic Focus

The June Council meeting had a strategic focus on the **Macquarie Business School** and on **the Education Strategy**.

Council received a comprehensive presentation from the Executive Dean of Macquarie Business School, highlighting the School's strong performance despite a challenging external environment and outlining progress in implementing the School's 2026-2030 Strategic Framework. Council also discussed opportunities to further leverage the School's strong reputation with employers and its research rankings to strengthen its market position, enhance stakeholder engagement, and support future growth.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) also presented on the **Macquarie Advantage Education Strategy**, which is transitioning from the design phase to implementation. He provided an update on the strategic focus on curriculum reform, assessment redesign, and student wellbeing. Council's discussion focussed on the preliminary findings of the **Student Life Survey**, noting that a more fulsome update will be provided to a future meeting of Council.

Council also considered the Vice-Chancellor's **Strategy and Enterprise Performance Report,** a standing item at each meeting. The report provided updates on negotiations with the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) and the Mission-Based Compact process, student load trends, including international commencing student numbers remaining below target and improved retention of continuing students, and the resulting implications for the University's financial position.

Keys Matters

Financial Sustainability

At each meeting, Council receives a report from the Finance and Facilities Committee. At this meeting, Council received the report from the Committee's 28 July 2026 meeting, presented by the Chair. A key discussion at the meeting was on the proposed new **Student Accommodation project**; a discussion on the University's current financial position, an update on the Student 360 Program, and some recent success with research commercialisation.

Risk Culture

Council received the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 July 2026. The report summarised key matters considered by the Committee, including the biannual report on risks associated with foreign interference, the staff complaints report, Financial Compliance Exception Reports, and the NSW Auditor-General's *Universities 2025* report, together with the University's response to the report's recommendations.

The Committee also noted the regular Health and Safety Report, including an update on the ongoing uplift of the University's Psychosocial Risk Management Program, which is focused on strengthening the identification, assessment and management of psychosocial risks across the institution.

Education Standards

Council considered a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on the student experience, including the Student Support Framework. Council noted that the University has established a coordinated, institution-wide framework to support students' academic progress and wellbeing. It further noted that current priorities include strengthening the evaluation of support initiatives, enhancing predictive analytics to identify students who may require additional support, increasing student engagement with targeted interventions, and incorporating assessment analytics to inform timely and effective support strategies.

In accordance with its standard processes, Council also received a report from the Chair of Academic Senate on matters considered at the August meeting. This included the approval of the revised **Curriculum Architecture Policy**, and amendments to the **Aegrotat and Posthumous Awards Policy**, approval of recommendations from the Course Reaccreditation Reporting Standardisation Project Working Group, accreditation of the Diploma of Science and Technology (exit award) and reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Business Analytics and Master of Business Analytics in the Macquarie Business School with associated amendments.

University Culture

Council considered the recent amendments to the TEQSA Threshold Standards and the University's **Response to Racism**. This included consideration of the draft Racism, Discrimination and Other Unacceptable Behaviours Policy. Council noted the draft Policy; the University's proposed consultation with students, staff and other relevant stakeholders; and that an updated Council Commitment, incorporating definitions of racism including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia, will be presented to Council at the October meeting for consideration.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

External Review of Council and Membership Renewal

Council considered a recommendation from the Nominations and Remuneration Committee (NRC) to undertake an external review of Council performance in 2026 as part of the University's commitment to continuous improvement and good governance, and resolved to approve the commencement of the review. Council also discussed succession planning and membership renewal processes in light of several Council members' terms concluding in early 2027. To support this process, the University will engage an executive search firm to assist in identifying and assessing potential candidates against the Council's skills and diversity requirements.

Terms of Reference

Council approved some minor amendments to the terms of reference of the **Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)**, which have been made to bring closer alignment with the recommendations of the *Expert Panel on University Governance (ECUG)* Governance Principles.

Other Matters

Emeritus Professors

In accordance with the *Professor Emerita Emeritus Policy,* Council approved the awarding of the title of Professor Emeritus to one Professor.

Posthumous Award

In accordance with the *Aegrotat and Posthumous Awards Policy*, Council approved a posthumous Bachelor of Information Technology.

Disclaimer

This report provides an overview for the University community of the Council's decisions and actions at the relevant meeting. It is not intended to cover every decision made at the meeting or the full details of decisions and discussions. Inquiries and requests for further information can be directed to the University Council Secretary at *councilsecetary@mq.edu.au*.

Further Information

For further information about Council, please see:

Charter of Council

Current Macquarie University Council Members

Committees of Council

2026 Calendar of Governance