Minutes of the 488th Meeting of the Macquarie University Council held at the Chancellery, 19 Eastern Road, Macquarie University, North Ryde at 4.00pm on 4 April 2019.

**Present:**
Presiding Member and Deputy Chancellor, Ms L Mason  
Vice-Chancellor, Professor S B Dowton (by videoconference)  
Chair of Academic Senate, Professor M Herberstein  
Dr W Bradford  
Mr C Darvall  
Professor C Dean  
Dr E Grosvenor (by videoconference)  
Ms D Hadwen  
*Ms J Qian*  
Ms C Shen  
Mr J Wigglesworth  
Mr F Zipfinger

**In attendance:**
Ms C Kirby, General Counsel  
Ms H Mackinnon, Director and Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
*Ms S Dimasi, Vice President University Services & Strategy*  
*Professor S Handley, Executive Dean, Faculty of Human Sciences*  
*Mr R Payne, Chief Financial Officer*  
*Mr D Reeve, Chief Information Officer*

**Apologies:**
Nil

**Secretariat:**
Ms E Lawler, Company Matters

*Attended for part of the Meeting as indicated in the minutes.*

1. **QUORUM AND APOLOGIES**

   In accordance with Clause 7(2), Schedule 1, Macquarie University Act, 1989, the Deputy Chancellor will Chair the meeting as the Presiding Member of Council.

   The Deputy Chancellor confirmed that a quorum was present.

   The Deputy Chancellor advised that Emma Lawler would be leaving her role as Secretary to Council. Council thanked Ms Lawler for her work as Secretary to Council.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

   The Deputy Chancellor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

   Ms Qian joined the Meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

   Ms Qian advised she has been appointed a director of IPH Ltd.

   Council noted there were no other new declarations of interest.
4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
(Agenda item 1.3)

It was agreed to note the item at 6.1.

5. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
(Agenda item 1.4)

The Deputy Chancellor advised that no matters had been raised by Council members prior to the Meeting that had not already 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 took the report as read and highlighted specific items which Council discussed, including:

- Research – positive results of the recent Engagement and Impact Assessment conducted by ARC. The Vice-Chancellor advised further detail will be provided in the June report to Council;
- Reviews being conducted by the Commonwealth Government and which the University has provided input;
- The impact of the recent State election and changes to portfolios and responsible Ministers;
- Update on student load and change to regional mix of international students.
- MQ Health transition - appointment of the new CEO for MQ Health who has commenced and development of the new finance team under the new Finance Director; and
- Update on Advancement activities and results.

Council noted the development of the next version of the digital learning strategy is a specific activity for 2019 and requested a briefing be provided to Council on this area, including the work plan and status. The Vice-Chancellor noted a new Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching has been appointed and will be working on this strategy. **Matter Arising #1**

Council discussed and noted the report.

8. FACULTY STRATEGY – HUMAN SCIENCES  
(Agenda item 2.2)

Professor Simon Handley provided Council with a presentation on the Faculty Strategy – Human Sciences, including:

- Strategic priorities;
  - people strategy, including leadership team, equity and diversity;
  - research achievements and partnerships. A copy of the Hearing Strategy 2030, recently launched, was provided to Council;
  - Education programs; and
  - Rankings and opportunities.

Council discussed and noted the presentation and thanked Professor Handley for presenting the achievements to date and plans for the Faculty – Human Sciences.
9. STRATEGIC PRESENTATION – IT TRANSFORMATION  
(Agenda item 2.3)

Mr Reeve provided a presentation on the systems strategy and roadmap 2019-2022, including:

- Issues;
- Response – Digital Transformation Program;
- Context and approach for the four primary domains;
- Architecture vision; key systems and roadmaps;
- Integration and future state; and
- Achievements.

Council discussed the presentation, including:

- Opportunities for student involvement;
- Resourcing, noting a mix of internal and external resources are used;
- Budget monitoring by the Finance & Facilities Committee;
- Progress of Macquarie University versus other universities; and
- Managing the student impact for the introduction of the new student system and new curriculum.

Council noted the presentation and thanked Mr Reeve for presenting the achievements to date and plans for the IT Transformation.

Ms Dimasi, Professor Handley and Mr Reeve left the Meeting.

10. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2019 FOR APPROVAL  
(Agenda item 3.1)

The Deputy Chancellor took draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2019 as read.

RESOLVED 19/06

 Council RESOLVED (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 February 2019 as a true and correct record of the meeting held on that date.

11. MATTERS ARISING  
(Agenda Item 3.2)

Council noted the status of the Matters Arising.

12. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2019  
(Agenda item 3.3)

Mr Darvall took the report and draft minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting held on 26 March 2019 as read, highlighting:

- The presentation received on philanthropy which will be provided to Council in August 2019;
- The presentation received on the IT Strategic Plan as also presented to Council earlier in this Meeting; and
- Approval of the upgrade of the Student Management System.
Council discussed and noted the report and draft minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting held on 26 March 2019.

13. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2019**
(Agenda item 3.4)

Mr Zipfinger took the report and draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019 as read, highlighting that the focus of the Meeting had been on reviewing the financial statements and associated papers. Mr Zipfinger advised a robust and lengthy discussion was held on accounting judgements and he acknowledged the former Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, John Wigglesworth, for his attendance at the meeting.

Council noted the annual financial statements would be considered separately on the agenda.

Council discussed the performance of controlled entities and how this could best be reported to Council. It was agreed a copy of the minutes of MQ Health Board meetings would be included in the Council papers for information. **Matter Arising #2**

Council discussed and noted the report and draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019.

14. **APPROVAL OF 2018 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL REPORT**
(Agenda item 5.1)

Mr Payne spoke to the paper regarding the Approval of 2018 Annual Financial Statements and Annual Report as read and highlighted the key matters for Council:

- The Audit Office has audited the financial statements and issued their Engagement Closing Report which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee. The Audit Office has indicated that it will issue unmodified (clean) audit opinions for the Group accounts and all controlled entity accounts;
- The overall result was a surplus of $9.7 million which was within the range expected;
- The largest item on the balance sheet is property, plant and equipment and this has been independently valued by Colliers to ensure the value is supportable. The re-valuation resulted in an uplift in valuation; and
- Management has signed the management representation letter to the Audit Office.

Council discussed the financial statements and key accounting judgements.

**RESOLVED 19/07**

Council **RESOLVED (unanimously), to:**

1. **Approve the 2018 Macquarie University Annual Report to Parliament, subject to minor amendment; and**

2. **Approve the affixing of the signatures of the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor to the 2018 Macquarie University Annual Report to Parliament.**

Council **FURTHER RESOLVED (unanimously), following the recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee, that:**
1. The financial report for the period ending 31 December 2018 comprising the:
   a. Financial Statements
   b. Notes to the Financial Statements; and
   c. Statement of Appointed Officers relating to the Financial Statements and Notes
   be approved.

2. Any three members of Council be authorised to sign the Statement of Appointed Officers.

3. In the opinion of the Council, the Financial Statements and Notes of the University are in accordance with the Public and Finance Act 1983 and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015, including that they:
   a. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
   b. Comply with the Financial Statement Guidelines for Australian Higher Education Providers for the 2018 reporting period issues by the Department of Education and Training; and
   c. Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the University and of the Group as at 31 December 2018 and of performance for the year ended on that date.

4. Council is not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

5. In accordance with the Higher Education Support Act 2003, the amount of Australian government financial assistance expended during the reporting period was for the purposes for which it was intended and the University has complied with applicable legislation, contracts, agreements and program guidelines in making expenditure.

6. In the opinion of Council there are reasonable grounds to believe that the University will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Mr Payne left the Meeting.

15. VERBAL REPORT FROM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

Ms Qian provided a verbal update from the Student Experience Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019, including:

- Presentation received on the survey of international students, noting a high response rate compared with other universities. Council discussed the issues raised in the survey;
- Presentation received on PACE program. Council discussed the PACE program and requested a presentation at a future meeting on the PACE program – reach, successes and challenges. The Vice-Chancellor advised a review of student support including around PACE programs is underway and a report on this,
Council noted the minutes of the Student Experience Committee will be provided to the next Council meeting, including a copy of presentations made to the meeting. **Matter Arising #4**

16. **REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**  
(Agenda item 3.5)

The Chair of the Academic Senate took the summary report from the University Discipline Committee of 28 February 2019 as read.

Council discussed and noted the report.

17. **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**  
(Agenda item 4.1)

The Vice-Chancellor took the report as read and highlighted the following areas, which Council discussed:

- Launch of the Venture Café *Thursday Night Gatherings*;
- Macquarie Defence Industry working group to drive further collaboration with Defence and Defence industry;
- Brand and recruitment success; and
- Establishment of Micro-credentials.

Council discussed and noted the report.

18. **ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT**  
(Agenda item 4.2)

The Chair of the Academic Senate took the report from the Academic Senate meeting held on 9 February 2019 as read, and highlighted the proposed minor amendments to the Academic Senate rules.

Council noted the report.

**RESOLVED 19/08**

Council RESOLVED (unanimously), to amend the Academic Senate Rules as follows:

1. remove the position of Dean, Higher Degree Research and replace with the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships);
2. amend the reference to the Macquarie University Act in the Preamble from section 9 to section 15; and
3. remove the footnote to reflect that procedures to elect one member from the Indigenous staff electorate have been implemented.
19. **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**  
(Agenda Item 4.3)  

The Vice-Chancellor took the report as read and Council noted the Health and Safety report for 2019 YTD. The Vice-Chancellor advised Council of the greater focus on well-being of students and staff.

Council discussed and noted the report.

20. **UPDATED POWER OF ATTORNEY AND DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY REGISTER**  
(Agenda Item 5.2)  

The Vice-Chancellor took the paper regarding the Updated Power of Attorney and Delegations of Authority Register as read.

Council discussed the internal control processes in place to ensure documents are only executed once the appropriate approvals have been made.

RESOLVED 19/09  

Council RESOLVED (unanimously), to:

1. **amend Delegation 1.18 to extend the categories of documents that may be signed under power of attorney to include deeds, and also leases (or any other real property instruments), agreements and contracts as referred to in the attached extract of the Delegations of Authority Register.**

2. **revoke the existing Macquarie University Power of Attorney; and**

3. **approve the new Power of Attorney as attached and authorise its execution under the University’s Seal.**

21. **POWER OF ATTORNEY REGISTER**  
(Agenda item 6.1)  

Council noted the documents signed under Power of Attorney dated 22 January 2019 to 15 March 2019. Council requested the register provide more detail where possible, including a column detailing the approving authority of the document. **Matter Arising #5**

22. **OTHER BUSINESS**  
(Agenda item 7.1)  

Council noted that the next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 20 June 2019 at 4.00pm at the North Ryde campus.

**CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.52pm.

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Deputy Chancellor as Presiding Member of Council under Clause 7(2), Schedule 1, Macquarie University Act, 1989