COUNCIL NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Minutes of the 523rd meeting of COUNCIL held at 2 pm on Monday 6 June 2022 in the Chancellery Level 3 Boardroom, UNSW Kensington.

PRESENT
Mr David Gonski AC, Chancellor
Mr Warwick Negus, Deputy Chancellor
Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor David Cohen, President of the Academic Board
Dr Jennifer Alexander
Dr Raji Ambikairajah
Ms Maxine Brenner
Mr Jack Campbell
Mr Matthew Grounds AM
Mr Mark Johnson
Professor Justine Nolan
Ms Catherine Rowe
Mr Constantine Tsounis (via Teams)

APOLOGIES
Professor Louise Lutze-Mann
Ms Jennifer Westacott AO

IN ATTENDANCE
Professor Eileen Baldry AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Equity Diversity & Inclusion
Professor Merlin Crossley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Student Life
Ms Fiona Docherty, Vice-President, External Engagement
Professor Nicholas Fisk AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise
Ms Sarafina Mohamed, Chief Operating Officer, Vice-Chancellor’s Office
Professor Anne Simmons AM, Provost
Mr Andrew Walters, Vice-President, Operations (until 4.00pm)
Scientia Professor George Williams AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning & Assurance

Present for Item 12
Mr Chris White, Special Advisor, International Engagement

SECRETARY
Mr James Fitzgibbon, Director of Governance and University Secretary
Ms Rebecca O’Brien, Governance Officer

For convenience, agenda items were taken out of order.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Welcome, apologies and leave of absence
The Chancellor extended his respects to Elders past and present, and acknowledged the Bedegal people that are the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which the meeting took place.

Council accepted apologies from Professor Lutze-Mann and Ms Westacott for this meeting.

The Chancellor advised that this would be the final Council meeting for Mr Jack Campbell and Mr Constantine Tsounis as they had come to the end of their terms as members.

2. Declarations of interest and conflicts of interest

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the declarations and conflicts of interest provided at this meeting.
Note for the record
Council noted that Dr Alexander was a Director of the Board of NeuRA and that Dr Ambikairajah was employed by Amazon Australia (given Item 7.4 on the Cloud Transformation Project).

Council agreed there was no conflicts for Drs Alexander and Ambikairajah for this meeting and that they remain present for all items.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and business arising (other than business in this agenda)

3.1 Minutes of Council meetings held on 11 April and 3 May 2022

RESOLVED
Council confirmed the minutes of the meetings held on 11 April and 3 May 2022 as accurate records and authorised the Chancellor to sign them.

3.2 Matters arising and business carried forward
Council noted that all matters were either listed for discussion or scheduled for 2022.

4. Adoption of items for noting and approval, and starring of items
Council received and carried a motion for the adoption of the non-confidential and confidential items for approval and noting.

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

5. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and President to Council

5.1 Federal and State Government Relations
5.2 Student Enrolments
5.3 International Student Return
5.4 UniForum Service Effectiveness Surveys
5.5 Enterprise Bargaining
5.6 Modern Slavery Statement 2021
5.7 Environmental Sustainability Report 2021
5.8 Deep Dive on UNSW Strategy Focus Area

6. Report on the proceedings of the Academic Board
Professor Cohen spoke to this item and highlighted:

- the Academic Board had debated the proposal to change the grading system for first year courses to a satisfactory/unsatisfactory scale. The Academic Board particularly considered the benefits in ensuring equity for new students from differing backgrounds;
- Academic Board would be held in Canberra in November 2022 – the Chancellor commended the Academic Board holding a Canberra meeting and raised the possibility of Council holding a meeting at UNSW Canberra in due course;
- Academic Board was considering the 2025 TEQSA re-registration process and was reviewing academic governance systems. Particular attention was being paid to 15 standards which required UNSW to undertake more detailed work to demonstrate compliance. Professor Cohen noted that UNSW’s commitment to quality control meant that he expected the re-registration process to go smoothly; and
- The NSW/Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates had recently held a panel discussion on ‘Who accredits the accreditors?’, discussing the potential overreach of accreditors in to issues such as specific teaching and assessment methods, and the design of teaching spaces.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Cohen for his report.
6.1 Report to Council by President of the Academic Board

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the report to Council by the President of the Academic Board.

6.2 Confirmed Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 29 March 2022

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the confirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 29 March 2022.

6.3 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 17 May 2022

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 17 May 2022.

6.4 Report on the establishment of a Degree, Diploma, Certificate or Other Award Program by the Academic Board

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the report on the establishment of a Degree, Certificate or Other Award Program by the Academic Board.

7. Finance and Strategy Committee Report

7.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting held on 24 May 2022

7.2 2022 Quarterly Financial Forecast

7.3 April 2022 Year-to-date Results

7.4 Cloud Transformation Project

8. Risk Committee Report

8.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of Risk Committee Meeting held on 5 May 2022

8.2 Health and Safety Management Report Q2 2022

9. Information Technology Committee Report

9.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of Information Technology Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2022

10. Honorary Degrees Committee Report

10.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of Honorary Degrees Committee held on 24 May 2022

10.2 Recommendations from Honorary Degrees Committee

11. Celebrating UNSW Women on Campus Renaming Proposal

12. Annual Update on Foreign Interference
RESOLVED
Council:

1. received and noted the Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response 2021 Annual Report;
2. noted the findings of the 2021 Sexual Misconduct Annual Report;
3. received and noted the ‘Stop. Empower. Support: UNSW’s Gendered Violence Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025’ paper; and

Note for the record
The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Baldry spoke to items 13 and 14 concurrently.

Council discussed whether an external review of the Strategy be undertaken or an external expert be appointed to the Steering Committee.

Professor Baldry highlighted:

- that the NSSS had provided the Steering Committee with national consultation which had informed the design of the Strategy,
- that work had been undertaken with other universities to identify best practice, and
- consultation with human rights groups had been undertaken in the design of the Strategy.

Council noted that the Strategy strongly emphasised:

- a focus on particularly vulnerable groups, including members of the LGTBIQ+ community, women with a disability and female international students;
- ensuring robust and continuous communication and training programs; and
- recognition of intersectionality - those who were most at risk sat across multiple vulnerable groups.

Professor Baldry advised the Steering Committee had appointed a Working Group to monitor the Strategy and its implementation, which would report on each action. The Conduct and Integrity Office would also review and report relevant data from its annual report.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that the appointment of an external member on the Steering Committee would be valuable to UNSW and that this matter would be further considered offline and that now the University had received Council’s approval of the Strategy it would trigger next steps in resourcing and funding its implementation.

The Chancellor thanked the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Baldry for the reports.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL AND NOTING

15. Register of Use of Seal and University Name and Arms

16. UNSW Global – Appointment of Directors

RESOLVED
Council:

1. received and noted the report UNSW Global Composition; and
2. approved a short-term extension of the terms of the directors of UNSW Global Pty Limited set out below from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, pending finalisation of a broader review of the Board composition of the company:
   a. Mr Warwick Negus
   b. Professor Merlin Crossley
   c. Ms Fiona Docherty
   d. Mr Andrew Walters

17. Schedule of 2022 Council and Council Committee Dates

RESOLVED
Council received and noted the Schedule of 2022 Council and Council Committee Meeting Dates.

18. Business without notice

Acknowledgment of Constantine Tsounis and Jack Campbell
The Chancellor noted that the terms of office for Mr Tsounis and Mr Campbell would end on 30 June 2022, and therefore this would be their last scheduled Council meeting.

Mr Campbell was elected to Council from 1 July 2020 as the undergraduate student member.

Mr Tsounis was elected to Council from 1 July 2020 as the postgraduate student member. In 2021, Mr Tsounis was a member of the selection committee for the new Vice-Chancellor. He was an engaged and constructive member of both the Selection Committee and Council. The Chancellor personally thanked Mr Campbell and Mr Tsounis for their contribution.

RESOLVED
Council affirmed its gratitude to Mr Campbell and Mr Tsounis for the contribution that they had made to Council and UNSW.

19. COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY SESSION
Management left the room before the start of the Council members only session.

There being no other business, the Chancellor declared the meeting closed at 4.45 pm and moved into the Council Members Only Session.

The next Council meeting will be held on 15 August 2022.

SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD
Presiding Member
Mr David Gonski AC
Chancellor
15 / 08 /2022