

# COUNCIL NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES



Minutes of the 533<sup>rd</sup> meeting of **COUNCIL** held at **2pm** on **Monday 12 February 2024** in Boardroom 307, Level 3, Chancellery and via Microsoft Teams

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**PRESENT**

Mr David Gonski AC, Chancellor  
Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President  
Dr Jennifer Alexander  
Dr Raji Ambikairajah  
The Hon Elizabeth Cheeseman  
Mr Jeremy Ellis  
Mr Matthew Grounds AM (*via Teams*)  
Mr Mark Johnson  
Professor Scott Kable, President of the Academic Board  
Mr Joshua Karras  
Professor Christine Mathies  
Mr Warwick Negus, Deputy Chancellor  
Professor Justine Nolan  
Ms Catherine Rowe

**APOLOGIES** Ms Maxine Brenner

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr David Cross, Chief of Staff, VCO  
Professor Merlin Crossley AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Quality (*Via Teams*)  
Professor Nicholas Fisk AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise  
Professor Colin Grant, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global  
Ms Clair Hodge, General Counsel  
Professor Sarah Maddison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience  
Scientia Professor Vlado Perkovic, Provost  
Professor Verity Firth, Vice-President, Societal Impact, Equity and Engagement  
Scientia Professor George Williams AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Transformation, Planning & Assurance

Present for item 5.6

Professor Nick Wailes, Senior Deputy Dean (External Engagement) and Director AGSM

Present for item 7

Dr Christine Burns, Chief Information Officer

Present for items 1,2,4,6 and 7

Mr Michael Lee, Student observer

**SECRETARY**

Mr James Fitzgibbon, Director of Governance and University Secretary  
Ms Rebecca Brockman, Senior Manager, Governance

*For convenience, items were taken out of agenda order.*

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1. Welcome, apologies and leave of absence

The Chancellor acknowledged the Bedegal people that are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which UNSW's main campus is located and paid his respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Chancellor formally welcomed Professor Verity Firth AM.

The Chancellor congratulated Warwick Negus on his re-election as Deputy Chancellor.

The Chancellor acknowledged the recent passing of Lang Walker AO, extending condolences.

The Chancellor noted apologies received.

## **2. Declarations of interest and conflicts of interest**

The Chancellor invited members to disclose any interests or conflict of interests relevant to items for discussion at the meeting.

The Chancellor noted the following interests declared since the last Council meeting:

- Warwick Negus ceased as a director of the NSW Waratahs;
- Joshua Karras accepted a teaching position at the University.

No further interests were declared.

### **RESOLVED**

Council noted the declarations and conflicts of interest provided at the meeting.

## **3. Minutes of the previous meeting and business arising (other than business on this agenda)**

### **3.1 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 December 2023**

#### **RESOLVED**

Council approved the minutes of its meeting held on 4 December 2023 as an accurate record and authorised the Chancellor to sign them.

### **3.2 Matters arising and business carried forward**

The Chancellor discussed the Matters Arising and Business Carried Forward Report, noting the following:

- Items 1 and 2: complete.
- Items 3 and 4: addressed at this meeting.
- The remaining items would be addressed over the coming meetings.

#### **RESOLVED**

Council noted the report on matters arising and business carried forward.

## **4. Adoption of items for noting and approval, and starring of items**

The Chancellor invited members to star items 8-11 if they wanted them discussed. Item 9 was starred for discussion.

### **RESOLVED**

Council starred item 9 for discussion and adopted unstarred items 8, 10 and 11 for approval and noting.

## **MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY**

## **5. Report of the Vice-Chancellor (VC) and President to Council**

## 6. Reports on the proceedings of the Academic Board (AB)

### 6.1 Report to Council by President of the Academic Board

The AB President, Professor Kable, took the reports on the AB proceedings as read and provided a presentation on academic governance associated with academic offerings.

The presentation covered:

- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021;
- TEQSA Higher Education Standards Framework;
- UNSW Policy, procedure and processes;
- Example business case, including risk assessment;
- Academic Programs Advisory Group;
- Academic Programs Business Group;
- Ideal approval timelines.

The role of, and alignment with strategy in the development of new offerings was recognised. Faculty leaders are intimately aware of trends and opportunities to grow the contribution to education. Financial viability was discussed, noting this includes projected enrolments of both domestic and international students and academic and professional staff workloads. Extensive consultation occurs in the development of new offerings, including with future students.

A post-implementation review occurs between five and seven years after program introduction. This review against the initial business case determines forecast student numbers against actual. Student success is also considered, and students are engaged in the review process.

Lifelong learning and micro credentials are not approved through this process; however, that will be monitored.

Professor Kable confirmed the approach to academic risk is currently being developed.

Two questions were taken on notice:

1. In the design of offerings, is the ability to navigate and move through offerings considered, and is the UNSW structure and program architecture easy to navigate and understand? **[Matter arising]**
2. Does the Academic Board have a role in determining the creditability of other possible academic interface opportunities? Such as future agreements with TAFE and other educational institutions **[Matter arising]**

#### **RESOLVED**

Council noted the report of the President of the Academic Board.

### 6.2 Confirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 21 November 2023

#### **RESOLVED**

Council noted the confirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 21 November 2023.

### 6.3 Appointment of Such other Person to the Academic Board – Dr Scott East

Council supported the appointment of Dr Scott East.

#### **RESOLVED**

Council approved the appointment of the Co-Chair of the Undergraduate Re-enrolment Appeals Committee, Dr Scott East, to the Academic Board under the Such other Persons membership for a term from 12 February 2024 to 30 June 2025.

## 7. Presentation – Generative AI

Dr Burns joined the meeting for item 7.

Professor Maddison spoke to a presentation, highlighting:

- Generative AI – the first month;
- Generative AI – one year in;
- Context and current landscape;
- UNSW response.

Professor Maddison reported a continued focus on ethics, quality, and explainability. The role and impact of Generative AI (genAI) on academic integrity was recognised. One year into genAI and discussions are related to assessment practices and how students are being taught to effectively use genAI for application in the workplace.

It is widely recognised that genAI will revolutionise research progress; however, ethics, safety considerations and intellectual property ownership are a continued focus. It is not possible to control the use of the technology and therefore it is essential to create guiderails to support its ethical use and collaboration. Internal expertise will be leveraged.

Professor Maddison spoke to the role of TEQSA and a request for information including an action plan on how universities are engaging with AI.

Dr Burns spoke to a presentation, highlighting:

- AI collaboration and governance;
- GenAI activities at UNSW in 2023;
- UNSW's AI ecosystem is up and running;
- Next steps.

Dr Burns confirmed a focus on leveraging genAI in a safe way, bringing together expertise from across the university. A leadership group is coordinating a response across three areas: Corporate, Education and Research Systems. First principles have been developed and will be considered and reviewed by the University Leadership Team. A practical approach is necessary, with unnecessary bureaucracy removed.

Dr Burns advised a community of practice had been established to share learnings and best practices. Teacher resources are being developed to support staff in teaching students how to use and interact with genAI.

There are costs associated with custom applications. The costs of using genAI more broadly are being understood, with a drive to ensure an agile, but sustainable approach.

Business optimisation opportunities are being explored from a corporate perspective to create efficiencies. GenAI will be leveraged to create a distinctive capability. These will be considered as part of the wider strategy.

The Chancellor thanked Michael Lee for attending.

The Chancellor thanked Dr Burns and Professor Maddison for their presentation.

Dr Burns and Mr Lee departed the meeting.

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## Items for Approval and Noting

### 8. Report on Approved Policy Documents

**RESOLVED**

Council noted the Report of Approved Policy Documents for the period 21 November 2023 to 5 February 2024.

### 9. 2024 Graduations Update

Council provided feedback on the proposed changes to graduations.

### 10. 2024 Dates for University Council Elections

**RESOLVED**

Council approved the timetable for the conduct of the 2024 elections of members of Council.

### 11. Deputy Chancellor election result

**RESOLVED**

Council noted that following the close of nominations for the position of Deputy Chancellor on 11 December 2023, Mr Warwick Negus was declared elected to the position of Deputy Chancellor for a term of office from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

### Business without notice

There were no items of business without notice.

SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

Presiding Member  
Mr David Gonski AC  
Chancellor  
8/4/2024