

## SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 27 APRIL 2023

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Senators and attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted.

The service and considerable contributions to ACU Senate were noted for Gerard Goodwin-Moore (elected Professional Staff member), Stephen Elder OAM KSS (Chapter Nominee, Victoria), and Tim Kirk (Panel Nominee, ACT) as their terms of office will conclude shortly.

### 2. Report from Chancellor

The Chancellor noted the Report contains a summary of the events and meetings in which he had participated since the previous meeting, and highlighted the following:

- An update on the Constitution Review Working Group (Working Group). The group have been diligent in their discussions and have provided a progress update to the 12 May AGM;
- Arising from Enterprise Bargaining, a number of questions were raised regarding the processes that underpin ACU's commitment to its Mission and Identity. The issues fall within the purview of the Vice-President's portfolio, and also overlap to some degree with the portfolio of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Ethics (DVCE). The questions will proceed to the next Committee of Identity meeting on 12 May. It was confirmed that the Vice-President and Director, Identity and Mission and DVCE would be invited to prepare reports and attend the 8 June Meeting of Senate;
- Update on the current state of public university finances and enrolments; and
- There was a recent 4 Corners television program, 'Hackers Inc', on the criminal syndicate behind the Medibank data breach. The Chancellor advised he would discuss with the Secretary the possibility of arranging an expert session on cyber-crime.

### 3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- A number of significant successes have been achieved since the previous meeting;
- Professor Sandy Middleton, Director of the Nursing Research Institute, has secured a \$2.5m NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence grant;
- Australian Centre for the Advancement of Literacy (ACAL) Laureate Professor has signed a contract with ACU and will bring in a grant over \$3m;
- ACU has maintained its position at the top of the Australian tertiary sector and in the top 50 in the world for theology, divinity and religious studies, according to the 2023 QS World University Rankings;
- ACU's Rome Campus legal status as a fully registered foreign university in Italy was formally recognised on 21 March 2023. Following recognition as an Italian legal entity, ACU can enrol students in Italy directly and does not need to limit its services to domestic ACU students;
- A request received to be an advisor to the new Catholic University of St. John Paul II (UCT) in Timor Leste;
- Attended the Dante Alighieri Symposium 2023 with students from ACU's Western Civilisation Program;
- Professor Mary Ryan and the VC met with the new Executive Director, Dr Edward Simmons - Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools regarding future opportunities;
- Met with local member Hon Leanne Linard, Nundah QLD;
- The recruitment processes of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous didn't result in an appointment. Recruitment will recommence later in 2023;
- The recently appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law and Business attended a meeting where a green light has been received to commence the accreditation process for business programs, which will hopefully result in accreditation in 2024; and

- ACU is leading the Pamoja Project (Swahili for “together we can”) in Tanzania, advancing women’s health through improved accessibility and quality of health services provided by the Itololo Hospital and Community Health Service. Working with the Passionist Congregation, the work is an example of ACU’s commitment to mission, supporting individuals and communities towards fullness of life. Congratulations to Prof Sara Bayes (Head of Midwifery), Prof Elspeth Froude (Head of School of Allied Health), A/Prof William Sultmann AM (Passionist Heart Foundation Chair & Deputy Dean of La Salle Academy).

Senate discussed:

- Strategies to increase hospital placements, including improvements to systems, policies and improving relationships to continue earning the right to be a partner of choice;
- Long-term strategic objectives with the new legal status of the Rome Campus;
- Religious Freedoms and Religious Educational Institutions Inquiry and the submission with NCEC, submitted in March 2023.

#### **4. Recovery Taskforce**

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- There are two key focus areas and two trends the Recovery Taskforce (Taskforce) is trying to engage: cost reduction and pursuit of new opportunities;
- The FY203 budget anticipated that savings from the workforce initiative would equally offset separation cost. However, the delay in finalisation is expected to result in \$3m lost savings;
- In addition to expenditure savings, a number of workstream initiatives are progressing on revenue generation and diversification initiatives.

#### **5. LGBTQI+ Community**

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the written Report and Senate discussed a range of matters.

#### **6. Report from Interim Provost**

The Interim Provost provided a brief overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- Enrolment at 90% of enrolment plan in EFTSL yield (73.6%); and
- There is a moderate correlation between the volume of enrolment of international students and the financial outcomes for Universities which have reported their 2022 financial outcomes at the time of the meeting.

#### **7. Presentation to Senate - Director, Advancement and Alumni**

The Director, Advancement and Alumni provided an overview of the presentation. Senate discussed:

- Partnership opportunities;
- Ambitions for future donations targets; and
- Ethical considerations in relation to donations and compliance with Investment and Endowment Policies.

#### **8. Presentation to Senate - Chief Marketing Officer**

The Chief Marketing Officer provided an overview of the presentation. Senate discussed:

- The sector-wide nursing and teaching decline, and whether things may change due to workforce shortage and the Job Ready Graduates package, to encourage demand; and
- Comprehensive market analysis when creating new courses.

## 9. Report from Chief Operating Officer

The Chief Operating Officer provided a brief overview of the reports and advised that a detailed report of Melbourne campus development will be presented to a future meeting.

Senate discussed the following reports:

- Consultancy Expenditure Review and Analysis;
- Melbourne Campus Development Report;
- Work Health and Safety Metrics;
- Enterprise Agreement; and
- Contract Execution Register.

## 10. Report of the Academic Board

The Chair of Academic Board (AB) provided an overview of the meeting of 12 April, and highlighted the following:

- There has been a focus on course revisions and approvals in advance of the publication of the Handbook mid-year;
- Pro-Vice Chancellor, Global & Education Pathways reported on ACU's return to compliance plan for international students as requested by TEQSA following the return to standard practice after temporary changes were made due to the pandemic. It was noted that all universities by mid-year must ensure compliance, and that ACU broadly never stopped being compliant; and
- AB received a progress update and discussed the Academic Promotions Policy Review;
- AB approved the implementation plan for ACU's Graduate attributes.

Senate discussed:

- ACU Graduate attributes in comparison to other universities; and
- The Chancellor asked the Chair of Academic Board to pass on thanks for their stewardship of academic integrity.

## 11. Report of the Senate Standing Committee

Senate:

- Noted the Report;
- Approved the amendment of Statute 2.2 The Finance and Resources Committee and Statute 2.3 The Audit and Risk Committee, as presented, with immediate effect;
- Requested Statute 9 – Campus Student Associations and Other Organisations Amendments be amended and submitted to a later meeting of Senate; and
- Approved the rescission of Statute 11 Transitional Arrangements, with immediate effect.

## 12. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

Senate noted the Report.

## 13. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

The Secretary provided a brief overview of the meeting of 23 March and highlighted the following:

- As with Finance and Resources Committee, the previous meeting was focused on preparation of Financial Statements; and
- Work underway in relation to internal audit; it was noted ACU have new internal auditors, Ernst and Young.

#### **14. Report of the Honorary Awards Committee**

Senate:

- Noted the Report; and
- Approved the awarding of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University [Duniv(HonorisCausa)] to two nominees.

#### **15. Reports from State Chapters**

Senate noted the following Reports:

- ACT State Chapter meeting of 9 March 2023;
- NSW State Chapter meeting of 27 February 2023;
- Queensland State Chapter meeting of 14 March 2023; and
- Victorian State Chapter meeting of 7 March 2023.

#### **16. ACU Vision**

Senate discussed the document titled Our Vision and engaged in a planning session designed to support the development of a new Strategic Plan, ACU Vision 2033.