

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 8 JUNE 2023

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Report from Chancellor

The Chancellor observed that the written Report contains a summary of the events and meetings in which he had participated since the previous meeting.

Senators Alice Bailey (Chapter Nominee (VIC)), Dr Peter Steer (Chapter Nominee (QLD)), and Sarah Beltrame (elected Professional Staff member) were welcomed to their first meeting of Senate and each provided a brief introduction.

The Chancellor highlighted the following:

- Julian Widdup, Panel Nominee (ACT) was appointed at the AGM and commenced on 12 May;
- Jessica (Jess) Russ-Smith, elected Academic Staff member commenced on 1 May;
- Senators were encouraged to consider ACNC and AICD training courses including the abridged course focused on Higher Education (3 days); and
- With regret, the resignation of Annette Schmiede was noted, effective 30 June, due to other commitments. It was noted that a Chapter Nominee for NSW to fill the casual vacancy will be discussed with the Archbishop of Sydney.

3. Senate Sub-Committee Allocations

Senate approved the direct appointment of Senators to vacant positions on the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance and Resources Committee and Honorary Awards Committee, with effect from 8 June 2023.

4. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

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

- Nation leading capability in learning through the newly opened Australian Centre for the Advancement of Literacy (ACAL). The work of Professor Mary Ryan, Faculty of Education and Arts Executive Dean was acknowledged and commended;
- Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for 2023 were recently released and ACU is ranked second in the world for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 - good health and well-being, 19th in the world for SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, 101-200 in the world in SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 – partnerships for the goals;
- ACU has been successful in the application of a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs under the Veteran Wellbeing Grants Program to maintain and improve the independence and quality of life for members of the veteran community;
- Dr Georgia Durmush presented her research thesis to Senate in 2021 and has since graduated with a Doctorate and been employed by ACU. Dr Durmush has also been awarded the Transgrid Indigenous Achievement Award;
- Visit to Leadership Centre Townsville and the opportunities for further engagement between the Department of Defence and the ACU Student Veterans Support Program; and
- The Universities Accord process and potential impacts on international enrolment.

Senators also discussed the potential impacts of the Universities Accord on international enrolment and Transnational education.

5. Recovery Taskforce

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the Recovery Taskforce Report and the Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the May Financial Forecast.

Senate noted and discussed Recovery Taskforce progress, the May 2023 Financial Forecast, and the Sector Financials.

6. Chair of Academic Board Appointment

Senate approved the reappointment of Professor Tim McKenry for a further three-year term of office as Chair of Academic Board.

7. Report from Interim Provost

The Interim Provost provided an update based on enrolment data as of 8 June and highlighted the following:

- 31,106 headcount and 75.9% EFTSL yield;
- Sector data not yet available but benchmarking suggests ACU market share has grown marginally while the sector has declined; and
- The National Priorities Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF) Pilot is tracking well and 2022 targets have been met in all three case studies. Funding for three-years (2022 to 2024) is guaranteed, but at risk from 2025 onwards and dependent on performance 2022 to 2024.

Senators discussed enrolments tracking above forecast.

8. Presentation to Senate - Executive Dean of Law and Business

The Executive Dean of Law and Business provided an overview of the presentation. Senate discussed:

- Opportunities in research;
- Drivers of significant growth in the Juris Doctor (JD) program;
- Professor O'Neil's expertise in international relations;
- The issue of accreditation; and
- Perspectives on whether ACU as a Catholic University with Catholic values is providing enough attraction for students with aligned values.

9. Report from Chief Operating Officer

Senate discussed and noted the following reports:

- Melbourne Campus Development Report;
- Student and Staff Complaints Report;
- Contract Execution Register; and
- Work Health and Safety Report Q1.

10. Report of the Academic Board

The Chair of Academic Board (AB) provided an overview of the purpose of Academic Board for the benefit of new Senators and provided an overview of the meeting of 24 May 2023.

11. Report of the Senate Standing Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Senate Standing Committee from its meeting of 15 May 2023.

12. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

Senate noted the Report from Meeting 03/2023 (08 May) of the Finance and Resources Committee.

13. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

The Secretary provided a brief overview of the meeting of 23 March 2023. Senate noted the Report and approved the Modern Slavery Statement 2022 (Calendar Year 2022).

14. Mission and Identity

The Vice-President and Director, Identity and Mission and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ethics) provided an overview of their written reports.

In opening the matter for discussion, the Chancellor advised that he had determined that Mission and Identity should be re-introduced as a regular Senate agenda item with the Vice-President and Director, Identity and Mission to attend and provide regular reporting to Senate.

Senate discussed:

- The DOMUS initiative which seeks to make staff members feel more 'at home' in the Catholic context of the University's broader work and mission. Senate discussed and reflected on what is it like for a staff applicant to ACU regardless of faith, including the interview process, induction in Catholic faith and mission and the check-in at the end of the probation period; and
- Support for 'Mission and Identity' becoming a regular agenda item for discussion by Senate.

15. ACU Vision 2033

The Pro-Chancellor provided an introduction and spoke to the success of the session and feedback received at the April meeting of Senate.

The Vice-Chancellor and President provided an overview of the presentation, and spoke to the following topics:

- The strategic planning journey so far, noting the document is not final, and is an attempt to distil key findings of consultation;
- Discussion regarding the Mission Statement and the expression of 'speaking Truth in Love';
- Addressing societal challenges;
 - Vision, commitment and values;
 - Our purpose and putting the person at the centre of everything we do;
 - and Strategic ambitions; and
- Execution of the 10-year plan. The final strategy document will be presented to the August meeting of Senate.

Senate discussed and provided feedback on the draft ACU Vision 2033.