

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 13 JUNE 2024

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 and highlighted his attendance at Graduation Ceremonies and the Corporation AGM.

3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

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

- Significant philanthropic funding has been secured since the last Senate meeting;
- Significant International engagements include meetings at the Holy See;
- ACU will be hosting the Association of the Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) in August;
- Visits to the University from Sophia University, Japan and a delegation from Hessen, Germany have strengthened international relationships; and
- Delegation to India.

4. Mission and Identity

The Vice-President and Director, Identity and Mission provided an overview on the written Report and highlighted the following:

- Increased focus on student facing activities within Campus Ministry;
- Strathfield and Brisbane campuses hosted events delivered by the Sisters for Life, who are based in New York and were founded to address life issues;
- ACU Students alongside those from others in Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand are preparing to speak with His Holiness the Pope via Zoom for the Building Bridges Initiative; and
- Success of Faith Week and Campus Coffee Carts.

Senate noted the report from the Vice President.

5. Renewal of Registration

Senate noted the Renewal of Registration: Q2 Progress Update.

6. Report from Provost

The Provost provided an overview of the written Report and highlighted the following:

- Enrolled student load remains strong and is currently sitting above target;
- Course development; and
- Management of costs.

Senate noted the Provost Report.

7. Student Retention

The Provost provided an overview of the written Report and highlighted the following:

- Student Support Services utilised by vulnerable students; and
- AGILE and THRIVE programs to aid retention efforts.

Senate noted the Student Retention Report.

8. Report from Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous

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

- Growth in Indigenous Student numbers and participation rates; and
- Work undertaken in the area of student success to assist underprepared university students.

Senate noted the presentation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strategy and initiatives from the PVICI.

9. Independent Review of the Governing Body ('Niland Review') – Implementation Report

Senate noted the progress against the Recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Review of Corporate Governance by Emeritus Professor John Niland.

10. Staff Complaints Report

Senate noted the 2023 Staff Complaints Report

11. Senate Effectiveness and Senator Appraisal Update

Senate noted the update on the Senator Effectiveness and Senator Appraisal process.

12. Report of the Academic Board

Senate noted the Academic Board Report.

13. External Review of Academic Governance – Close Out Report

Senate approved the close-out report for the External Review of Academic Governance (Winchester Report) following endorsement by the Academic Board

14. Student Complaints Report

Senate noted the Student Complaints Report.

15. Report of the Senate Standing Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Senate Standing Committee

16. Senate and Senate Sub-committee Priority Reports

Senate noted the pathway for provision of named reports to Senate and Senate Committees.

17. Senator Remuneration

Senate approved the proposal to amend the Senate and Senate Sub-Committee Remuneration Policy, with effect from 1 July 2024.

18. Statute 2.5 – The Academic Board

Senate approved the amendment of Statute 2.5 of The Academic Board, with immediate effect.

19. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Finance and Resources Committee.

20. Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Report

The Chair, Finance and Resources Committee provided an overview of the written Report and highlighted that the Chief People Officer is interrogating data to ensure greater clarity surrounding the Gender Pay Gap figures.

Senate noted the Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Report for Q1 2024.

21. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee.

22. Modern Slavery Statement

Senate approved the Modern Slavery Statement 2023.

23. Cyber Security Update Report

The Acting Chief Operating Officer provided an overview of the written Report and highlighted that work is underway to align the Internal Audit action items with Cyber Security Plans.

Senate noted the Cyber Security Report, as presented.

24. Work Health and Safety Report

The Acting Chief Operating Officer provided an overview of the written Report. He highlighted the development of work health and safety awareness programs and the inclusion of both sessional and continuing staff in these programs.

Senate noted the WHS Update Report, as presented.

25. Reports from State Chapters

Senate noted the report of the NSW State Chapter.

Senate noted the report of the Victorian State Chapter.

Senate noted the report of the Queensland State Chapter.

Senate noted the report of the ACT State Chapter.