

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 10 OCTOBER 2024

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Report from Chancellor

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

3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

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

- Commencing International Student load has increased, and research metrics are positive;
- The University is on track to meet Senate covenants and achieve a budget surplus;
- Significant increases in philanthropic funding since 2020; and
- Impact of Government imposed International Student Caps.

4. Presentation: Ethics Directorate Post 2024

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Hayden Ramsay provided an overview of the written report highlighting the history of the Education Portfolio with plans to enhance work areas and create a focused identity for the new DVC position.

5. Appointment of Executive Dean, Theology and Philosophy

The Vice-Chancellor and President provided a verbal update concerning the recruitment for the role of Executive Dean, Theology and Philosophy and highlighted the preferred candidate.

6. Mission and Identity

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

- The annual Catholic youth conference, Ignite, was held across Brisbane and Sydney in September, with 80 ACU students participating, which was the University's largest participation to date; and
- 18 Staff and friends of the University have completed the Camino in Spain. Whilst the weather conditions were a challenge, participants found the experience insightful.

7. Renewal of Registration

Senate noted the update provided by the Institutional Lead, Renewal of Registration.

8. Report from Provost

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

- Increased headcount across the university; and
- Government proposals for International Student Caps.

Senate noted the Provost Report.

9. Financial Forecast

The Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the written report and highlighted the following:

- Strong EFTSL growth has contributed to an increase in the revenue forecast and the overall budget position.

Senate noted the Forecast Financial Statements.

10. Independent Review of the Governing Body ('Niland Review') – Action Plan: Progress Report

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

11. Niland Review Recommendation R1: Senate Effectiveness Review and Senator Appraisal – Action Plan

Senate provided feedback on the draft Senate Effectiveness Review Action Plan.

12. Niland Review Recommendations R3, R4, R8 and R9: Statute 2.1 – The Governing Bodies: The Senate (Senate Objectives) and Statute 8.1 – Elections to the Senate

Senate approved the amendment of Statute 2.1- Governing Bodies, changes to the Senate Handbook and deferred consideration of proposed amended Statute 8.1.

13. Niland Review Recommendations R17 and R20: Statute 13 – Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

Senate approved the amendments to Statute 13 – Freedom of Speech, Intellectual Freedom and Academic Freedom.

14. Foreign Bribery Reforms: *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Combatting Foreign Bribery) Act 2024*

The Senate approved the Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy to enable the University to comply with the new foreign bribery laws as set out in the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Combatting Foreign Bribery) Act 2024.

15. Report of the Academic Board

Senate noted the Academic Board Report.

16. Report of the Senate Standing Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Senate Standing Committee.

17. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

18. Gender Equity and Diversity Report

The Chief People Officer provided an overview of the written report and highlighted that a comprehensive staff data governance review is underway, focusing on data life cycling.

Senate noted the Gender Equity and Diversity Report

19. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee.

20. Work Health & Safety Report and Action Plan

The Chief People Officer provided an overview of the written Report and highlighted the strong staff focus on capability and development.

Senate noted the Work Health & Safety Report and Action Plan.

21. Report of the Honorary Awards Committee

Senate noted the Report of the Honorary Awards Committee.

22. Reports from State Chapters

Senate noted the Report of the ACT State Chapter.

Senate noted the Report of the NSW State Chapter.

Senate noted the Report of the Queensland State Chapter.

Senate noted the Report of the Victorian State Chapter.