



Australian  
National  
University

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

### COUNCIL MINUTES

The 480<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council was held at 10.00am (AEST) on **Saturday 2 September 2023** using video/tele conferencing facilities.

#### **Members present:**

The Chancellor, The Hon Julie Bishop (in the Chair)  
The Pro-Chancellor, Ms Naomi Flutter  
Dr Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM  
Ms Padma Raman PSM  
Ms Alison Kitchen  
Ms Tanya Hosch  
Professor Sarah Pearson  
Professor Craig Moritz  
Professor Lyndall Strazdins  
Mr Ben Yates  
Mr Will Moisis  
Dr. Liz Allen  
Mr Millan Pintos-Lopez  
Professor Joan Leach (non-voting member of Council)

#### **In attendance:**

Professor Peter Yu, Vice-President, First Nations Portfolio  
Ms Kate Witenden, Chief People Officer  
Mr Kent Vidler, Manager, Talent Management Initiatives

#### **Apologies**

Professor Helen Sullivan, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

#### **Council Secretariat**

Council Secretary and Director, Governance and Risk Office – Ms Belinda Farrelly

## PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### \*1. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Council noted:

- This was a Special Meeting convened to consider the appointment of the 13<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor for the Australian National University.
- Welcomed Dr Larry Marshall to his first Council meeting following his commencement as a Council member on 1 August 2023.
- Noted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, consistent with prior discussion of matters relating to the appointment of his successor, has recused himself from these discussions and the Council deliberations on this matter and will not be present for the meeting.
- Welcomed Professor Peter Yu, Vice President, First Nations and member of the Selection Committee as an observer
- Welcomed Kate Witenden, Chief People Officer and Kent Vidler, Manager, Talent Management Initiatives as observers
- Noted apology from Professor Helen Sullivan, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and member of the Selection Panel

### \*2. DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

No member disclosed any material personal interest.

## PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

### \*C3. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

#### Selection and Appointment Process

The Chancellor provided an overview of the process, leading to the recommendation being put to Council:

- Under s54 of the ANU Act, the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor is a responsibility of Council.
- The appointment process commenced in February 2023 following the announcement by the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt that he intended to stand down from his role at the end of 2023.
- Following consultation with the ANU Community, a world-wide search process, a rigorous selection and due diligence process, interviews and all other available material, the Selection Committee has formed a view and recommendation regarding the appointment of the 13th Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.
- There was significant interest in the position and a high calibre of applicants.

- The Selection Committee started with a long list of 19 potential candidates for interview, narrowed down from a larger field. A formal long list of 10 candidates was confirmed by the Committee and our search partners, Korn Ferry were requested to undertake detailed due diligence on the potential candidates for interview and to support the selection process.
- Following this detailed due diligence and consideration by the Committee, six candidates were selected for interview with a mix of international and domestic candidates drawn from the Higher Education sector, Government and Industry.
- Following the initial interviews, a final shortlist of three candidates were selected for second interviews, and further due diligence and in-depth discussions took place.
- Based on the interviews and all other available material, the Selection Committee determined the preferred candidate recommended for appointment of the 13th Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University is **Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell**.

Council noted and endorsed the summary provided by the Chancellor and commended the work of the Selection Committee, noting the quality of the candidates that applied for and were considered for the role, along with the rigour and transparency of the process.

#### **Appointment Terms and Conditions**

The Chancellor provided an update on the consideration of the terms and conditions for the appointment.

- Noted the benchmarking on Vice-Chancellor remuneration undertaken in February 2023, and updated data and information included in the meeting papers.
- Confirmed the Remuneration Committee met on 1 September 2023 and, based on the updated benchmarking data recommended a total remuneration package to be negotiated with a new Vice-Chancellor of up to \$1.3m. Inclusive of all salary and other benefits as may be agreed.
- This proposed total remuneration package was also informed by confidential discussions between Chancellor and John Conde, President of the Remuneration Tribunal.
- An initial five year appointment will be offered and a proposed commencement date of 1 January 2024 or a date to be mutually agreed.

#### **Resolved**

Council:

1. **Approved** the appointment of Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell as the 13th Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University with effect from 1 January 2024 or a date to be mutually agreed.
2. **Endorsed** and **accepted** the Remuneration Committee recommendation for a total remuneration package of up to \$1.3m to be negotiated with the 13th Vice-Chancellor.
3. **Endorsed** and **confirmed** the terms and conditions of the appointment and the offer and acceptance process be finalised by the Chancellor

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

## NEXT MEETING

Council confirmed that its next scheduled meeting would proceed as planned, on Friday 6 October 2023, beginning at 9.00am (AEST).

The meeting closed at 11.49am (AEST).



Date: 6 October 2023

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**The Hon Julie Bishop  
Chancellor  
The Australian National University**



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## COUNCIL

The 480<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council will be held at 10.00am (AEST) on 2 September 2023 using video/tele conferencing facilities.

Any additional information will be made available online (on the Secure Server).

All enquiries should be directed to the University Secretary Belinda Farrelly by email: [belinda.farrelly@anu.edu.au](mailto:belinda.farrelly@anu.edu.au) or 0403 984 567

**Belinda Farrelly**  
**University Secretary**  
**Director, Governance and Risk**

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### AGENDA SUMMARY

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