

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The 491st meeting of the Council was held at 10.30am (Canberra) on Friday 14 February 2025 in the Mills Room, Chancelry,

Members present

1. Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop
2. Pro-Chancellor, Ms Alison Kitchen (*via Zoom*)
3. Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell
4. Dr Larry Marshall (*via Zoom*)
5. Ms Padma Raman PSM
6. Dr Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM
7. Mr Rob Whitfield AM
8. Dr Liz Allen
9. Professor Juliana Ng
10. Professor Lyndall Strazdins
11. Ms Megan Easton
12. Ms Brenna Barker-Lamb
13. Mr Will Burfoot (*via Zoom*)
14. Professor Tony Connolly

Apologies

15. Ms Tanya Hosch

In attendance

16. Provost - Professor Rebekah Brown
17. Chief Operating Officer (COO) - Mr Jonathan Churchill
18. Chief Financial Officer (CFO)- Mr Michael Lonergan

Secretariat

19. University Secretary, Mr Phillip Tweedie
20. Manager Corporate Governance & Policy, CGRO - Ms Leslie McDonald
21. Senior Administrative Officer, CGRO – Mrs Monica McGrath

PART 1 – PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Council noted an apology received from Ms Tanya Hosch.

The Chancellor noted that the Nominations Committee met in December and discussions with potential nominees for Ministerial consideration are ongoing.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no additional requests from members for any leave of absence.

3 DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

- Dr Juliana Ng noted that for Item 15, she is an academic staff member of the ANU College of Business & Economics.
- Council discussed the importance of further support and guidance for members that may have conflicts of interest.
- The Chancellor provided Council with an update regarding a gift provided to Council that was politely declined due to the potential for a perceived conflict of interest.
- The Chancellor noted that hard copies of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor's gift register back to 2020 and member disclosures of interest for 2024 were available for review.

4 ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

Council noted that the Corporate Plan will be submitted for out of session discussion and approval via email following this meeting.

Council noted that Items 1-12, 14, 15, 22, 24, 31-32 were starred for discussion.

Resolved:

Council **approved** that the unstarred items be dealt with as proposed in the agenda.

Dr Allen joined the meeting.

5 MINUTES

Resolved:

Council **approved** the minutes of the meeting of the 4th December 2024.

6 MATTERS ARISING

Council discussed each of the items on the Matters Arising list. There were three matters, with two proposed for closure.

Resolved:

Council:

- **Noted** the Matters Arising as updated since the meeting of 6 December 2024.
- **Approved** the closure of two matters as proposed.

PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

7 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor provided a verbal update on activities undertaken since the last Council meeting.

- Council noted its thanks to the Speaker of the House, the Hon Mr Milton Dick MP, for hosting the Council members for dinner and for ensuring that incoming Members of the House are informed of the University's role as the national university during their induction.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the Chancellor's Report.

8 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the paper provided.

- Council requested that material updates regarding the ongoing hail insurance claim continue to be provided, noting that primary oversight of this matter will be undertaken by the Audit & Risk Management Committee.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the Vice-Chancellor's Report.

9 STUDENT SAFETY & WELLBEING REPORT

The Provost spoke to the paper provided.

- Council raised queries regarding safety and wellbeing oversight of university students residing with large private accommodation providers. This matter will be referred to the Student Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the updates from the Academic Portfolio on student safety and wellbeing.

10 STAFF WHS ANNUAL REPORT (inc. SELF INSURANCE REPORTING)

The Chief People Officer and Deputy Chief People Officer (Safety & Wellbeing) spoke to the paper provided.

- Council noted the requirements of worker's compensation self-insurance under the ***Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988***.

Resolved:

Council **noted** and **endorsed** the Work Health & Safety Report and the Self-Insurance reporting for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024.

11. ANU FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the paper provided.

- Council noted the key drivers and impact of the University's current financial position and the ongoing importance of ensuring they are well understood by the community.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the University's December 2024 year-to-date preliminary results as compared to the 2024 Budget and Q3 Forecast.

12 ANU 2025 BUDGET & 2026 FORWARD ESTIMATES

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the paper provided.

- With the maturity of the medium-term note, later in 2025, Council requested that relevant information come forward in due course.

Resolved:

Council **approved** the University Budget for 2025 and the forward estimates for 2026.

13A CORPORATE PLAN

N.B. Item 13A will be sent for discussion and approval out of session.

13B 2024 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Resolved:

Council **noted** the ANU 2024 Performance Statements.

PART 3 – STRATEGIC ISSUES AND DISCUSSIONS

14 RENEW ANU

The Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper provided.

- Council discussed the importance of ensuring that the University continued to review and monitor the implementation of Renew ANU across non-financial metrics.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the University's ongoing Renew ANU program.

15 ANU COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS PRESENTATION

The Dean of the ANU College of Business and Economics, presented to Council on the College and its plans for 2025 and beyond.

- Council noted the uncertainty that restrictions on international student numbers create, and the challenges in forecasting budgets and teaching delivery.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the presentation from the ANU College of Business & Economics.

PART 4 – OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

16 ETHICS COMMITTEES – ANNUAL REPORTS 2024

Resolved:

Council **approved** the Annual Reports for 2024 in respect of the:

- 1) Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)
- 2) Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
- 3) Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee (rDNA)

17 INVESTMENT OFFICE – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Resolved

Council **noted** the Annual LTIP and GCF Performance Report for 2024.

19 INVESTMENT POLICIES ANNUAL REVIEW

Resolved:

Council **approved:**

- 1) the revised Investment Policy
- 2) the repeal of the Derivatives Risk Management Policy.

20 DIGITAL PLAN

Resolved:

Council **noted** the Digital Plan progress report.

21 KAMBRI (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT) PLAN

Resolved:

Council **noted** the Kambri Plan Annual Report 2024.

22A HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Resolved:

Council **approved** the award of honorary degrees as endorsed by the Honorary Committee. Details will remain confidential until the proposed recipients have accepted.

- Ms Patricia Anderson AO – HonLittD
- Ms Naomi Flutter – HonDUniv
- Professor Emerita Ann Curthoys AM – HonLittD
- Professor Emerita Helen Christensen AO – HonDSc
- Professor Emerita Margaret Jolly AM – HonLittD

22B HONORIFIC NAMING PROPOSAL

Resolved:

Council **approved** the proposal to name the Australian Dictionary of Biography Library (Room 5.68, Level 5, RSSS Building 146), the Nan Phillips Library.

23 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE CONFORMANCE STATEMENT 2024

Resolved:

Council **noted** for the 2024 calendar year, the assessment in respect of the University conformance with:

- Australian National University Act 1991
- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014
- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021, Part 6
- Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities.

24 COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the paper provided.

- Council requested a paper to be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Resolved:

Council **noted** discussion on the University Council Sub-Committee structure and composition.

25 STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCESS SESSION

N.B The presentation at Item 25 was postponed to a later meeting due to timing.

PART 5 – OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

26 ANNUAL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND SKILLS MATRIX

Resolved:

Council **noted**

- the Register of Disclosed Interests as at February 2025.
- the current Skills Matrix for the Council and Committees.

27 COUNCIL COMMITTEES - EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Resolved:

Council **noted** the Council Committees and the Academic Board Executive Summaries from November 2024 and January 2025 meetings.

28 LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATES

Resolved:

Council **noted** that the **Coursework Awards Rule 2024** was made by the acting Vice-Chancellor on 23 December 2024 for commencement on 1 January 2025.

29 GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

Resolved:

Council **noted** the report on grants and consultancies.

PART 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

30 OTHER BUSINESS

- Council discussed use of the new Board Management Software.
- Council discussed an update to the Council Paper Agenda Template to focus on key strategic issues and questions and in accordance with governance best practice and taking into account the recommendations from the Council Self-Assessment.
- An update was provided on the First Nations Committee.

Resolved:

Council **considered** any other business raised.

31 NEXT MEETING

Council **noted** that the next meeting will take place on Friday 28 March 2025.