

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

The 494<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council was held, out of session, at **2.00pm (AEST) on Thursday 3 July 2025** by Zoom videoconferencing.

**Members present**

1. Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop
2. Pro-Chancellor, Ms Alison Kitchen
3. Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell
4. Dr Larry Marshall
5. Ms Padma Raman PSM
6. Mr Rob Whitfield AM
7. Ms Tanya Hosch
8. Professor Juliana Ng
9. Professor Lyndall Strazdins
10. Dr Francis Markham
11. Ms Megan Easton
12. Ms Brenna Barker-Lamb
13. Mr Will Burfoot
14. Professor Tony Connolly

**Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**Secretariat**

15. University Secretary, Mr Phillip Tweedie
16. Manager Corporate Governance & Policy, CGRO - Ms Leslie McDonald
17. Senior Administrator, CGRO – Ms Elizabeth Johnson

## PART 1 – PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### 1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

#### Announcements and Apologies

The Chancellor noted:

- Padma Raman is joining the meeting from South Africa.
- Rob Whitfield has been appointed Chair of a panel to conduct an ASIC Inquiry into governance of the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) group. His disclosure of interest has been updated.

#### Leave of Absence

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

#### Disclosure of Material Personal Interest

- The Chancellor noted there was an agenda item regarding Renew ANU and that some Council members work in impacted Colleges. As the item was an update only, it was not considered a conflict that required mitigation for the purposes of this meeting.
- There were no other disclosures.

## PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

### \*C2 KAMBRI SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor reported on a significant development in funding for the Kambri scholarships programme, details currently confidential.

#### Resolved:

Council **noted** the update provided by the Chancellor on the Kambri Scholarships.

### \*C3 TEQSA CORRESPONDENCE

The Chancellor reported:

- Correspondence was received from TEQSA requesting a Self-Assurance Report by 12 August under the *Notice of Compliance Assessment* process.
- A Council member had requested access to independent Legal Advice pursuant to Section 15 of the Charter regarding their responsibilities under this process. The Chancellor had instructed ANU General Counsel to arrange for that advice to be provided to all members.
  - It was noted that this advice was sought through a standing arrangement with an external legal firm at an estimated cost of up to \$15,000.

The Vice-Chancellor reported:

- A summary of the change plans released this week as part of ANU Renew.
- An update on actions related to the Nixon Report.
- A draft response to the Nixon report will be presented to Council at its August meeting for consideration.

The Chancellor noted:

- That the University took part in TEQSA's registration renewal process 18 months ago, achieving a maximum seven-year re-registration with no conditions.
- In December 2022 Council engaged BoardsGlobal to undertake an assessment of the University Council's performance, and members discussed the need for a renewed independent evaluation of Council's performance as per the Charter, noting the cost of this exercise. Council also discussed an independent review of management culture.
- The Vice-Chancellor noted that part of the draft response to TEQSA should include an invitation for them to provide input or partner with the University in that evaluation.

**Resolved:**

Council **noted** the update on the TEQSA correspondence.

**\*C4 RENEW ANU UPDATE**

The Vice-Chancellor reported:

- Three change plans were released this week.
- As of July, 210 staff have left the University, predominantly through the Voluntary Separation Scheme.
- Progress towards the Renew ANU financial targets.

In relation to the Vice-Chancellor's report and the Renew ANU programme:

- Several members expressed concern about TEQSA's notification and its relation to Renew ANU and that Council should consider a pause of Renew ANU until assurance was received from TEQSA that they were happy for it to proceed.
  - Other members noted that this was not implied in their correspondence and that TEQSA's concerns were around the University's financial situation, how it resulted and what steps the University is taking to prevent a reoccurrence.
  - The Vice-Chancellor agreed to raise the issue with TEQSA at a meeting scheduled for the following week.
- Several Council members noted that the programme needed more robust stage-gate reviews to ensure that Renew ANU would drive the University to deliver on its mission.
  - A member requested information, listed in the meeting 'chat', to be made available for the August meeting to enable an assessment about what steps might be needed to address some concerns.
  - There was a request that Renew ANU be paused until this review could take place.
- Other members noted that Council was aware of the financial situation and had set targets accordingly. The Vice-Chancellor was tasked by Council with meeting these targets, noting that while it is appropriate to seek assurance and to request additional information, pausing the program will risk its failure and jeopardise the targets Council set.

**Resolved:**

Council **noted** the update provided by the Vice-Chancellor on Renew ANU.

***Larry Marshall and Tanya Hosch departed the meeting.***

**PART 6 – OTHER BUSINESS****5 OTHER BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING**

The Chancellor noted that:

- Council agreed that the 1 August meeting will be held on campus and in person, budget permitting.
- A summary of management briefings and Council requests for information made outside the formal meetings was requested ahead of each session of Council.

***The Vice-Chancellor departed the meeting.***

- The Chancellor reported that the University Chancellors' Council are proposing to submit the remuneration of Australian Vice-Chancellors to the Remuneration Tribunal for advice.
- The Chancellor noted that the ANU already seeks advice on the Vice-Chancellor's remuneration package from the Remuneration Tribunal.
- The Remuneration Committee will meet in July to consider the Vice-Chancellor's KPIs and remuneration and will report to Council in August.
- The Chancellor proposed that a review be carried out into the 52-day Rule to consider what is appropriate for Council members, and the Executive and Senior Leadership positions at the University. The proposal was endorsed by Council.

The Chancellor noted that the information regarding Renew ANU will be prepared by management and provided to Council members for discussion at the meeting on 1 August.

- Two members reiterated their wish to see the ANU Renew program paused while members reviewed the information requested.
- The Chancellor noted that a resolution to that effect would be inappropriate before the TEQSA advice, and the requested information to make such a decision was provided and further noted that the request was made after three members had already left the meeting.
- After discussion, the Chancellor agreed that the Secretariat would explore the possibility of setting up another out-of-session discussion in mid-July.

**Resolved:**

Council **noted** that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 1 August 2025, but that an additional out of session meeting of Council would be considered for mid-July.