

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL MINUTES**

The 497th meeting of the Council was held at 7.30pm (AEST) on Wednesday 10 September 2025 by Zoom videoconferencing.

Members present

1. Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop
2. Pro-Chancellor, Ms Alison Kitchen
3. Ms Padma Raman PSM
4. Ms Tanya Hosch
5. The Hon Wayne Martin
6. Mr Andrew Metcalfe AO
7. Professor Juliana Ng
8. Professor Lyndall Strazdins
9. Ms Megan Easton
10. Ms Brenna Barker-Lamb
11. Mr Will Burfoot
12. Dr Larry Marshall

Apologies

1. Mr Rob Whitfield AM
2. Professor Tony Connolly

Secretariat

1. University Secretary, Mr Phillip Tweedie

PART 1 – PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Announcements and Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed members and thanked them for attending this meeting at short notice.

*2 UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Chancellor provided Council with an update on recent developments.

- She had met with College Dean's and General Managers, other senior leaders across the University, representatives of the NTEU, TEQSA, Professor Christine Nixon, the ANU 'Governance Project' and the CEO of TEQSA.
- Distinguished Professor Bell has notified the Chancellor that she intends to resign her position pursuant to Section 61 of the Australian National University (Governance) Statute 2024.
- The Chancellor has held an initial discussion with the Provost Professor Brown about her willingness to become Interim Vice-Chancellor in accordance with section 37(a) of the Australian National University Act and section 59 of the Australian National University (Governance) Statute.
- The Chancellor discussed the proposed terms of Professor Bell's resignation as Vice-Chancellor.
- Legal advice on the proposed terms for Professor Bell's resignation was presented to Council.
- The advice stated that it would be appropriate for Council to endorse the terms proposed by the Chancellor for Professor Bell's resignation.

The Chancellor also provided a summary of the University's intended communications strategy, should Council endorse Professor Brown's appointment as interim Vice-Chancellor.

Resolved:

Council noted that

- the position of Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University (ANU), currently held by Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO will become vacant upon Professor Bell's resignation from the position, which the Council understands is imminent.
- the Council authorises the Chancellor to act in relation to Resolutions 1 to 5.

The Council resolves as following:

1. the Council authorises the Chancellor to engage in negotiations with Professor Bell in relation to the terms associated with her cessation as Vice Chancellor, with such terms being in accordance with the privileged legal advice provided by Clayton Utz to Council dated 10 September 2025 (**Resignation Advice**).
2. to the extent that the negotiations with Professor Bell result in terms that are outside of the scope of the Resignation Advice, the Chancellor shall seek authorisation from the Council by way of circular resolution to authorise her to agree to any different terms with Professor Bell.
3. in accordance with section 37(a) of the Australian National University Act and section 59 of the Australian National University (Governance) Statute, as well as Clause 6.3 of the Charter of the ANU Council, the Council approves the appointment of Professor Rebekah Brown, Provost and Senior Vice-President of the ANU, as Interim Vice-Chancellor of the ANU, with effect on and from Professor Bell's resignation, and until such time as a permanent replacement is appointed or such other time as deemed appropriate by Council.
4. [REDACTED]
5. upon being appointed to position of Interim Vice Chancellor, Professor Brown will cease to be a member of the specialist governance committee established to seek independent

advice on how the University should best respond to the allegations raised at the hearing in the Senate on 12 August 2025 and a replacement member of that committee shall be appointed by Council.

6. the Chancellor has the support of Council and expressly in relation to resolutions 1-5 above.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

