

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL MINUTES**

The 501st meeting of the Council was held at **5.00pm (AEDT) on Tuesday 24 February 2026** via video-conferencing.

Members present

1. Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop
2. Pro-Chancellor, Ms Alison Kitchen
3. Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rebekah Brown
4. Ms Padma Raman PSM
5. Professor Juliana Ng
6. Professor Lyndall Strazdins
7. Ms Megan Easton
8. Mr Guoqing (Bruce) Pan
9. Mr Charley Ellwood
10. Professor Alexander Mikheyev
11. Mr Rob Whitfield AM
12. The Hon Wayne Martin AC KC
13. Mr Andrew Metcalfe AO

Apologies

1. Ms Tanya Hosch
2. Dr Larry Marshall

In attendance

1. Professor Tony Connolly
2. Mr Tom Fletcher, Minter Ellison

Secretariat

1. University Secretary, Mr Phillip Tweedie

1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Announcements and Apologies

- The Chancellor thanked members for their availability for this meeting at short notice. She reported that:
 - Larry Marshall was unavoidably unavailable to join the meeting.
 - Padma Raman and Andrew Metcalfe needed to leave the meeting early due to prior commitments, and several other members needed to leave at 6pm
- Council noted that Professor Connolly's term as Academic Board Chair has recently ended but he has been asked to observe tonight as he is already familiar with the matters arising.

Disclosure of Material Personal Interest

- No members disclosed any interests in relation to items on the agenda.

Arrangement of Agenda

- The Chancellor noted that, due to the short agenda, no matters were proposed to be unstarred or re-arranged.
- There was one item raised for Other Business.

PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

2 SECTION 28 NOTICE AND SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT

- The Chancellor spoke to the papers which had been circulated and sought members feedback on the various amendments that had been made to the documents after the extensive discussion at the Council meeting on 18 February.
- Council noted:
 - Regarding the reference to a philanthropic campaign in the SAR:
 - As several members had spoken of their awareness of a \$1b philanthropic campaign being promoted by the then Vice-Chancellor, Council had asked for further investigation, which did not find sufficient documentary evidence for that figure. Council approved using the \$400m plus figure referred to in the expert consultant's More Report with reference to Item C25 "Fundraising and Engagement Performance Report" from Council's March 2023 meeting.
 - The changes made to the language to avoid any negative connotations to the University's Advancement function were agreed.
 - The inclusion of references to the pending ANAO report, the use of consultants, Professor Brown's activities since the original SAR.

Ms Padma Raman departed.

Resolved:

Council **approved** the updates to the TEQSA Section 28 Notice and Self-Assessment Report responses subject to final review by the Chancellor and IVC.

3 SECTION 63 NOTICE

- The Chancellor noted that the papers had been circulated and talked to the papers seeking members' feedback on the various amendments made to the draft response.
 - The Chancellor and interim Vice-Chancellor noted that several dates have been updated throughout the document to reflect the various conversations underway throughout January.
 - In discussion, Council noted:
 - There were still dates to be included in the draft, but that all material should be transmitted to TEQSA as soon as prepared.
- [REDACTED]
- That Stephen Howell's report should be given to TEQSA as soon as it was considered by Council and that it was a term of engagement and agreed by TEQSA that Ms Briggs would liaise with him. It was noted that Mr Howell has not yet been approached by TEQSA.

Resolved:

Council **noted** the TEQSA Section 63 Notice and that a final version would be provided for approval before submission.

Ms Alison Kitchen departed.

Professor Rebekah Brown excused herself from this item.

[REDACTED]

Mr Rob Whitfield, Mr Andrew Metcalfe and Mr Wayne Martin departed.

Professor Rebekah Brown returned.

5 ANTISEMITISM DEFINITION

- The Chancellor opened the discussion and noted:
 - The discussion held during the Council planning day, the contributions of Dr Finkel and the correspondence received from members of the University community.
 - The ongoing work of Dr Jillian Segal and the University report card to be finalised by Friday.
 - The growing expectations that the University will adopt a definition of antisemitism.
- In discussion, Council noted:
 - Agreement over most aspects of the preferred approach which was the adoption of Paragraph 1 of the Universities Australia definition.
 - That any adoption would be the first step, and that the Combatting Racism Task Force would advise on how best to use this definition within the University.
 - The excellent feedback provided during the Planning Day regarding the importance of ensuring that First Nations' voices are integrated into this work both at the University and further afield.
 - That a finalised text will be provided for Council approval via circular resolution.

Resolved:

Council **noted** discussions since its meeting of Wednesday 18 February regarding any potential adoption of a definition of antisemitism.

PART 3 – OTHER BUSINESS

6 OTHER BUSINESS

- The Chancellor noted that the Secretariat would seek to convene a meeting to discuss contingency planning following the finalisation of the TEQSA compliance assessment.
- No further items were raised of other business.

Resolved:

Council **considered** any other business raised.

7 NEXT MEETING

Council **noted** that the next scheduled meeting will be held on 24 April 2026.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm (AEDT)

The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor
The Australian National University

Date