

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 27 OCTOBER 2022

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Senators and attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted for Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Ross Fox, Chapter Nominee (ACT), Karl Morris AO, Chapter Nominee (QLD), The Hon. James Douglas QC, and Emily Ginis, Student Member.

2. Report from Chancellor

The Chancellor provided a summary of the events and meetings in which he had participated since the previous meeting, including:

- Lunch with Fr Dennis Holtschneider, Chancellor and Fr Anthony Casamento, Sydney;
- Farewell dinner in honour of Chancellor Mr Henry Smerdon AM DUniv (Griffith University), Brisbane;
- Thanksgiving Mass for Student Thomas Cullen - Master of Theological Studies (Liturgy), Brisbane;
- Duchesne College Academic Dinner & Awards Presentation, Brisbane;
- ACU Catherine McAuley Feast Day Mass, Brisbane;
- Naming of the Aunty Joan Hendriks Lecture Theatre, Brisbane;
- ACU Constitution Review Working Party Meeting #1, (Virtual);
- The Saint John Henry Newman Annual Symposium with keynote speaker, Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney speaking on the topic of 'Newman and the Religion of the Future', North Sydney;
- University Chancellors Council Meeting, Brisbane;
- National Conference on University Governance, Brisbane;
- ACU Constitutional Review - follow up; and
- ACU Constitution Review Working Party Meeting #2, (Virtual).

The Chancellor provided the following updates:

- The Constitutional Review Working Party has asked Senate to consider and provide feedback on the structure of Senate and opportunity to consider this would be provided during the Planning Session; and
- A special Anniversary Mass was taking place to mark the 125th Anniversary of Consecration of St Patrick's Cathedral. This was also the 175th Year of Anniversary for the Diocese. Delegates attended on the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor's behalf.

3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- ANMAC has determined that accreditation be granted for the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine programs for a period of 5 years without conditions.
- The Minister for Education has allocated 716 additional places at ACU to give people from under-represented backgrounds the chance to go to university and address skill shortages. The 716 places for domestic students will be created in areas experiencing skill shortages, including teaching, nursing, health, and commerce for students from disadvantaged, rural and First Nations backgrounds prioritised. The extra places, confirmed in Tuesday's federal budget, will be available progressively over next year (381 places) and in 2024 (335 places) across ACU's seven campuses and corresponds well to the new widening participation strategy;

- Minister for Education the Hon Jason Clare MP announced an independent review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001 and the ARC's role in best meeting the needs of the research sector. Pending the review, the Minister has instructed the ARC to discontinue preparation for the 2023 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and instead prioritise a modern data driven approach to ERA informed by expert review for implementation in 2024-2025. The ARC will provide a transition plan by the end of 2022 and the ARC review will be due in March 2023. There have also been indications that the "Universities Accord" process will commence later this year;
- Teach for Australia pilot program for NSW was launched on the ACU North Sydney Campus with NSW Premier the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, Education Minister, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Member for North Shore Felicity Wilson MP, and Teach for Australia (TFA) CEO Melodie Potts Rosevear OAM;
- Equity @ ACU Week ran from 10–14 October, to recognise and celebrate ACU's diverse community, and commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice. Events for staff and students ran throughout the week at all campuses;
- The 2022 Student Veteran Impact Award gala dinner was held on 18 October 2022 and recognised graduating ACU student veteran's exemplary and highly impactful contribution to the community;
- The Hon Matt Keogh MP. Minister for Veterans' Affairs visited Brisbane Campus;
- A Panel chaired by Professor Mary Ryan – Executive Dean, titled 'Crisis in Our Schools?';
- The Greg Craven Lecture on Ethics and Politics was held on 26 October 2022 in Melbourne. The Craven Lecture examines the ethical dimensions of politics and their practical implications for public policy.
- The latest in the Ethos: public ethics and the future of Australia series was held on 25 October in Melbourne and focused on 'What do workers want'. The Covid pandemic has changed work, and people's expectations of work have changed with it;
- In mid-August, ACU's newly appointed and emerging senior leaders gathered for the inaugural Ex Corde: Leading our Mission at ACU retreat. The retreat was led by staff from the Office of the Vice President, together with staff from La Salle Academy, School of Theology, and external panel members with experience in Catholic higher education. Staff discussed what it means to be an institution with a faith-based mission, what it means to be a Catholic university in the modern world and examined Ex Corde Ecclesiae in detail to determine ways staff in leadership roles can lead the mission in their work areas;
- Status of Enterprise Agreement negotiations; and
- The honour of being elected as President of the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities (SACRU).

Senate discussed:

- Philanthropic results;
- Status of the Enterprise Agreement negotiations;
- The 716 additional places at ACU;
- Positive result of ANMAC accreditation without conditions; and
- Universities Accord.

4. Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Biannual Performance Report 2022

The Vice-Chancellor and President provided a brief overview of the report and welcomed the Acting Director, Data Analytics and Strategic Insights. The Director provided an overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- There are six overarching pillars and 34 KPIs as presented in the Executive Summary. Each has a baseline and 2023 targets; and
- Of the 34 KPIs, 17 were meeting requirements, 22 were in tolerance and five were outside tolerance.

5. ACU Vision 2033

The Vice-Chancellor and President provided an overview of the ACU Vision 2033 and highlighted the following:

- Since submitting the report Phase 1 of the consultation process concluded which included engaged conversations on challenges, opportunities and how to address them;
- Nous Group has been engaged to facilitate initial consultation sessions and one-on-one interviews with senior management;
- Staff have been invited to provide feedback through a new website;
- The new Strategic Plan will be outcomes led with a clearer sense of how ACU is grounded in mission. KPIs will be aligned and helpful to understand the pulse of the mission; and
- Consultation feedback will inform the drafting of the white paper.

6. Report from Interim Provost

The Interim Provost provided a brief overview of the Report and highlighted the following:

- 2023 enrolment has opened predominantly for continued students;
- The recent Melbourne graduation included first graduates of ACU Online;
- Key dates for 2023 enrolment planning;
- A competency assessment of each course on each campus has been undertaken;
- There is a high demand for health courses and the change in accreditation is a positive outcome;
- There will be two new programs for 2023: Bachelor of Human Rights and Bachelor of Criminology; and
- ACU Widening Participation Plan 2023-2026 is under development. ACU is focused on ensuring equitable access, participation, and success in higher education for all. The Plan will proceed to Senate in December via Academic Board.

Senate:

- noted the submission of the Report from Interim Provost.

7. 2023 Budget

The Pro-Chancellor introduced the Chief Financial Officer and highlighted the following:

- Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) reviewed the 2023 Budget and endorsed 6 strategic areas as detailed in the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Investment Priorities. The budget sets out a forecast deficit of almost \$30m and there will be an active program focussed on revenue and expenditure management;
- Domestic student demand is down across the Sector and International student demand is slow to return across the Sector;
- Korda Mentha have been engaged by Management and have provided a proposal by on potential savings. A more detailed plan will proceed to next FRC meeting and proceed to Senate by circular resolution.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the 2023 Budget and highlighted the following:

- The sector has gone through a great deal of change with adverse impacts on revenue and expenditure;
- 25,000 places have been announced by Government with ACU gaining a portion of those;
- ACU are looking at ensuring a future balanced budget for the Recovery Transition Program;

Senate:

- discussed and noted the 2023 Budget with a view to approve via circular resolution.

8. Recovery Transition Program

The Chief Operating Officer (CFO) and Vice-Chancellor and President provided an overview of the Recovery Transition Program (RTP)

Senate:

- considered and noted the Recovery Transition Program.

9. Report from Academic Board

The Chair of Academic Board provided an overview of the Report of the Academic Board and noted Delegation was given to Academic Board to approve in existing disciplines.

The new course proposal for Bachelor of Human Rights; Bachelor of Human Rights / Bachelor of Laws; Bachelor of Human Rights / Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice was presented for approval.

Senate:

- approved the new course proposal for the Bachelor of Human Rights; Bachelor of Human Rights / Bachelor of Laws; Bachelor of Human Rights / Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice for implementation for Semester 1 2023, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR000383.
- noted the Digest of Academic Board meeting 05/2022, held on 15 September 2022.

10. Report of the Senate Standing Committee:

The Chair provided a brief overview of the report.

Senate:

- noted the Report from the Senate Standing Committee from its meeting of 07 October 2022;
- noted the Report of Corporation Membership; and
- noted the Report of Senate Membership.

11. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

The Secretary provided an overview of the Report of the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC).

Senate:

- noted the report from meeting 04/2022 of the Finance and Resources Committee, held on 10 October 2022.

12. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

The Secretary provided an overview of the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

Senate:

- noted the report from meeting 04/2022 of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 08 September 2022 and subsequent Circular Resolution (Internal Audits 2022) effective 28 September 2022.

13. Reports from State Chapters

Senate:

- noted the Report of the NSW State Chapter meeting of 27 July 2022.
- noted the Report of the Qld State Chapter meeting 16 August 2022; and
- noted the Report of the Victorian State Chapter meeting of 9 August 2022.