

## SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 28 APRIL 2022

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

In accordance with Clause 14.2 of the ACU Constitution the meeting was declared inquorate, and it was noted a circular resolution would be issued for voting items.

### 2. Report from Chancellor

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

- ACU Ballarat campus tour followed by stakeholder dinner, Ballarat;
- Melbourne stakeholder dinner, Melbourne;
- ACU Melbourne campus tour, Melbourne;
- Ethos, ACU's series of events about public ethics and the future of Australia;
- Queensland Irish Association St Patrick's Eve Dinner, Brisbane;
- Launch of The Health Professionals Guide to Delivering Psychological Care for Men with Prostate Cancer, Brisbane;
- Catholic Health Australia Board Dinner, Brisbane;
- Il sommo Poeta: A Commemoration of the 700th Anniversary of the Death of Dante Alighieri, North Sydney;
- ACU Graduation Ceremonies and Honorary Doctorate function for Sr Melissa Dwyer FdCC, Brisbane;
- Holy Spirit Seminary, Brisbane;
- ACU Canberra campus tour, Canberra;
- Dinner with His Excellency Abp. Charles Balvo, Nuncio and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Canberra;
- ACU Graduation Mass and Ceremony, Canberra;
- Dinner with Sir Peter Cosgrove, Sydney; and
- Bespoke Donor Appreciation Cocktail Function - Ancient Israel Program, North Sydney.

### 3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

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

- departing Senators in attendance: The Hon. Barbara Perry, Panel Nominee (NSW) and Dr Judith Norris, elected Academic Staff member, were acknowledged and thanked for their service to Senate and the University;
- first trip to Rome as Vice-Chancellor, which comprised meetings with senior church officials, diplomats and partner institutions; attendance at Gravissimus Educationes Pontifical Foundation Conference; and a visit to ACU's Rome Campus. Benefits of the campus and the upcoming campus activation were discussed;
- Whilst continuing execution of the ACU Strategic Plan 2020–2023, preparation for ACU's next strategic planning horizon has begun. A Green paper will come out after presentation to UCC and covers plans for consultation internally and externally. Benchmarked to industry practice, it is proposed the next strategic plan horizon will expand across ten years (i.e., 2024–2034) to enable ACU to move to a visionary and transformational long-range planning framework, underpinned by robust parameters and progressive KPIs;
- Commitment to Campus Developments per the report which highlights what is happening across campuses, particularly Rome Infrastructure, Melbourne Metabolic Chamber, Melbourne 'Topping Out', Canberra Student Accommodation, Ballarat Nursing Simulation Ward and Melbourne Drake House (re-location of Callinan Room and blessing);

- Together with the Italian Cultural Institute of Sydney and the Italian Consulate in Sydney, ACU hosted Il sommo Poeta, a symposium celebrating the 700th Anniversary of the death of Italy's most revered literary figure, Dante Alighieri. Over 100 people, including ACU's Chancellor and the Italian Consul General and Vice Consul General, attended the event;
- An appointment was made for the Professor of Healthy Ageing position; and
- An agreement has been signed with St Vincent's Institute to extend collaboration with ACU in health research, including the Melbourne Health precinct.

Senators discussed the following:

- Appreciation that Philanthropy remains a key priority and is on track to meet targets;
- Expected positive impact of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI ECTA) between India and Australia being signed.
- Congratulations in relation to the Appointment of a Professor of Healthy Ageing, the structure was discussed, and it was noted the role will be nested in the Faculty of Health Sciences working across the university's faculties and portfolios and directly with the Executive Dean of Health Sciences;
- Benefits of early career researchers leading research in faculties within ACU; and
- Opening of the Nursing Simulation Ward at Ballarat Campus, and the importance of committing to state-of-the-art facilities not just in cities but also in regional areas.

#### **4. Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Biannual Performance Report 2021**

The Director, Planning and Strategic Management provided an overview of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Biannual Performance Report 2021 and highlighted the following:

- the end of 2021 marked the mid-point of the ACU Strategic Plan 2020-2023. To measure progress against the six strategic priorities, a set of 33 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed for biannual monitoring of performance;
- Student success continues to outperform and surpass the target;
- ACU is Australia's leading tertiary institution for Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies, according to the 2022 QS World University Rankings by Subject. ACU was ranked 26th in the world for its theology discipline, placing first in Australia for the subject ranking ahead of the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney; and
- TEQSA renewal of registration continues to be a focus and overall ACU rates as a low risk on the headline categories.

Senators discussed the following:

- Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and participation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and how to provide better support;
- Strategy in relation to the proportion of HDR students, noting the proportion has increased;
- The work underway to improve the World University Ranking Strategy and the indicators that contribute to the overall score; and
- International enrolments are exceeding targets for Semester 1.

#### **5. Report from Interim Provost**

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

Senators discussed the following:

- ACU is establishing partnership opportunities with notable organisations such as NTT and Microsoft;
- Within the context of enrolments, the new Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice course has performed very well;
- The Diploma in Biomedical Sciences has performed well and is exceeding enrolment targets; and

- New pilot program is underway for higher ATAR students called AGILE has driven improved retention.

Senators discussed the following:

- Enrolments;
- ACU Online Pilot success; and
- Courses impacted by the Job Ready Program.

## **6. Report from the Chief Operating Officer**

The Chief Operating Officer provided a brief overview of the reports on the agenda under the Report from the Chief Operating Officer including;

- Naming Proposals;
- Melbourne Campus Development;
- Contract Execution Register;
- Minimum Insurance Requirements; and
- Work, Health and Safety Report Quarter 2021.

## **7. Report from Academic Board**

The Chair of Academic Board provided an overview of the Report of the Academic Board and spoke to the demonstration to of the ACU Online tools under development.

## **8. Report of the Senate Standing Committee:**

Dr Stephen Weller, Secretary to Corporation and Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief overview of Senate Standing Committee meeting and highlighted the following key discussion topics:

- Constitution Review Project;
- Statute 2.5 amendments;
- TEQSA Fit and Proper Persons Declaration; and
- Senator Independence;

## **9. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee**

The Secretary provided an overview of the Report of the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) and highlighted the Consultancy Expenditure Review and Analysis is reviewed by FRC and provided to Senate annually.

## **10. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee**

The Secretary provided an overview of the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and highlighted engagement of the new internal auditors is almost finalised and advice will be provided once a contract has been signed.

## **11. Reports from State Chapters**

The Reports from State Chapters were taken as read.

## **12. General Business**

Senators discussed the disestablishment of the Bachelor of Paramedicine in 2023.

The Chancellor acknowledged and thanked the departing Senators: The Hon. Barbara Perry, Panel Nominee (NSW), Dr Judith Norris, elected Academic Staff member and Bernadette Steele, former Panel Nominee (VIC).

Senators were reminded to register for a Director Identification Number and confirm with Dr Diane Barker, Director, Governance once registered.

Senators were advised the National Conference on University Governance has been rescheduled to 1-13 October 2022 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.