COUNCIL MEETING

Report of the Chancellor

The Chancellor welcomed Commissioner Michael Gay (GIC appointment) and Ms Margaret Burdeu (Ministerial appointment) to their first Council meeting.

Mr Michael Gay is a Commissioner of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission, Chair of the Electrical and Communications Industry Disputes Board and an Industrial and Governance Consultant. He has extensive international experience in Cambodia, China, Tanzania and Zanzibar. He is also one of La Trobe's Foundation students and has previously served on Council (1990, 1993-94).

Ms Burdeu is the Principle of Burds I-view, a consultancy working with government and not for profit sectors to renew their policies, strategies and engagement of partners and stakeholders. She has previously experience with international policy, food safety, social inclusion, medical education and the TAFE sector.

Council noted that Mr Michael Gay has agreed to join the Human Resources Committee and Ms Margaret Burdeu has agreed to join the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee.

The Chancellor advised that since the last meeting he has participated in a number of university events, including:

- regional Graduation Ceremonies in Shepparton, Albury Wodonga, Mildura and Bendigo
- his Installation ceremony in Bendigo (27/4)
- the Ideas and Society event with The Hon. Paul Keating – 'our role in Asia in the Trump era'.

The Chancellor thanked the Deputy Chancellors for their assistance with the regional graduations and noted these events were well attended and very important to the regional students and their local communities.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- the Higher Education Reform Package, if legislated, will lead to a $2.8 billion funding reduction from 2017-18 to 2020-21, across the sector
- an efficiency dividend will be applied to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS); 2.5% in 2018 and 2.5% in 2019
- student fees will be increased and phased in (1.8% in 2018 to 7.5% in 2021) and the HELP repayment threshold will be lowered to $42,000
- the demand driven system will be opened to approved sub-bachelor places
- 7.5% of universities CGS funding may be linked to institutional performance metrics, which have not yet been determined. This has the potential to impact up to $50 million over the next four years.

Regional Strategy Update

Council were advised that:

- new regional products for 2017 include Primary and Secondary Education, Psychology Honours and Agribusiness. The Agribusiness course is primarily designed to focus on the business side of agriculture and will be taught in block modes at multiple campuses

- the suite of Engineering courses launched in Bendigo in 2016 was not as well received as expected. Further development is underway with the newly appointed Head of School, Engineering
- the proposed introduction of higher ATAR entry scores (70) for undergraduate teaching may act as an additional disincentive for rural students, and is thought to be a contributing factor in the low student load for Education in 2017
- the first GOtafe nursing students have completed their diploma stage and 33 of 66 students have chosen to continue their studies at La Trobe
- a review of completion data and graduate destination survey data has shown that between 2006-15 50% of regional students started work in their local region and 71% started work in regional Victoria.

Council noted the sudden death of a prominent student at the Albury-Wodonga campus early in 2017 and commended the staff for their outstanding support of the students affected by this loss. Council **noted** the report.

PVC College ASSC Portfolio Report

Council were advised:

- there have been a number of high calibre senior appointments made in 2016, which has improved the College's research and teaching performance
- research income per capita is up 17% from 2014 and publications per capita is up 65%
- there has been a drop in student load for Education, in part due to changes in regulatory and entry requirements. The College will look to reposition the School of Education to develop growth in areas such as STEM and Postgraduate courses
- there is a College wide focus on improving teaching quality and the student experience, improving retention and embedding career ready.

PVC College SHE Portfolio Report

Council were advised:

- student enrolments for some courses, such as Nursing, are at capacity (in terms of clinical placements)
- the College has made a number of new level D&E recruitments and shown a strong research performance in 2016
- the College is implementing a number of measures in 2017 to increase student retention and improve the student experience.

Council congratulated Professor Pike on his appointment as PVC SHE and **noted** the report.

Employability Action Plan Update

Council were advised:

- the Employability Program is delivering five projects, each with multiple streams of work (LTU Advantage, Industry, Careers Centre, Employability Curriculum and Unitemps)
- Career Ready Advantage is available in the new MyLaTrobe app and allows students to access Career Ready activities, view events and employment opportunities and track their progress on a personalised dashboard. With minor marketing and promotion the app has already received

over 2000 downloads. A strong communication strategy is in place for the next version of the app, which will offer additional Career ready functionality.

- the Career Ready team have increased their visibility and student support with a presence now on Level 2 of the Agora and a new Employer Engagement team. In the first quarter of 2017 over 2000 students engaged with the Career Ready team, which is almost double the engagement numbers of the previous year's first quarter.

TEQSA Standards Update

Council were provided with a progress update on the TEQSA Standards.

Finance and Resources Committee Report to Council

Council**:**

- **noted** the Report of the Finance & Resources Committee from its meeting on 26 April 2017
- **approved** two clarifications to Council's agreement regarding the establishment of a separate company to manage the Unitemps business
- **noted** the Financial Management Report as at 31 March 2017.

Foundation Committee Report to Council

Council:

- **noted** the report of the meeting held on 10 April 2017
- **approved** the revised Terms of Reference.

Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee

Council **noted** the Report of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee meeting held on 21 April 2017.