

Implementation of the Education Legislation Amendment Governance Act 2012

The Chancellor led a discussion on this issue, following the passing of the legislation at the end of 2012.

During discussions the following issues were raised:

- Members noted that several meetings had taken place since the last Council meeting to discuss the implementation of the legislation, including meetings with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, the President and General Secretary of the Student Union, NTEU representatives and staff members, the Victorian Chancellors group and a special meeting of the Human Resources Committee of Council;
- Mr Andrew Eddy, the Chair of the Human Resources Committee confirmed that the group believed that the current Council composition of 5 Council appointees/4 Governor in Council appointees/1 Ministerial appointee/3 ex officio members – Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Academic Board, could adequately fulfil the requirements of the La Trobe University Act. Further the Council sub committees membership would include all the skills currently required;
- It was noted that the Committee had considered whether a smaller Council could adequately discharge the responsibilities set out in the Act, the Committee had agreed that the Council should remain at its current size at this stage;
- The Chancellor confirmed that she had raised the issue of Council members remuneration with the Minister, for the second time and he had responded that this matter was currently under consideration;
- Members noted the tabled letter from the Minister, which raised two points: (1) The Universities in considering implementation of the legislation must focus on skills based appointments (2) The Ministers appointments were optional for Councils to retain;
- It was agreed that as future vacancies arise, the Council (through the Human Resources Planning Committee) would identify skills required. The Council would then canvas widely through the Government (the Government undertakes periodic general public advertising for Council members for all Victorian Universities), through current Council members' contacts and across the University community. All staff and students would be eligible and potentially appointable to the Council, providing their skills and experience fit within the requirements identified for the vacant position.
- The Chancellor confirmed that the Human Resources Committee had considered the terms of office of all current Council members. At present, half of the members terms of office finish on the same date and many of the remaining members, a year later. The new legislation allows the Council to redefine terms for each member to enable smooth transitions, and this will be considered at a future meeting of the Committee;
- The Chancellor confirmed that the plan outlined by Clare Keys-Lily, the past President of the Student Union, at the December 2012 meeting of Council, has been accepted by the incoming President, Chris Wheeler. The first meeting of the Student Consultative Committee of Council will be held on 6 March 2013. The Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor have held meetings with Chris Wheeler in advance of the first Consultative Committee;
- It was also noted that the Vice-Chancellor is currently reviewing staff inputs into University governance. The report from this review will identify any gaps or opportunities for further developing this process;
- The Vice-Chancellor has also been asked to review the mechanisms for support of and input from the Indigenous community to the planning and governance of the University.

Council **approved** the current membership of the La Trobe University Council for 2013, as follows:

- 3 ex officio members – Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Academic Board
- 5 Council appointed members
- 4 Governor in Council members
- 1 Ministerial appointed member

Council **noted** that discussions regarding future composition of the Council, terms of office of current members, future input mechanisms for students and staff and the finalisation of processes for filling future vacancies on Council, are a work in progress. The Human Resources Planning Committee of Council will continue to consider these issues and report back to the Council at a future meeting. In the meantime the Chancellor will discuss with current members their preferred terms of office.

Re-appointment of the Deputy Chancellor

All members unanimously **approved** the re-appointment of Professor John McKenzie as Deputy Chancellor for the period as stated.

Chancellors Report

The Chancellor offered a verbal report, highlighting recent events of interest since the last meeting.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to many issues including:

- The Base Funding Review
- The University's recent success in the ERA results
- Student enrolments
- Update on the HUSS OCIS process
- Update on the TAFE position
- Bendigo Bank Scholarship Scheme

Report of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee of Council

Council received the report from the December 2012 meeting of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee of Council particularly discussing the Divestment of the Central Victorian Innovation Park – Bendigo.

First Draft (unaudited) – 2012 Annual Financial Report

Council noted the first draft (unaudited) of the 2012 Annual Financial Report **and** the first draft of the 2012 Annual Financial Reports of the La Trobe University Subsidiary Entities.

Council was asked to provide written feedback for consideration, and where necessary inclusion, into the second draft (audited) of the 2012 Annual Financial Report (noting that an updated report will be provided to the FRC on 18 February).

Contract Signing Delegation

Council **approved** the Instrument of Delegation No.3 of 2012 (Contract Signing Delegations) and the Instrument of Delegation No.4 of 2012 (Graduation Fees). Noting that the only changes from the previous delegation listing are the titles. The seniority and level of delegations has not changed.

University Legislation (general amendments) Statute 2012

Council approved the University Legislation (General Amendments) Statute noting that the only major change was to include the power to enforce all “No Smoking” signs around the University.

ICT Presentation to Council

Mr Ged Doyle attended the meeting to make a presentation to Council in relation to ICT issues at the University.

The following issues were raised during the presentation:

- The University is about to be awarded a top name domain name worldwide, which should result in improved branding and revenue generation opportunities for the University;
- Much work has been done to improve and enlarge storage opportunities for the University;
- There has been extensive engagement with the University community whilst re-building the ICT infrastructure across the institution;
- There is an aspirational target for 80% of all University processes to be conducted without human contact;
- One of the prime focuses for the University at present is to implement an online enrolment system as quickly as possible;
- Members noted that “integrated learning” will be discussed in detail at the Council Retreat in April of this year;
- It was noted that a 5 year strategy for ICT is currently in development and this will be brought back to the Council later in the year.

Future Student Interaction with Council

The Chancellor welcomed Mr Chris Wheeler, President of the Student Union and Mr Nathan Robertson, General Secretary of the Student Union to the meeting for this item to discuss future student interaction with Council.

Mr Wheeler confirmed that all students would be encouraged to bring issues to the Student Consultative Committee and that to date the student body was enthusiastic about the proposed way forward for student interaction with Council.

The Chancellor confirmed that student input into decision making at all levels was of great importance and that the Council sees the work of the Student Consultative Committee as a great

opportunity for the Council to be informed about students concerns and issues and looks forward to a productive and informative two-way relationship between the Council and the student body.

Recognition of the contribution of staff and student representatives on the Council during 2012

The Chancellor, thanked all the previous staff and student representatives on the University Council in 2012 for their input and involvement with the University Council and in recognition of this presented those in attendance (Professor Marilyn Anderson and Ms Joane Jonathan) with a gift from the Council and welcomed them to a special dinner following the meeting. Thanks were also recorded for Mr Adrian McMillan, Dr Adrian Jones and Ms Nellie Green.