

COUNCIL MEETING**Report of the Chancellor**

The Chancellor advised he has participated at the following events since the last Council meeting:

- the John Furphy Memorial Lecture (25 Oct) – the guest speaker was Mr Mathew Richardson who spoke about “How Minds Began: Classical Evolutionary Insights that Escaped Darwin and Dawkins.” The event also saw the launch of Mr John Barnes book “La Trobe: traveller, writer, governor”. There was once again very strong support for the event from the Shepparton community
- the Kevin Rudd lecture on ‘China’s Rise and a New World Order’ (26 Oct) – this lecture was facilitated by Professor Nick Bisley (Executive Director La Trobe Asia) and included presentations from Mr Kevin Rudd (26th Prime Minister) and Linda Jakobson (CEO of China Matters).

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- La Trobe University geneticist and Distinguished Professor Jenny Graves AO has been awarded Australia’s most prestigious science prize, the \$250,000 Prime Minister’s Prize for Science. Professor Graves is the first La Trobe academic, and the first woman, to be individually recognised by this prize
- La Trobe University is participating in the first autonomous (driverless) bus trial in Victoria. The trial is a collaboration between the University VicRoads, transport provider Keolis Downer, technology company HMI, the RACV, and the Australian Road Research Board. The trial will collect data on how driverless technology works and how it can be best developed and implemented. This partnership was brought about by the Industry and Engagement Team and is an outstanding achievement within a short timeframe
- a response has been sought from Darebin Council regarding their interest in purchasing the Strathallan Golf Club land
- La Trobe has received \$16.7m in research income from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), a significant improvement on last year (\$6.4m). This growth was across all schools engaged in health related research
- results for the 2018 ARC grants are disappointing, with only a 5% success rate. Management will forensically analyse the results to see what areas need to be strengthened for next year.

VP Administration Portfolio Report

The VP Administration spoke to this item and advised:

- VTAC (late pop pol) results indicate La Trobe has held its first preference market share and first preferences are up on last year
- the Brand awareness campaign has seen a 12% increase in awareness of La Trobe since its launch in June
- La Trobe’s Net Promoter Score (willingness of customers to recommend a company’s services) was -4.4 last year and is now +2.5. This information is gathered quarterly and is a good indication that student satisfaction levels are improving

- management are analysing how scholarships (Vice-Chancellor's Excellence scholarships in particular) are managed to ensure there is increased monitoring and consideration of the financial implications
- the focus for 2018 will continue to be on improving the student experience, staff experience and the underlying stability of the university.

Council **noted** the report.

PVC College ASSC Portfolio Update

The PVCC ASSC spoke to this item and advised:

- the Law School has seen an increase in student load for 2017, with a 3% growth in international student numbers
- student retention continues to be an area of focus, with targeted approaches for low performing students
- satisfaction levels with the MBA are improving, with significant changes to the curriculum and increased promotion (Council were advised a report has been prepared on the MBA and will be circulated to Council members for information)
- priorities for 2018 include improving teaching quality and the student experience, improving research performance and addressing underperformance in the College.

Council **noted** the report.

Confucius Center Update and Influence of the People's Republic of China

Council:

- **noted** the Issues and Risk Paper
- **noted** the La Trobe Confucius Institute (LTCI) Report for 2017; and **approved:**
 - the LTCI reporting annually to Council
 - a review of the LTCI being conducted in 2019.

Academic Board Report to Council

Council **noted:**

- the Academic Board report to Council from a meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2017
- that the following policies were approved by the Board:
 - Graduate Research Candidature Policy and Procedure
 - Graduate Research Progress Policy and Procedure
- that the following policies were rescinded by the Board:
 - Conditions of Candidature for Higher Degrees by Research Policy
 - Higher Degrees by Research Milestones, Reporting and Confirmation of Candidature Policy
 - Research Progress Panels Policy.

Council noted it would be useful for Academic Board to hold a discussion regarding La Trobe's ARC results and suggested the Chair Academic Board and DVC (R) speak offline about how this might best be managed.

Finance and Resources Committee Report to Council

Council **noted:**

- the minutes of the FRC meeting of 25 October and 2 November
- the Financial Management Report as at 30 September 2017
- the Commercial Activities Register.

Council noted this was Ms Perri's last Council meeting as Acting CFO and recorded a formal vote of thanks for her hard work and dedication during this period.

Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee (20 Oct)

Council **noted** the minutes of the IEPC meeting held on 20 October 2017.

Foundation Committee (11 Oct)

Council:

- **noted** the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017
- **approved** the appointment of Ms Clare Pullar for a term commencing 16 October 2017 to 31 December 2019.

Correspondance

Council noted the open letter from the NTEU (10/11) tabled at the meeting and were advised:

- the Enterprise Bargaining Team continues to negotiate with the NTEU. Progress updates from these meetings are regularly communicated to staff
- a number of universities have moved to a simplified agreement, to improve ease of understanding and increase clarity for staff; the NTEU has agreed to this approach.

Council highlighted the importance of reaching an EBA that acts in the best interest of the university as a whole, including staff and students, and recognises the challenges of the changing education environment. Council noted a letter of response would be circulated for information and they will continue to be briefed on the situation