

COUNCIL MEETING

Report of the Chancellor

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

- induction session with elected student Council member, Mr Dean D'Angelo
- University Blues Awards night - which recognised the outstanding sporting performances of La Trobe's elite student athletes (23/11)
- Soundvision (18/11) – this was a very successful afternoon, although the heavy rainfall slightly reduced attendance numbers
- a meeting with Darebin Mayor Kim Le Cerf, Mr Colin Brooks MP and La Trobe's Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor has been arranged (at their request) to discuss the Strathallan Golf Course (20/12).

On behalf of the University Council, the Chancellor formally thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Executive Team and the Council secretary for their hard work and support of the Council throughout 2017. The Chancellor also acknowledged the substantial contributions of Council members during the year, recognising that while there were a number of significant challenges, the growth year-on-year for 2017 is a remarkable achievement.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- with the Government unable to secure support for the *Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment* it is expected that Minister Birmingham will now identify savings from the higher education portfolio that do not require legislative approval. Management are modelling the financial impacts of a range of possible proposals and will keep Council informed of developments
- the cadence economics report (Appendix B of Regional Portfolio Report – Item 6) will be retitled to reflect that it reports on the economic impact of graduates in the regions, not the impact of the regional campuses in the regions. The findings of this report highlight just how important graduates are to the regional economy
- management are close to appointing a new Dean of the Business School. Council will be informed of the appointment once negotiations are finalised.

PVC Regional Portfolio Report

The PVC Regional spoke to this item and advised:

- in 2015 La Trobe's 946 graduates entering the regional workforce boosted Victoria's Gross Regional Product by around \$100million
- regional graduate jobs are predominantly in health, education, business and commerce
- new regional courses for 2018 include Bachelor Sports Management and Bachelor Science (Albury Wodonga), Bachelor Biomedical Science and Bachelor Criminology (Bendigo).

Council **noted** the report and requested further information on the research being undertaken at the regional campuses. An update on the Regional Research Strategy will be provided to Council early in the new year.

2018-2020 Budget

Council **approved** the 2018-2020 La Trobe University Budget and acknowledged the hard work of the CFO and Finance team, specifically Ms Marina Perri, in developing this Budget.

Academic Board Report to Council

Council **noted**:

- the Academic Board report to Council from a meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2017
- that the following policies were approved by the Board:
 - Admissions Policy
 - Advanced Standing Policy
 - Student Involuntary Medical Leave Policy
 - Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy
 - Research Integrity Policy
 - Graduate Research and RTP Policy.

Finance and Resources Committee Report to Council

Council:

- **noted** the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee from its meeting on 29 November 2017
- **noted** the Financial Management Report as at 31 October 2017
- **approved** the 2018 Non-academic Prices, Fees & Charges for departments that have increased above CPI
- **approved** the inclusion of Senior Directors as a pre-approved band level.

Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee (20 Oct)

Council **noted** the minutes of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee meeting held on 24 November 2017.

Corporate Governance Audit and Risk Committee (22 Nov)

Council:

- RMS have been appointed on behalf of the Auditor-General to perform the external audit of the University. They have advised there are no specific issues/reviews required
- management is making good progress to embed risk management practices into operations, including reviewing and updating processes as required
- the internal audit of La Trobe's Cyber Vulnerability highlighted the need for improved practices around data storage and patch management. Management are actioning this
- no new issues were flagged in the OHS report

Council **noted** the report.

TEQSA Standards alignment Report

Council **noted** the report.

MBA Overview

Council **noted** the report.

