

**COUNCIL MEETING****Report of the Chancellor**

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

- the Vice-Chancellor's Golf Day (5/3) –this fundraising event was very successful, raising approx. \$90,000
- the inaugural Graduation ceremony at the Sydney campus (26/3).

**Report of the Vice-Chancellor**

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- negotiations with the University of Melbourne for the revised rural Medical School proposal are continuing with the initial proposal received favorably by the Government. The proposal involves a pathway from La Trobe's Bachelor of Biomedicine in Bendigo to the University of Melbourne's Doctor of Medicine (MD) program in Shepparton. Management noted it will be important to have alternative post-graduate options available for students who do not proceed to the MD program
- Professor Nick Bisley has been appointed as Head of School – Humanities and Social Sciences. This appointment will result in Professor Bisley stepping away from his role at La Trobe Asia; recruitment for a new executive director will commence shortly
- Professor Jane Hamilton has been appointed as Head of School – La Trobe Business School. Professor Hamilton is a Professor of Accounting, holding a PhD from Monash and Masters from the University of New England. She has worked at La Trobe's Bendigo campus since 1989 and will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to this important position

**Future Ready Final Report 2017**

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- this report is the final report against the previous strategic plan, *Future Ready*
- the University has increased in scale and student load has increased
- research income and productivity has increased and La Trobe is now ranked higher than ever across key rankings.

Council noted that in comparison to the 2011 statistics significant improvements have been made.

It was noted that the University continues to face challenges increasing student numbers in a competitive operating environment. Council requested a discussion paper on this topic be included in the June Strategy Session.

**Research Portfolio Report**

Council were advised:

- La Trobe has seen strong progress since the last report, including improvements in most of our rankings (301 in ARWU), growth in research income and growth in publications (a 10-15% increase on previous year)
- the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre partnership with CSIRO was disestablished in February 2018. This has caused some interest within the local community, however the

separation was amicable and a memorandum of understanding is currently under negotiation with CSIRO for a more flexible partnership

- the ERA submission process is going well this year, with improvement in the quality of applications. The inaugural Engagement and Impact Assessment will be completed in June 2018 and results will be available around April 2019.

Council **noted** the DVC Research Portfolio Report and congratulated the Research Office on a detailed and informative report.

### **Major Grants Success Strategies**

Council were advised that:

- while La Trobe's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) results in 2017 were fantastic, our Australian Research Council (ARC) results were disappointing
- there were a number of factors that contributed to the disappointing ARC results, including:
  - under-developed projects
  - competing workload demands
  - lack of awareness of the support services available from the Research Office
  - lack of awareness of what was required to put together a competitive application
- to combat these factors, the Research Office plans to institute two compulsory quality-control stages in the process (Expression of Interest and Internal Expert Peer Review). This will give applicants an opportunity to receive objective feedback and refine their applications prior to submission.

Council **noted** the report.

### **Ombudsman Annual Report**

The University Ombudsman advised:

- the Ombudsman office received and dealt with 264 contacts in 2017, a slight increase (8%) on last year
- International Students are responsible for 43% of contacts with the office (38% excluding Letters of Release) and it is still unclear why the proportion is so high
- the School of Life Science shows a high number of contacts, however this is simply due to the large number of degree programs which are allocated to the school
- in 2014 nearly 45% of cases were regarding administrative matters, this is now reduced to 8%, which indicates significant improvement in service levels.

Council noted the Ombudsman meets regularly with the Head of Student Complaints, the Student Advocacy Group and staff from 'Speak Up' to identify 'hot spots' and areas of concern. International student Release Letters continue to be common complaint and the Ombudsman is working with the International Office to improve potential students awareness of the criteria for release prior to them accepting an offer to study. Council **noted** the Ombudsman annual report.

### **Digital Learning Strategy Evaluation Report**

The following was discussed:

- historically there has been a fragmented approach to Digital Learning, with the parallel development of the Digital Learning Strategy and La Trobe Online leading to inefficiencies. One of the first tasks of the PVC Learning, Quality and Teaching is to bring La Trobe Online into business as usual

- a Teaching Quality Taskforce has been established. This is a small group that meets with a range of cohorts i.e. Business School, Nursing Students to get their thoughts and views on teaching and learning
- the Learning and Teaching Plan will provide clear direction over the next 5 years
- the PVC Student Success is a new portfolio. It includes components from Teaching and Learning and the PVC Student Success will undertake a review of what other areas could be better facilitated within this portfolio
- the PVC Students Success has three main objectives; Employability and Industry Engagement – while Career Ready has been successful, it now needs to be embedded deeper into the curriculum; Student Support – developing a connected and responsive approach to student support that is nuanced to each campus; Orientation and Transition – ensuring the services La Trobe provides throughout the student life cycle (on-boarding, study, transition to work) are the best possible
- in recognition of the importance of ASK La Trobe an evaluation is being developed to ensure we are providing the best service possible.

Council **noted** the evaluation report.

### **School and Division Reviews**

Council **noted** the following Panel Review Reports and **approved** the Review Action Plans:

- Infrastructure and Operations
- School of Nursing and Midwifery
- La Trobe University Library Division
- Graduate Research School Division
- La Trobe Law School
- La Trobe Learning and Teaching Division.

Council noted the Policy for Reviews was amended towards the end of 2017, resulting in a backlog of reviews for this meeting. Council was advised that although there has been a delay in getting a number of these Action Plans to Council, work has progressed and in some cases is already complete.

### **Academic Board Report to Council (14 February and 14 March)**

Council **noted**:

- the Academic Board report from a meeting held on Wednesday, 14 Feb 2018
- that the following policies were approved by the Board:
  - Revised credit points and course structure policy
  - Assessment policy
  - Special consideration policy
  - Student transitional experience policy

Council **noted** the Academic Board report from a meeting held on Wednesday, 14 March 2018.

### **Human Resources Committee Report**

Council **noted** the report of the Human Resources Committee from the meeting of 26 February 2018.

**Corporate Governance Audit and Risk Committee Report**

Council **noted** the minutes of the CGARC meeting held on 23 February 2018.

**Finance and Resources Committee Report**

Council **noted**:

- the minutes of FRC from its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 28 March 2018
- the Financial management report as at 31 December 2017 and 28 February 2018

Council **approved** the immediate delivery of up to 600 beds as part of the Melbourne Campus Stage 1 Student Accommodation Project

**Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee Report**

Council **noted**:

- the minutes of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee meeting held on 26 March 2018
- that in relation to the Student Accommodation Project, IEPC:
  - endorsed the proposed location for new purpose-built student accommodation as part of the Melbourne Campus Stage 1 Student Accommodation Project;
  - agreed to recommend to Council (subject to endorsement from the Finance & Resources Committee) that it approve the business case for delivery of new student accommodation at the Melbourne and Bendigo campuses over multiple stages; and
  - agreed to recommend to Council (subject to endorsement from the Finance & Resources Committee) that it approve the immediate delivery of up to 600 new beds as part of the Melbourne Campus Stage 1 Student Accommodation Project
- that in relation to the Campus Redevelopment State Government Partnership, IEPC noted the exceptional strategic importance of the State Government and LTU partnership in relation to the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster initiatives, and requested management to consider how it may appropriately resource the need for ongoing high level engagement.

**Correspondence**

Council **noted** the following correspondence:

- 20180309 – Letter from P.Roberts re Strathallan Golf Club