

UTS Council meeting report

25 November 2020

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 25 November 2020 meeting.

**The Report structure replicates the flow of the agenda.*

Strategic items of business

DVC International strategic briefing

Council discussed the past year's performance and UTS' international engagement. A number of key performance indicators were outlined that reflected the negative impact of the pandemic on international admissions and revenue. The results, while below target, are better than would have been the case were it not for the outstanding work of UTS faculties to adapt and switch to delivering programs remotely.

The UTS International Strategy is in the process of being refreshed to take account of current circumstances. New opportunities are being explored, including the development of new products, new marketing channels and new partnerships.

Research Strategy and Annual Strategic Briefing

Council discussed the pan university approach to creating sustainability and distinction in the University's research endeavour. Critical elements supporting this objective include building on our institutional distinctiveness and creating a robust and sustainable business model for research that is operable across the entire University.

Council further discussed the approach the Research division is taking to embedding systemic processes and language to frame and describe impact and create distinctiveness across UTS. The 2021 priorities were outlined and Council discussed elements including: alignment of research capability within the research lifecycle; defining distinctiveness and differentiation; resilient strategic partnerships; revenue generation; and creating impact pathways.

Enhancing understanding across the University of research project costs and providing tools to be used to increase this capability across the research community is an area of priority. Another area of focus is increasing understanding of how research can assist to drive revenue not just reputation. Council was pleased to note the increase in research revenue and publications over the last year.

Fit for 2027 Blueprint

The Provost provided Council with an update on the Fit for 2027 Blueprint. The Fit for 2027 Blueprint has been developed to guide the change required across UTS to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, and support the University's UTS 2027 Strategy.

Council discussed the consultation and feedback process, noting that the process had not concluded yet. The Provost outlined the broad acceptance and general understanding of the need for change across the University, particularly in relation to resource alignment and deployment.

Operations and performance

Report from the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor provides a report to each Council meeting containing updates on key developments and events that have occurred since Council's last meeting. Updates include; the implementation progress of the UTS 2027 Strategy, State and Federal Government issues, updates regarding the university sector and internal matters, particularly achievements and awards.

Council noted the appointment of Professor James Wallman as the new Dean of the Faculty of Science.

The Vice-Chancellor discussed the NSW State budget and implications for universities.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor provided Council with updates on a number of UTS projects and initiatives including: the Sydney Innovation and Technology Precinct; the TAFE Year 13 Engineering Pathway Program; and the Sydney Quantum Academy.

Council was pleased to note that the University had been awarded two prizes from the Master Builders Association for Building 2. Congratulations were extended to the DVC Resources and his team. Council also extended its congratulations to Eureka Prize recipients.

Reports from committees

Council has a number of sub committees, whose membership have particular expertise, to provide assistance and advice to Council on matters for Council consideration. These committees report back to Council.

Academic Board

The Chair highlighted the University's response and the agility of the response to the particular challenges associated with the pandemic in 2020. The Chair also indicated that an area of focus for Academic Board in 2021 would be further embedding quality in the areas appropriate to the remit of the Board to deliver upon the UTS 2027 Strategy.

Council expressed appreciation for Professor Gray's contribution, and acknowledged the reforms, innovations and achievements that that have occurred under her leadership of Academic Board.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee advises Council on matters relating to the Governance Framework, Policy, Rules, the UTS Act and Skills and Experience of Council.

Council discussed a number of policies for update and review as a result of moving forward with the principles underpinning the Unleash Project. Council approved the following: Child Protection Policy; Equity Inclusion and Respect Policy; Code of Conduct; and amendments to the Policy Framework.

Honorary Awards Committee

The Honorary Awards Committee recommends to Council, nominations for honorary awards according to the policy and procedures adopted by Council.

Council approved a number of honorary awards, including: emeritus professorships; honorary doctorates; fellows of the University; and distinguished service awards.

Items for approval

Council approved appointment to the Insearch Board.

Final 2021 meeting dates Council and Council Committees were also approved.

Items for noting

Council are provided papers for noting and include activity that has occurred between Council meetings.

- Chancellor's Report
- Use of Power of Attorney, University Seal and Executive Action

Other reports

- Work Health and Safety Standing Report
- Preliminary Student Admission and Enrolment Report
- Finance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Commercial Activities Committee
- Physical Infrastructure Committee

Dean's presentation

There was no presentation.