

UTS Council report

29 November 2023

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 29 November 2023 meeting.

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

Strategic items of business

2023 Strategic Briefing Overview

Council discussed the progress made in executing the UTS 2027 Strategy.. The assumptions when formulating the Strategic Plan were discussed, in the context of both the internal and external environmental factors that had impacted its execution particularly since 2020.

Council will re-assess the plan and initiatives at the Council Retreat to ensure that UTS is well-placed to deliver the required outcomes.

2024 UTS Corporate Plan

The University has developed a new suite of KPIs to report the University's performance to Council to better reflect strategically important performance areas. The new suite of performance indicators consisting of twenty Lag Indicators (with two indices) and eighteen Lead Indicators were discussed. Council approved the corporate Plan for 2024.

UTS 2024 Budget and Medium Term Finance Plan

Each year Council considers the Budget and the Finance Plan. The underlying assumptions, University performance and the environment are also considered in context of the Plan. Both the Budget for 2024 and the Finance Plan were approved.

Strategic Briefing – Student Experience

Council discussed the actions implemented to support the insights gained from the 2022 Student Experience Survey (SES), and internal data, to continuously improve student experience in each of the domains surveyed and, more broadly to achieve the Lifetime of Learning priorities.

The annual UTS Brand Tracking Survey was discussed. The University is establishing a *Distinctive Identity framework* to provide guidance on how to embed key attributes both internally and externally through our marketing and communications.

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.

The Vice-Chancellor provided further elaboration on some elements of his Report. The University response to the safety of people on University Campuses and the conflict in the Middle East were considered. The University's response continues to be in alignment with its commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression.speech.

The Universities Accord process was discussed, with the full report expected to be released in February 2024.

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, Academic Board, highlighted the Academic Forum with the theme: 'What is the role of a University in today's society? & How does this impact our academic mission?.'

The student presentation on GenAI was also discussed. The student perspective was very informative, including the ways that AI can increase inequality between students in relation to access to technology, and concerns about the impact of AI on mental health, wellbeing and privacy.

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.

Governance Committee

To fulfil a strategic governance role, the Governance Committee undertakes specific functions in regard to policy and general governance matters and advises Council on a number of matters.

Council approved changes to the Equity, Inclusion and Respect Policy; the UTS Foundation Charter; the change in approval authority for the Publishing on the UTS Website Policy and changes to the Honorary Titles and Awards Policy.

Items for approval

UTS Council regularly approves appointments to boards of Directors, committee membership changes and minor changes to governance instruments.

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

Dean's presentation

Council was joined by Professor Debra Anderson (Dean, Faculty of Health) for a presentation on the Faculty of Health.

Following the presentation, Council was invited to tour the Facilities of the Faculty.