The University of Queensland
Minutes of a Meeting of Senate held on 16 April 2019 at 5:30pm
in the Senate Room, Level 5 Brian Wilson Chancellery,
St Lucia Campus

Minutes confirmed by Senate on 30 May 2019

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Attendance

Present:
Mr P N Varghese AO (Chancellor), Ms T Dwyer (Deputy Chancellor),
Professor P Høj AC (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor P Adams,
Ms J Alroe, Associate Professor D Cavaye, Ms A Cross AM, Adjunct Associate
Professor D Dornan AO, Professor G Hainge, Mr P Hennessy AO,
Ms K Hirschfeld, Dr Z Hodge AM, Ms R Hurst, Mr G Murdoch, Dr S Pitkin,
Associate Professor T Roberts, Ms M Tredenick, and Mr Z Turner.

Apologies: Mr T Crommelin, Mr T Mackay, Mr J Merrick, and Ms C Wake.

In attendance:
Provost, Professor A Byrne; Chief Operating Officer, Mr G Pringle; Deputy Vice-
Chancellor (Academic), Professor J Wright; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research),
Professor B Harch; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), Mr R Li; Pro-
Vice-Chancellor, Professor T Dunne; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous
Engagement), Professor B Fredericks; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching &
Learning), Professor D Macdonald; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Advancement), Ms J
Karolson; General Counsel, Ms C Seeto; Chief Marketing and Communications
Officer, Ms K Robinson; and Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor,
Ms J Connah.

Secretary: Dr J Montgomery.

Observer: Ms G Millroy, UQ Union President.
1. Welcome and Apologies
The Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Mr Tim Crommelin, Mr Thomas Mackay, Mr Jamie Merrick, and Ms Cecile Wake.

2. Approval of items en bloc
Having provided Members with an opportunity to star any additional agenda items, it was resolved that Senate approve or note en bloc all items which were not starred.

3. Declaration of interests
Members’ interests as at April 2019 were circulated with the agenda. The Chancellor provided Members with an opportunity to advise of any changes to the interests circulated and none were made.

The Chancellor also provided Members with an opportunity to declare any perceived, potential, or actual conflict with any of the meeting agenda items and none were declared.

The following changes were noted –

Ms Julieanne Alroe
- ERM Power Ltd, appointed Chair, effective 1 March 2019

Adjunct Associate Professor Dimity Dornan AO
- Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, Fellow
- Speech Pathology Australia, Fellow

Dr Sally Pitkin
- UQ Holdings Pty Ltd, Non-Executive Director, resigned effective 28 February 2019

Mr Ziggy Turner
- St John's College, resident (from 19/02/2017) and employee (from 04/02/2018)
- UQ School Liaison (Domestic Student Recruitment), employee – effective 7/03/2018

4. Confirmation of the minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019, having been circulated, were confirmed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes
Matters arising from previous minutes were noted.

6. Correspondence received
A letter dated 18 March 2019 from the President of the King’s College Council advised that the College will become co-residential in 2020.
7. **Update from the Chancellor**

**Council for Advancement and Support of Education: Asia-Pacific Leadership Award**

On behalf of the Senate, the Chancellor congratulated Professor Peter Høj on receiving the Asia-Pacific Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), in recognition of his philanthropic leadership. CASE is the world’s peak group for higher education communications and philanthropy.

Professor Høj thanked Members but emphasised that the honour must be shared by many others at UQ for their dedicated work in building up a strong philanthropic presence at UQ. He particularly acknowledged the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Advancement, Ms Jen Karlson, for her part in bringing the 2019 CASE Asia-Pacific Advancement Conference to Brisbane, which is a first for Australia.

**Review of Freedom of Speech**

The Minister for Education announced earlier this month that a review undertaken by the Hon Robert French AC – *Report of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers* – had been released. The Minister urged universities to adopt the Model Code. The Senate agreed to wait until after the federal election before deciding on next steps.

**Outcomes from Governance Committee meeting**

The Chancellor mentioned two outcomes from the April Governance Committee meeting. The minutes were circulated with the agenda.

The annual review of the Senate Charter is underway. The Charter will be distributed and Members were encouraged to make suggestions.

A list of possible topics for discussion at future Senate meetings and at the retreat was listed in the minutes. Members were encouraged to make further suggestions.

8. **Vice-Chancellor and President’s Report**

The Vice-Chancellor’s Report to Senate and the UQ Latest News, which had been circulated with the agenda, were taken as read. Members were invited to comment.

The Vice-Chancellor provided further details at the meeting on:

**Weary Dunlop Medal awarded to Chancellor**

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the Chancellor on receiving the Weary Dunlop Medal at the Asialink Chairman’s dinner held in March 2019. The Medal is presented to an Australian who has shown long-term commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region and improving Australia-Asia relations.

**Diversification of Income**

The monitoring of performance in international student recruitment is ongoing. UQ is focussing on several countries in Asia, however, it was noted that these are long-term objectives as UQ fees are prohibitive for many students in emerging economies.
Student Hub
Plans for the proposed Student Hub are progressing more slowly than hoped for as the outcome of an application to grant the Schonell Theatre heritage status needs to be resolved. In the interim other performance space options are being explored.

Staff Engagement Survey
A staff engagement survey is planned for this year. It is anticipated that the reaction to efficiency drives, including the reorganisations of the HR and Finance areas may be reflected in the results.

Proposed Ramsay Centre
At the Senate meeting on 25 February 2019, the Senate authorised the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ramsay Centre provided that it is consistent with the University's policies and principles, including autonomy over the curriculum, academic appointments, academic freedom, and governance arrangements.

The Vice-Chancellor's Report to Senate outlined the steps taken since that meeting.

An all staff email was sent on 26 February 2019 to advise that the Senate had endorsed the negotiation of an MoU with Ramsay Centre subject to the provisions outlined above.

In early March 2019, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences hosted a series of meetings with the Ramsay Centre CEO and team.

Feedback was shared with all staff about the outcome of the consultation that took place in late-January through to mid-February.

The revised curriculum was discussed at the HASS Board of Studies meeting on 9 April 2019. The role of the Board of Studies is to advise the Executive Dean. It concluded that more work needed to be done on the curriculum before it could go to the Academic Board. The Executive Dean will consider either returning it to the Board of Studies for further consultation, or determine that the curriculum is ready to proceed to the next stage, which is submission of the curriculum to the Committee for Academic Programs Policy (CAPP), a committee of the Academic Board. Should CAPP recommend, it would then be considered by the Academic Board. The Academic Board advises the Vice-Chancellor and Senate.

It was acknowledged that is unlikely that unanimity would be reached, however the extent of dissent should be taken into account provided that the objections have academic merit and are not based on ideological differences. The final decision-maker on curricula is the Vice-Chancellor.

The reputational consequences to UQ were it not to proceed even if the conditions it had stipulated had been met were discussed. The process will continue in a considered and transparent manner, at the same time taking into account that the original goal was to offer the courses from 2020. A Member emphasised the importance of following the processes already in place for curriculum approval.
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Proposed UQ State High School

The Vice-Chancellor took Members through the timeline associated with this item. At the Senate meeting on 29 June 2017, the Vice-Chancellor had advised that the Minister for Education had contacted the University about a proposal to establish two new schools, one in partnership with UQ and one in partnership with QUT, and that the Minister’s office would work with UQ representatives to develop arrangements. Updates were provided in the Vice-Chancellor’s Report to Senate on 4 December 2017 and 26 February 2018. The UQ High School was referred to in the VC’s Dashboards for 19 April 2018, 28 June 2018, 6 September 2018, and 25 February 2019.

A proposed Memorandum of Understanding setting out the basis on which UQ would collaborate had been sent to the Government in September 2018 but no response had been received. From the outset UQ had emphasised that the school needed to be set up for success before the University would lend its name to it. Accordingly, a series of specific conditions had been proposed in the draft MoU.

On 9 April 2019, the Vice-Chancellor attended a meeting with the Department of Education and the Vice-Chancellor of QUT regarding the new State High Schools. The Government outlined a preference for the two schools to carry the names of QUT and UQ. There was some discussion about the preferred nomenclature for the schools, in particular that the universities felt that State High School was preferable to ‘College’ because of the use of the term ‘College’ for existing structures in the universities.

The Vice-Chancellors expressed a view that the QUT and UQ State High Schools would be the preferred names to recommend to the Minister, who would ultimately approve the names. A key term in allowing the use of the UQ name would be the ability of the University to revoke the right to use the name should there be reputational issues that would necessitate this.

The Government is driving the discussions about the School and it is possible that a request for sign-off might be forthcoming. Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor sought Senate’s guidance.

A discussion took place and the following points arose –

The University would be lending its name but would have no direct control. If UQ were to go ahead it would need to be on the basis of written assurances from the Government similar to those contained in the proposed MoU relating, for example, to school governance, the appointment of a principal, and assurances around curriculum and resourcing.

The possible risks and benefits were discussed. UQ has a School of Education which could help inform best practice and assist with the placement of student teachers as well as other allied health students, and provide research opportunities. It may also be of benefit for UQ to be connected to a school in order to study contemporary schooling at close hand.

The question was raised about the merits of university high schools in a broader sense, and whether UQ should be equally as engaged across all high schools in
Brisbane. Concern was expressed about whether the University had the appropriate expertise in secondary education.

The guidance which Senate provided to the Vice-Chancellor was that he should convey to the Government the reservations which Senate had and emphasise that if the issue moved quickly and in a way which required a decision, a number of written assurances would be required similar to, but preferably stronger than, those contained in the proposed MoU, before UQ could agree.

**Strategic Matters**

9. **Confucius Institute at the University of Queensland**

[Professor Ping Chen, Director of the UQ Confucius Institute, presented this item.]

Professor Chen spoke to his paper: *Report to UQ Senate Confucius Institute at the University of Queensland* which had been circulated with the agenda, and three reports from the United States Government Accountability Office and the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations were made available to Members.

It was noted that it is not necessary to register the UQ Confucius Institute under the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme (FITS) as the criteria necessary for registration were judged not to apply to it. The Institute has obtained legal advice to ensure that it complies with its obligations under the FITS and will continue to monitor its position and seek further advice as needed. Professor Chen informed Senate that, to the best of his knowledge, no other Australian-based Confucius Institute had registered under the FITS legislation.

The UQ-Haban Agreement is due for extension for another five or 10 year term. The contents and wording of the agreement are open to negotiation between the parties. It was agreed to discuss the agreement further at the May Senate meeting.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Ping for his presentation.

10. **Developing Students Digital Capabilities**

[Ms Caroline Williams (University Librarian) and Ms Kathleen Smeaton (Associate Director, Digital Scholars Hub, UQ Library) presented this item.]

Ms Williams introduced the presentation and Ms Smeaton spoke to the paper – *Developing Students Digital Capabilities* – which had been circulated with the agenda.

The modules are freely available on the website and the Media and Communications team and Advancement have been promoting it, including to alumni.

The Chancellor thanked the presenters for an informative presentation.
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**Academic Matters**

11. **Academic Board Annual Report 2018**
   The Academic Board Annual Report 2018 was noted.

**Governance Matters**

12. **UQ Annual Report 2018**
   The UQ Annual Report 2018, which had been tabled with the Queensland Parliament on 29 March 2019, was circulated and noted.

**Senate committee reports / minutes**

13. **Advancement Committee**
   The April 2019 Report from the Advancement Committee was noted.

   The Chair of the Advancement Committee reported that at the end of Q1 2019, 79% of the $500m campaign goal had been achieved with total of $396.1m funds raised.

   The Chair outlined a proposed scholarship funding initiative where funds will be matched by the Vice-Chancellor up to a certain amount. The scholarship will be announced in May and, until such time, the details will be kept confidential.

   A link to a video made for the *Not If, When Campaign to Create Change* will be sent to Members.

14. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
   The minutes of a meeting of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee held on 19 March 2019 were noted.

   The Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee referred to highlights from the March meeting.

   The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy 2019-2022 had been presented to the Committee for noting. The Strategy had undergone extensive consultation through all areas of the University. The Chair commended all who had been involved, and in particular the PVC (Indigenous Engagement), Professor Bronwyn Fredericks, Dr Dee Gibbons and Ms Jordan Tredinnick.

   The Committee had expressed an interest for the Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Unit and the Student Affairs Unit to present at Senate on diversity and inclusion. This will be scheduled as a topic for a future Senate meeting.

   The lack of visible messages of diversity and inclusion in the Senate room was raised. The Chancellor agreed and had understood that this was already in train. This will be followed up.

15. **Governance Committee**
   The minutes of a meeting of the Governance Committee held on 19 March 2019 were noted.
Other Matters for Noting

16. Senate report on litigation
   The Senate report on litigation was noted.

17. Senate Elections 2019 for Students
   The proposed dates, outlined in the agenda paper, for the Senate elections in 2019 for Students were noted.

18. Senate annual calendar
   The Senate annual calendar was noted.

19. Meeting dates 2019 and 2020
   The Senate meeting dates for 2019 and 2020 were provided and noted.