

Minutes Confirmed on 22 June 2021

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Attendance

Present: Mr P N Varghese AO (Chancellor), Ms T Dwyer (Deputy Chancellor), Professor D Terry AO (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor P Adams, Ms J Alroe, Associate Professor D Cavaye, Mr T Crommelin, Ms A Cross AM, Adjunct Professor D Dornan AO, Professor G Hainge, Mr P Hennessy AO (AVT), Ms R Hurst, Mr E Johnson, Professor B Lea, Mr R Lee, Mr G Murdoch, Adjunct Professor Dr S Pitkin AO, Ms G Starr, and Ms C Wake

(AVT – audio visual technology)

Apologies: Ms M Tredenick and Mr J Merrick

In attendance: Provost, Professor A Byrne; Acting Chief Operating Officer, Mr R Moffatt AM; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor J Wright; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), Mr R Li; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor T Dunne; Chief Financial Officer, Mr A Flannery; Deputy Academic Board President, Professor C Franklin; and Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Ms J Connah.

Observer: President UQ Union, Ms E Scott.

Secretary: Ms Jo Connah (acting).

The University of Queensland Senate Minutes: 20 May 2021

1. Acknowledgement of Country

On behalf of the Senate, the Chancellor acknowledged the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which the meeting took place, and paid respect to their Ancestors and their descendants.

2. Welcome and apologies

The Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Ms M Tredenick and Mr J Merrick

3. Requests for starring/ approval of items not starred

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.

4. Declaration of interests

Members' interests as at May 2021 were circulated with the agenda and **noted**.

The Chancellor provided Members with an opportunity to advise of any changes to the interests circulated and noted the following updates:

- Dr Sally Pitkin AO would step down from the Board of Chief Executive Women from 31 May 2021.
- Adjunct Professor Dimity Dornan AO updated the terms of the following appointments:
 - Fellow of Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, 2018 - current
 - Chair of Industry and Innovation Forum, Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering Dec 2020 – current
 - Speech Pathology Australia, Fellow, 1999 - current
- Professor Greg Hainge had been appointed as Head, School of Languages and Cultures, The University of Queensland, 3 May 2021
- Ms Beck Hurst:
 - National Councillor (Professional Staff) for the UQ Branch of the National Tertiary Education Union, 7 May 2021
 - The University of Queensland Joint Staff Consultative Committee, ad hoc Member, February 2021.

The Chancellor also provided Members with an opportunity to declare any perceived, potential, or actual conflict with any of the meeting agenda items.

5. Confirmation of Senate minutes 13 April 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2021, having been circulated, were **confirmed**.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters were noted.

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7. Update from the Chancellor

Following a selection process chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Ms Sarah Spencer had been appointed to the position of Senate Secretary.

The Chancellor had written to the State Minister for Education to provide recommendations for the Government in Council appointments for the next term of Senate. The Chancellor had requested an opportunity to meet with the Minister to discuss the nominations.

Members noted the limited outcomes for the higher education sector in the recently announced Federal Budget. The Chancellor expressed disappointment that the sector had not received stronger support at a time when it was facing significant pressures. Announcements regarding additional support for the commercialisation of research were anticipated later in the year. Members noted that the Budget assumption that borders would not open until the second part of 2022 would have a significant impact for universities.

8. Update from the Vice-Chancellor**Naming of Student Residences Project:**

Members noted that the development of the new Student Residences Project (SRP) was progressing well, with a topping out ceremony being held on 21 May 2021. The SRP was on track to open in 2022, which required the University to consider the building's naming to enable marketing to commence. The Vice-Chancellor noted the ongoing engagement with the Colleges as vital partners in delivering on-campus accommodation options for students.

Consideration had been given to a number of options for naming. Senate noted the two names being canvassed, pending additional consultation. It was proposed that a recommendation be made to Senate via circulating resolution, prior to engagement with the nominee or their family, as appropriate.

Schonell Theatre – Asbestos Finding

Members noted the Vice-Chancellor's update regarding the temporary closure of the Schonell Theatre and adjoining buildings due to the discovery of friable asbestos. An independent assessment of the asbestos in the building was undertaken, with the final report received on 12 May. Concurrently, an independent assessment was commissioned into the building's electrical infrastructure, with the final report issued on 13 May.

As a result of the assessments, the University has temporarily closed the Theatre and commissioned a full clean and decontamination of the building. It was anticipated that the required actions would take approximately six weeks to complete. The Vice-Chancellor noted the assistance of UQU in responding to the situation. The University's Chief Operating Officer held a town hall meeting with staff to provide a briefing. It was noted that the University was working collaboratively with UQU regarding the future of the complex.

Media Issue

The Vice-Chancellor provided a briefing to members of Senate regarding upcoming media coverage about the University's past handling of a student matter. A message to staff and students would be released and support would be made available to those who were impacted.

Members noted that TEQSA had previously confirmed that the University complied with threshold standards in the handling of the case. The University would release the recently completed independent review into student disciplinary processes and it was noted that a range of improvements to misconduct policy and associated processes were being implemented.

The Chair of the Senate Risk and Audit Committee invited members of Senate to attend the special session scheduled to discuss sexual misconduct.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the student had contributed to the development of the revised processes and documentation. The University was working with the colleges to harmonise processes and work together to address issues that emerge. Of key importance to the University was to ensure that students and staff felt confident to report issues for investigation.

Strategic Matters**9. Development of the UQ Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and UQ's Vision, Mission and Values**

Senate welcomed colleagues from the Planning and Business Intelligence team to the meeting. The session sought to obtain early input from Senate into the development of the University's next strategic plan. Strategy Jam sessions with staff had commenced, including sessions hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Sessions on research, engagement and workforce sustainability would be held in the coming weeks.

The Vice-Chancellor provided members with a briefing on some of the key context that would inform the plan, including the University's performance in rankings, research, student outcomes and enrolments, as well as organisational enablers.

During discussion, members explored opportunities for the University to consider in the development of the 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan. Members also discussed the University's Vision, Mission and Values, which were being reviewed alongside the development of the Strategic Plan.

It was noted that consultation and input was continuing through the Strategy Jam process. The outputs from the Jams would be discussed at the upcoming Senate retreat in August, where the ambitions for the next Strategic Plan would be refined.

Senate encouraged senior management to take the opportunity to consider bold ambitions for the Strategic Plan, to position the University for a future that would be markedly different.

Academic Matters**10. Update from the Academic Board President**

Professor Adams noted there were no items to report.

11. Appointment of the Academic Board President

The Deputy President left the meeting for this item. Members noted that nominations to fill the vacancy in the office of the President of the Academic Board for the term 2022 – 2023 closed on 30 April 2021. On 30 April, the Returning Officer advised that one nomination had been received, from the Deputy President, Professor Craig Franklin. Accordingly, no election will be held.

Pursuant to section 35A(2) of The University of Queensland Act 1998 (QLD),
Senate **resolved:**

to approve the appointment of Professor Craig Franklin as President of the Academic Board 2022 – 2023.

Financial/Operational Matters

No matters

Governance Matters

No matters

Senate Committee Reports**12. Advancement Report**

Members **noted** the report of Advancement Committee for the period 30 March – 11 May 2021.

Other Matters for Noting**13. UQ Significant Litigation Report**

The Significant Litigation Report dated May 2021 was **noted**.

14. Senate Annual Calendar

The Senate Annual Calendar was **noted**.

15. UQ Senate Meetings 2021-2022

The remaining UQ Senate meetings 2021-2022 were **noted**.