Minutes of Senate held on 27 June 2023
at 4:30pm in the Senate Room, Level 5
Brian Wilson Chancellery

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Attendance
Present: Mr P N Varghese AO (Chancellor), Professor D Terry AO (Vice-Chancellor and
President), Ms S Atkinson AO, Ms C Chalmers, Ms A Cross AM, Dr L Duffield, Ms E
Scott, Professor C Franklin, Professor G Hainge, HHJ N Jarro, Mr R Jones, Mr R Lee, Dr
M Naidoo, Adjunct Professor Dr S Pitkin AO, Ms C Wake and Dr D Willox.

Apologies: Ms T Dwyer (Deputy Chancellor), Ms J Alroe, Mr P Hennessy AO, Professor K
Lyons, and Mr G Murdoch.

In attendance: Provost, Professor A Byrne; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and
Innovation), Professor M Blows; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement),
Professor B Fredericks; Vice-President (Advancement & Community Engagement), Ms J
Karlson; Chief Financial Officer, Ms G Jukes; General Counsel, Ms C Seeto; Marketing
and Communication Officer, Ms K Robinson; and Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
and President, Ms J Connah.

Secretary: Ms S Spencer.
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 respects to their ancestors and their descendants.

   The Chancellor confirmed the Senate's ongoing commitment to the University’s Reconciliation Action Plan.

2. **Welcome and apologies**
   The Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Ms T Dwyer, Ms J Alroe, Mr P Hennessy AO, Professor K Lyons, and Mr G Murdoch.

3. **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.

4. **Declaration of interests**
   Members' interests for June 2023 were circulated with the agenda and noted. The Chancellor provided members with an opportunity to advise of any changes to the interests circulated; and provided an update on changes to interests for the members Ms A Cross, Ms E Scott, and Ms C Wake since the previous meeting.

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

5. **Confirmation of minutes**
   The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2023, having been circulated, were confirmed.

6. **Matters arising from previous Senate meeting**
   There were no new matters arising from the previous Senate meeting.

7. **Update from the Chancellor**
   The Chancellor provided an update to members, noting the below:
   - The Senate self-evaluation questionnaire had been circulated to members. The Chancellor strongly encouraged members to complete the questionnaire, noting that the responses will be drawn upon for discussion at the Senate Retreat in September.
   - This year’s Senate Retreat would be based on the themes of growth, community and student experience, and would include reflections on the University’s growth strategy, the Queensland Commitment, tripartite problem solving with government and industry, and the connection between size and the student experience. The Chancellor welcomed input from members into the agenda.
   - The Chancellor travelled to Vietnam in June, which coincided with the Prime Minister’s visit. This visit included a speaking engagement at Hanoi University and meetings on partnering opportunities.
   - The Chancellor had joined the organising committee for the 2024 University Chancellors Council Governance Conference which would be hosted in Melbourne.
   - Discussions were underway regarding the national interest in improving Asian literacy in Australian schools and universities. The Chancellor referenced research conducted by the Australian Academy of the Humanities on Australia’s China Knowledge Capability, that showed a declining capability in advanced knowledge in Asian literacy in Australia.
8. **Vice-Chancellor and President’s Report**

The Vice-Chancellor’s written report and dashboard reports were **noted**. Taking her reports as read, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items:

- The Vice-Chancellor and senior executives attended BIO23, the Biotechnology Innovation Technology International Convention, in Boston over 5 - 8 June 2023. During the visit, UQ announced a partnership with Emory University which would accelerate Queensland’s vaccine discovery and development capabilities. This would build on the collaboration between Sanofi and the Queensland Government announced last year.

- The Queensland State budget released on 13 June 2023 incorporated the $44m contribution to the Paralympic Centre of Excellence at UQ. A business case would now be developed to seek funding from the Commonwealth government.

- The Vice-Chancellor presented to the 26th World Mining Congress in Brisbane on 27 June 2023 regarding the role of universities in mining’s global future. At the Congress, the Premier announced the new strategy to grow Queensland’s critical minerals sector, which included funding towards scientific research and circular economy initiatives at UQ.

- On 14 June 2023, UQ reached in-principle agreement with the bargaining representatives for the unions for the Heads of Agreement for UQ’s new Enterprise Agreement.

- With regard to rankings:
  - UQ received the embargoed results for the 2024 QS World University Rankings, and had ranked 43, up from equal 50 for the previous year.
  - For Go8 universities, UQ was top ranked with ANU on the 2022 Student Experience Survey, in the key measures of ‘Quality of Entire Educational Experience’ and ‘Teaching Quality Scale’. UQ was also the top ranked Go8 university on the ‘Learning Resources’ scale.

- During July 2023, consultation would take place regarding the future of UQ’s health faculties, including whether UQ’s current structure involving separate Faculties of Medicine and Health and Behavioural Sciences is optimal for the future. The consultation process would involve discussions with the University community and key stakeholders including Queensland Health.

The Vice-Chancellor referred to the update on Project 2025 that had been circulated with the agenda, which outlined the 3-year plan to improve UQ’s financial position. The Vice-Chancellor outlined the discussions that would take place with the University’s Senior Executive Team, senior leaders and staff. An update would also be provided to Senate at this year’s strategic retreat.

Members discussed the Vice-Chancellor’s update. The Vice-Chancellor responded to questions from members which included the below responses:

- The decision to explore the possible benefits of forming an integrated Faculty of Health was made to ensure that UQ’s academic structures strategically align to the future directions of the sector; and are fit-for-purpose to achieve the University’s Strategic Plan. A number of Go8 universities had moved to a single Faculty of Health; and national funding was increasingly being awarded across health and medical fields of research.

- The decision to consult on an integrated Faculty of Health coincided with the announcement that Professor Bruce Abernethy would stand down as Executive Dean, of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences in February 2024 at the conclusion of his two 5-year terms. Professor Abernethy will transition to a leadership position as part of UQ’s engagement with the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
Strategic Matters


Ms Shannon Willoughby (Executive Director, Government Relations and Policy) attended for this item.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the establishment of UQ’s Government Partnerships and Policy (GPP) and Research Partnerships functions supported the strategic goals to strengthen engagement with government and industry. Working closely together, these areas had made some significant achievements this year, and had received positive feedback from government and industry partners.

Ms Willoughby referred to the paper circulated with the agenda, which provided key highlights from 2023. Ms Willoughby provided an overview of the responsibilities and capabilities of the GPP function; and presented to Senate on UQ’s engagement with State and Federal governments, and key partners.

Members had a discussion with Ms Willoughby, which included the balance between work with State and Federal governments, the role of the GPP function across the University, and the distinction between its policy and partnerships functions.

The Chancellor thanked Ms Willoughby for her presentation and congratulated the GPP team on making a strong start at UQ.

Academic Matters

10. Update from the Academic Board President

The President of the Academic Board discussed his written report, which covered the notable items from the 28 April 2023 and 9 June 2023 Academic Board meetings. Members had a detailed discussion regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in assessment. The President advised that he would provide a regular update on AI and academic integrity in his report to Senate. The President also noted that he would liaise with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) regarding communications on the use of AI in assessment for second semester.

11. Report on Key Themes from School and Institute Reviews 2022

The President noted that at the meeting on 16 June 2022, Senate requested a summary of outcomes arising from the 2022 reviews of UQ’s Schools and Institutes. Members noted the paper circulated with the agenda, which drew together the key themes.

Members noted the recommendations mapped to the terms of reference for the reviews, and that the terms of reference had been informed by the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards), amongst other things. The President noted that feedback from a number of Schools had indicated that the review process had led to meaningful change. Members also noted that a common theme arising from the reviews was the importance of engagement with the Reconciliation Action Plan.

Senate noted the report on key themes from School and Institute Reviews 2022.

12. Academic Board Report

The Academic Board Report was noted.

13. Academic Board Annual Report 2022

The Academic Board Annual Report was noted.


The report on UQ’s compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework was noted.
Governance Matters

15. **Academic Board review implementation: Proposed amendments to Academic Board Policy and Senate and Academic Board Elections Policy**

The Chancellor noted that the proposed changes to the Academic Board Policy, and Senate and Academic Board Elections Policy, had been recommended to Senate following the consideration by the Senate Governance Committee. It was noted that changes to the Academic Board Policy were consistent with legal advice relating to delegations, and a working group would be established to work through these recommendations. This work would be reported to Senate Governance Committee in due course.

No objections were raised to the proposed changes. Senate **resolved** to:
- **Approve** the amendments to the Academic Board Policy; and
- **Approve** the amendments to the Senate and Academic Board Elections Policy.

16. **Faculty Name Change: Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences**

The Vice-Chancellor referred to the proposal to change the name of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, to the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. It was noted that the proposal received strong support from the Faculty staff. It reflected the Faculty’s strengths in the Arts in a range of disciplines including music, art curation, and creative writing.

Senate resolved to **approve** the proposed Faculty name change from ‘Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences’ to ‘Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences’, with effect from 1 July 2023.

17. **UQ Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025: Statement of Currency**

The Chancellor noted that under the Queensland Agency Planning Requirements, the University needs to review the strategic plan each year, and to confirm that it remains current. It was noted that the University Senior Executive Team had undertaken this review and recommended no further changes.

Senate resolved to **approve** the current UQ Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 without revision, pursuant to the Queensland Agency Planning Requirements.

Senate Committee Reports

18. **Advancement and Community Engagement**

The Advancement and Community Engagement Committee update was **noted**.

19. **Campus Infrastructure**

The report of the Campus Infrastructure Committee was **noted**.

20. **Finance Committee**

The report of the Finance Committee was **noted**.

21. **Governance Committee**

The report of the Governance Committee was **noted**.

22. **Risk and Audit**

The report of the Risk and Audit Committee was **noted**.
Other Matters for Noting

23. 2023 and 2024 Senate Meeting Dates
The 2023 and 2024 Senate meeting dates were noted.

24. UQ Significant Litigation Report
The Significant Litigation Report for June 2023 was noted.

25. Senate Annual Calendar 2023
The Senate Annual Calendar 2023 was noted.

Any Other Business
No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.