

The University of Queensland
Minutes of a Meeting of Senate held on 1 December 2016 at 5:30pm in the
River Room, Customs House, 399 Queen Street, Brisbane

Minutes confirmed by Senate on 27 February 2017

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Attendance

Present: Mr P N Varghese AO (Chancellor), Mrs M Brown, Mr T Crommelin, Professor F D'Agostino, Hon Justice M Daubney, Ms T Dwyer, Associate Professor G Hainge, Mr P Hennessy, Ms K Hirschfeld, Dr Z Hodge AM, Professor P Høj, Mr D Kerr, Mr J Merrick, Mr G Murdoch, Associate Professor T Roberts, Mr M Starkey, Ms M Tredenick, and Dr C Tromans.

Apologies: Mr T Mackay, Mr C Sartain, and Mr M Zivcic.

In attendance: Provost, Professor A Byrne; Chief Operating Officer, Mr G Pringle; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor J Wright; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), Professor I Watson; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Rix; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement), Professor C Shannon; Chief Financial Officer, Mr A Betts; General Counsel, Ms C Seeto; and Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor and President, Ms J Connah.

Secretary: Dr J Montgomery.

Observer: President UQ Union, Mr M Lucas.

1. Senate Membership

1.1 Mr Jamie Merrick

Senate **noted** that His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and under the University of Queensland Act 1998, approved on 29 September 2016 that Mr Jamie Merrick be appointed to the Senate of the University of Queensland from 29 September 2016 up to and including 31 December 2017.

The Chancellor welcomed Mr Jamie Merrick to his first Senate meeting. Mr Merrick is the Director-General of the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation.

1.2 Dr Jane Wilson

Senate **noted** that Dr Jane Wilson had resigned as Member and Deputy Chancellor with effect from 11 November 2016.

2. Declaration of interests

Changes to interests, which were provided by Members, were **noted**.

3. Confirmation of the minutes

The general minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2016, which had been circulated, were **confirmed**.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

The list of matters arising from previous minutes was **noted**.

5. Statement by the Chancellor

Vale Emeritus Professor John Hay AC

The Chancellor paid tribute to one of the most influential leaders in its 106-year history, former Vice-Chancellor and President Emeritus Professor John Hay AC, who passed away on 3 November 2016. Emeritus Professor Hay led UQ through 12 transformative years from January 1996 to December 2007.

Dr Jane Wilson

The Chancellor noted Dr Wilson's resignation from Senate and acknowledged her contribution to the University, which extended before her appointment to Senate. Dr Wilson has served the University tirelessly for nearly 16 years: as a Director and Chair of IMBCom from 2000 to 2012, a Director of UQ Holdings from 2004 to 2011, and a Senate Member from 2006. Dr Wilson was appointed Deputy Chancellor in 2014, was a Member of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Senate representative on the Faculty of Medicine Board, as well as a being an "ex officio" member on a number of other Committees in her capacity as Deputy Chancellor.

The Chancellor expressed his gratitude for her help and counsel and for the hard work she put in as Acting Chancellor for six months after Mr Story retired as Chancellor.

Sec.

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Vice-Chancellor appointed Chair of the Group of Eight

The Chancellor congratulated Professor Høj on his appointment as the Chair of the Group of Eight for 2017.

Farewell to 2016 UQ Union President

Mr Michael Lucas' term as UQ Union President comes to an end this month and therefore his term as an observer on Senate. The Chancellor thanked Mr Lucas for his contribution to Senate this year and wished him all the best.

Update on Senate Governance Working Group

The Senate Governance Working Group was established at the October meeting and met on 18 November. The Chancellor outlined the main items which had been discussed at meeting, and another meeting has been set for early February. Items discussed by the Working Group will be brought to Senate for plenary discussion as they develop.

6. Statement by the Vice-Chancellor and President

[Some items appear in the Confidential Minutes.]

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.

Professor Høj joined the Chancellor in: acknowledging the valuable contribution made by Dr Jane Wilson, welcoming Mr Jamie Merrick to Senate, and bidding farewell to Mr Michael Lucas. The University Senior Management enjoys a good working relationship with the UQ Union and the mutual co-operation is highly valued.

The following items from the Vice-Chancellor's Report were **noted** but not discussed –

- Enhancing Systems and Service and Organisational Change
- Customs House
- St Lucia Master Planning Process
- Recruitment for the Executive Dean, Faculty of Science
- Recruitment for the Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Economics and Law
- CEO UQ Press
- Teaching and Learning Week
- 2016 Graduations
- Courting the greats
- AMCHAM Delegation to USA.

7. Statement by the President of the Academic Board

President to meet with Senate Members individually

Next year it is the intention of the President to meet individually with Senate Members to discuss the Board's relationship with Senate.

Academic Risks

The President prepared, and various UQ committees have commented on, a report for the Senate Risk Committee about significant specifically academic risks associated with the Board's operations. This report discharges a duty consequent upon a recommendation of the Senate Review of the Board, namely, that "[t]he Board reports regularly to Senate on matters of academic quality and standards so that Senate can fulfil its academic risk management functions." These risks were outlined in the Report.

A Member noted that the risk of not diversifying the sources of international students is categorised as a non-academic risk and observed that different mitigating factors might be used if it were made an academic risk. The Chancellor agreed that international students is an important topic and suggested that it be discussed more fully at one of the earlier meetings next year.

Sec.

The "epistemological crisis"

A Member commended the President for including this section, and enquired what more could be done. The President made several suggestions and welcomed further suggestions.

8. Advancement

An update on the Campaign, and proposed updated Advancement Committee Terms of Reference were circulated with the agenda.

8.1 Campaign update

The Chair of the Advancement Committee, Ms Kathy Hirschfeld, updated Members on the campaign. Various ideas to engage both Senate and staff were mentioned. Advancement will be a regular item on the Senate agenda as the Campaign ramps up.

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8.2 Advancement Committee Terms of Reference

As part of the review on all Senate Committees, the Chair of the Advancement Committee had reviewed the Terms of Reference. There is a continued need for a reinigorated committee and therefore it should remain a Senate committee.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement) has been added as member.

Senate **approved** the amended Terms of Reference of the Advancement Committee, as enclosed in the agenda papers.

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8.3 Advancement Committee Membership

A vacancy in the Senate Members membership category was created by the resignation of Dr Jane Wilson.

Professor Fred D'Agostino's appointment to the Advancement Committee was **approved**.

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Ms Hirschfeld invited other Members to express an interest in joining the Committee.

All

9. Professorial Confirmation and Promotions Report

Senate **noted** the Professorial Confirmation and Promotions Committee Report for 2016.

The results for this round are pleasing in that female applicants represented 34% of applications received, 82% of whom were recommended for promotion. The number of female applicants in 2012 and 2013 was low, but improved markedly from 2013 perhaps partly attributable to a training program introduced by the Vice-Chancellor in 2013 called 'Career Advancement for Senior Academic Women'.

The Chancellor commended the Vice-Chancellor and the Panel. The results reinforce the principal of merit, which is fundamental to the process, by ensuring that there is a broad range of applicants.

10. Grace College – Amendment to Constitution

At the February 2016 meeting Senate approved changes to the Grace College Constitution. There are three constitutionally-defined institutional stakeholders: The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA), The Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ), and The University of Queensland (UQ). While PCQ and UQ approved the proposed new Constitution, the UCA requested further changes. After consultation with the UCA, a revised version of the proposed new Constitution was submitted for consideration.

Senate **approved** the amendments to the Grace College Constitution as submitted.

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11. Posthumous award

Senate **approved** the posthumous conferral of a Bachelor of Arts on Helen Joyce Haenke (300737682).

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12. Bequests and Donations

Senate **approved** the bequests and donations, as set out in the Senate agenda papers.

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13. Senate annual calendar

The Senate annual calendar was **noted**.

14. Senate report on litigation

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

15. Delegations exercised under Senate Governance Framework

HR and Academic delegations exercised by the Vice-Chancellor under the Senate Governance Framework were **noted**.

16. Academic Board Report**16.1 Proposal to establish the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences as a University Centre**

Senate **resolved** –

- (a) That the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences (QAEHS) be established as a University Centre, effective 1 December 2016;
- (b) That the objectives of the Centre be to:
 - a. form an externally recognisable and marketable UQ identity as a leader in environmental health sciences;
 - b. create a focal point for research, consultancy and teaching in environmental health sciences;
 - c. consolidate and leverage relevant expertise across UQ;
 - d. build research capacity in environment health sciences, especially through the promotion of interdisciplinary and cross-Faculty research and the interdisciplinary co-supervision of RHD students;
 - e. provide a vehicle to attract and build the critical mass of expertise necessary to position the University competitively for greater success in winning grants in major external funding schemes (CoEs, CREs, Partnerships for Better Health, Development Grants, Program Grants) in the broad field of environmental health sciences;
 - f. work collaboratively with Queensland Health to provide expert advice, professional education, and other services as negotiated within the terms of the agreement; and
 - g. position UQ as the provider of choice for other government and industry bodies for research, consultancy and professional education in environmental health sciences.
- (c) That the Director of the Centre report to the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, or nominee;
- (d) That, in accordance with University policy, the Centre be reviewed every seven years, taking into account the requirements of external partners and stakeholders; and
- (e) That the National Centre for Environmental Toxicology be disestablished, effective 1 December 2016.

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17. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report**17.1 Student Residences Project, St Lucia Campus**

On the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, Senate **resolved** that –

The Student Residences Project, St Lucia campus be approved for construction in accordance with the drawings presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on 10 November 2016.

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17.2 Modifications to Mansfield Place, St Lucia Campus

On the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, Senate **resolved** that –

The proposed modifications to Mansfield Place, St Lucia campus be approved for construction in accordance with the drawings presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on 10 November 2016.

17.3 Entry signage at the UQ Herston Campus

On the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, Senate **resolved** that –

The proposed entry signage at the UQ Herston Campus be approved for construction in accordance with the drawings presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on 10 November 2016.

17.4 Gatton Infrastructure Upgrade Project

On the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, Senate **resolved** that –

The proposed Gatton Infrastructure Upgrade Project be approved for construction in accordance with the drawings presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on 10 November 2016.

18. Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met on 28 November 2016 and a Report was tabled and **noted**.

19. Risk Committee Report

The Risk Committee met on 24 November 2016 and a Report was circulated and **noted**.

The meeting ended at 7:10pm.