The following matters, which may be of interest to the staff and students of the University, were considered by the University Council at its meeting of 18 August 2006.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report

- The 2007 Good Universities Guide has been released with UOW achieving seven five star ratings in the categories of graduate outcomes - getting a job; graduate outcomes - positive graduate outcomes; graduate outcomes - graduate starting salary; educational experience - generic skills; educational experience – graduate satisfaction; educational experience – overall graduate rating; and educational experience – staff qualifications. Only the top 20% of universities can be awarded a five-star rating in any one category so the results show the University is competing strongly. [Link](http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0815a.html)

- Last month, the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, announced that UOW staff had obtained 9 prestigious Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning from the national body for teaching and learning in higher education, the Carrick Institute. Each Australian university was allowed to put forward a maximum of 10 candidates, of which 9 UOW candidates received citations. UOW has also received 4 Carrick Institute grants where UOW is the lead institution, worth $632 000. [Link](http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0707a.html)

- Mr Jim Langridge, Vice Principal (International) and CEO of ITC has been appointed to the Council for Australian-Arab Relations chaired by Pru Goward. The Council advises the Commonwealth Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade. The appointment recognises Mr Langridge’s high regard in Australian-Arab business affairs.

- The July graduation ceremonies were a success. The Vice-Chancellor thanked those Council members who attended the ceremonies and paid tribute to faculty staff and to the staff of the Academic Registrar’s Division. [Link](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/)

- The Federal Government, last month, announced it was providing 210 new student places to the University, including 130 new engineering places and 20 pre-medical program places for UOW.

- The latest visit to inspect preparations for the medical school went very well and the University remains on track to open the Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) in 2007. The decision of the Australian Medical Council is expected in November.

- Research
  - The University of Wollongong has done exceptionally well, in the recently announced round of the 2006 ARC Linkage Project scheme. UOW was awarded 7 successful grants with funding totalling $2.97 million over the next five years. [Link](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/outcomes/external/2006/2006-arc-linkage-r2.html)
  - The ARC has announced outcomes for Round 12 of the Linkage International Scheme. Three applications submitted by UOW researchers have been successful, with a combined value of $66,200 over two years. Linkage International is a highly competitive scheme and these outcomes place UOW third nationally for total funding awarded, and constitute a success rate of 50%, which is well above the national success rate of 26%. [Link](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/outcomes/external/index.html#arc-international)
  - The University has gone public with its plan to construct a $5 million Ecological Research Facility on University-owned land at Robsons Road. This area provides uninterrupted natural sunlight for glasshouses and experimental vegetation plots and is protected from dominant high winds during storms. [Link](http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0728a.html)
  - Last month, the University played host for the first time to over 40 Deputy and Pro Vice-Chancellors from across the country when the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee
A review of the structure and operations of the AVCC has been undertaken by a former First Assistant Secretary, Mr David Phillips. The review has had a mixed reception and is currently being considered by Australian Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors.


The Chancellor opened extensions to the University of Wollongong’s Bega Education Centre on 11 July. The IMB Community Foundation is again providing financial support for a number of UOW community projects, contributing the highest amount of funding since the foundation began the Community Projects program. Almost $550,000 has been allocated to 21 innovative projects.

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Business from the Academic Senate
Amendments to the General Course Rules
Council approved amendments to Section 10 of the General Course Rules relating to Higher Degree Research transfers. The amendments are effective immediately and can be found at: http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/thesis_researchdegrees.html

Business from Council Committees
Administrative Committee
Council received the minutes of the 18 July 2006 Administrative Committee Meeting. For further information about the Administrative Committee: http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/admin.html

Occupational Health & Safety
The Occupational Health and Safety Report was noted by Council. For further information on OH&S: http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/

UOW Planning Conference Report 2006
The Vice-Chancellor gave an update on the 2006 planning conference, noting that it departed from its usual format of being led by the Senior Executive. Instead, mixed teams of Deans and Directors made presentations on various issues such as the changing expectations of the current generation of students, the Illawarra region as a laboratory and the teaching/research nexus. The new format was successful and will be repeated next year with the outcomes feeding into a wider planning forum to which Heads of Departments will be able to contribute.

Strategic Planning Core Function Report: Research
Council received the review of activities for 2005 and the 2006 planning priorities for the core function of research. More information on strategic planning: http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/planningmodel.html#corefunctions

The next University Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 13 October 2006.