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 21 April 2006.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report

Medical School
The University’s submission for stage 2 accreditation for the Medical School has been sent to the Australian Medical Council (AMC). Final approval will follow a seven member AMC visit to the University in July. For more information about the Medical School: http://www.uow.edu.au/gsm/

Research Success
- The Chief Executive Officer of the ARC, Professor Peter Hoj, has officially opened the new ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science run by Professor Gordon Wallace and his team. Further information: http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0215a.html
- The Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott has announced funding of $250,000 to a research team led by the University of Wollongong that will play a significant role in minimising public panic in Australia over any potential bird flu pandemic. Further information: http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0220c.html
- The Illawarra Cancer Carers group presented a donation of $100,000 to the University of Wollongong for promising research into an anti-cancer drug project. Further information: http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0221a.html
- Researchers from the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences (in collaboration with Wollongong Hospital) have secured an $86,570 research grant from the Cancer Institute NSW, to support a Psycho-oncology clinical Fellowship and to evaluate an “Acceptance and Commitment Therapy” intervention amongst cancer patients.
- Cutting edge research into prostate cancer has resulted in a University of Wollongong PhD student being granted a $75,000 research scholarship from UOW’s Centre for Medical Radiation Physics and the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF). For further information: http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0306a.html
- The ARC international linkages grants have been announced with Wollongong successful in three out of its six proposals. While the grant amounts are not substantial the ARC international linkages projects are prestigious and UOW is first in the state and third nationally in the ARC international linkage grant outcomes.

EOWA Employer of Choice
In February, the University of Wollongong was awarded an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women citation (EOCFW) by the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA). The EOCFW citations are awarded to organisations which "can demonstrate that they have policies and practices that support women across the organisation and these have had a positive outcome for both women and the business". This citation reflects the pro active approach taken by Robyn Weekes, Director of EED, and members of the University's Employment Equity and Diversity Committee in developing programs to support women. Further information: http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/0222b.html

Review of Philosophy
A review of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts has been conducted, chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Margaret Sheil. The recommendations arising from the review are to be implemented by July 2006.

Business from Council Committees

Administrative Committee
Council received the minutes of the 7 March 2006 Administrative Committee Meeting. For further information about the Administrative Committee: http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/admin.html
Audit Management & Review Committee
Council received the minutes of the 31 March 2006 Audit Management & Review Committee meeting. For further information on the Audit Management and Review Committee: http://staff.uow.edu.au/audit-review/committee.html

University Financial Statements
The University’s financial statements for 2005 were presented to Council. The statements were recommended to Council by the Audit Management & Review Committee and are to receive an unqualified external auditor’s report. The Director, Financial Services, gave a presentation on the Financial Statements noting the following:

- An overall surplus by the University and its subsidiaries.
- A strong return on investments for the previous 2 years at a level of 15% in 2005, following a 14% return in 2004.
- Favourable comparisons to 2004 with international student numbers holding and research grants, contracts and consultancies up and above state and national averages.
- Overall, a strengthening of the University’s financial position over the course of 2005.

Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Report
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) gave a presentation to Council on the AUQA Report. The final report was released on 15 May and the conclusions of the report were favourable, particularly in relation to the key areas of teaching and learning, research and community engagement.

As well as commendations, the AUQA report contains affirmations, concerning issues which the University has already identified as needing improvements, and recommendations, identifying issues which the panel believes the University should address. The University is required to report back to AUQA in September 2007 on its progress in addressing the report’s recommendations. While the University has already addressed a number of recommendations, a process has been put in place for the remaining recommendations which is being linked to the strategic planning and strategic projects processes. To reflect this linkage, the Strategic Planning Working Party and Quality Assurance Committee have now been merged to form the Strategic Planning and Quality Committee which will oversee the University’s response to the AUQA recommendations. Each issue has also been assigned to a responsible officer or committee.

The Vice-Chancellor commented that AUQA’s recognition of UOW’s excellence in teaching and learning, research and community engagement is a reflection on commitment and enthusiasm of the staff and students of the University. He acknowledged the work of the DVC(A), Professor Rob Castle, in leading the project and the members of the AUQA project team in helping secure such an excellent report from AUQA.

Further information about quality at UOW: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/quality/

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/

2005 Library Annual Report
The Library’s 2005 Annual Report was received by the Council. Further information about the UOW Library: http://www.library.uow.edu.au/

Reports from Student Associations
Reports for the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) were presented to Council. For more information about WUSA: http://wusa.uow.edu.au/ and WUPA: http://www.uow.edu.au/wupa/

The next University Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 23 June 2006.