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 12 October 2007.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report

- The Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations), Dr Jim Langridge, has recently received his doctorate from the University of Southampton.
- The NSW Government has provided a $1 million grant to the University in the field of nanotechnology. This matches funding provided by the Federal Government.
- The University was allocated $5.9 million from the federal government’s Learning & Teaching Performance Fund. According to a league table drawn up by The Australian newspaper, the overall results place UOW and UTS as equal first in the country for 2008. UOW has been rewarded for its commitment to high quality learning and teaching across all faculties.
- Further success for the University in the Carrick awards has recently been announced. A Senior Lecturer at UOW’s Woolyungah Indigenous Centre, Dr Michael Adams, has been named as one of the recipients of the highest award for teaching and learning in Australia. Dr Adams is the only NSW academic to have won the Carrick award in the early career academic category, worth $25,000. The UOW Careers Service, has been successful with a joint application with the National Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services under the Discipline-Based Initiatives Scheme. The project has received funding of $219,000. Nursing academics in the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences have also been successful in the second round of the Carrick Competitive Grants Program with $205,000 in project funding awarded.
- At the end of September the Federal Government announced $14.7 million in Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grants and Linkage Grants. Under the ARC Discovery Projects Scheme UOW achieved 32 grants totalling $11.3 million, with a success rate of 24.2% against a national average of 21.4%. The University has received record funding for this year and, allowing for size, is the top university in the country in the ratio of funding per staff member. This year’s success is a great credit to the University’s staff.
- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants were announced by the Federal Minister for Health at the end of September, with the University of Wollongong set to receive almost $1.5 million to fund four projects in the Faculties of Science and Health and Behavioural Sciences, and the Centre of Excellence in Functional Foods.
- On 11 September, the Federal Minister for Education announced 170 new Commonwealth supported places for the University. These will grow to 465 places by 2011. Fifteen places were awarded for the Bachelor of Medical Science, 50 for the Bachelor of Nursing (30 of which are to be provided in the Shoalhaven), 30 for the Graduate Diploma in Education (Bateman’s Bay) and, significantly, 75 for the Bachelor of Engineering. This was the highest new allocation for a NSW university.
- Other recent federal funding includes $1.5 million from the Workplace Productivity Program; $1 million for upgrading the student residence facilities at Campus East; almost $500,000 two projects under the Support for Small Businesses on Regional University Campuses Program; and $2 million to URAC for the Village Green-Oval Development Project through the final year VSU Transition Fund for Sporting and Recreational Facilities program.
- The newly-formed School of Information Systems and Technology (SISAT) was launched in August. The School will offer new degrees, exciting new research directions and the fusion of technology and business.
- The University of Wollongong’s Woolyungah Indigenous Centre team has won this year’s National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games. UOW also hosted the annual event, which attracted a range of Indigenous sporting celebrities and university students from across the country.
The Federal Government has announced that the University of Wollongong has been named as part of a successful consortium to enhance the literacy and numeracy skills for Australian teachers. Summer Schools to be held in January 2008 will play a pivotal role in providing high-quality professional development for the country’s teachers to better support their role of delivering the very best primary and secondary education in Australia. The University’s Faculty of Education will lead the consortium with Edith Cowan University, the University of New England and the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association in delivering the Summer School.

UOW researchers from the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health were presented with a national award at the recent Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Services conference in Melbourne.

Dr Stephen Blanksby from the Faculty of Science has been awarded the Royal Australian Chemical Institute’s Rennie Memorial Medal.

A/Professor Chris Fergusson from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences is the Dorothy Hill Medal winner for 2007. The medal is awarded for significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge on Queensland geology.

Professor Kenneth Walsh has accepted an offer for the position of Professor of Nursing, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. He will take up the position in early 2008.

An offer has been made to an extremely good candidate for the Graduate School of Medicine’s Professor of Surgery.

Business from Council Committees
Council received the minutes of the 11 September 2007 Administrative Committee Meeting. For further information about the Administrative Committee:

Council received the minutes of the 17 August 2007 Audit Management & Review Committee Meeting. For further information about the Audit Management & Review Committee:

New and revised policies
The following new and amended UOW policies were approved:
- Revised Code of Practice – Teaching & Assessment: effective autumn session 2008
- Revised Code of Practice - Research: effective immediately
- Research Misconduct Policy: effective immediately
- Student Academic Consideration Policy: effective autumn session 2008

The following new policy and amended rules were approved, in line with the revised National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students, effective immediately:
- Course Progress Policy
- General Course Rules (section 8 – Assessment)

For more information about policy at UOW go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/

2008 UOW Budget Presentation
The Deputy Vice-Principal (Finance & IT) made a presentation to Council on the University budget for 2008.

Occupational Health & Safety
The September 2007 Occupational Health and Safety Report was noted by Council. For further information on OH&S: http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/

University Strategic Plan
Council approved the 2008-10 University Strategic Plan. For more information on strategic planning at the University go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/

The next University Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 23 November 2007.