# University of Wollongong COUNCIL SUMMARY



225<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting: 13 April 2012

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 13 April 2012.

# **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Vice-Chancellor reported as follows:

- The Universities Australia conference was held in Canberra on 7-8 March, with an interesting aspect of the conference being the marked difference in policy terms between the speeches from the current Federal Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Research, Senator Chris Evans, and the Shadow Minister for Universities and Research, Senator Brett Mason. Senator Evans talked about the importance of social inclusion and increasing student numbers while Senator Mason espoused a more exclusive higher education model with fewer students.
- The University's second stage application to the Education Investment Fund for the Early Start Program had been submitted. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Vice-Principal (Administration), the Dean of Education and the rest of the project team for putting together a first class bid. He advised that the EIF funding would be announced sometime after the Federal Budget.
- The SDVC advised that the University's intake numbers were right on target, only exceeding the target figure by one student. Overall numbers are up 0.9% with the slight increase coming from domestic student enrolments. The SDVC further noted that the University would be looking at a mid year intake and that the overall approach was for steady modest growth. He credited the excellent work of the planning services team and the faculties in meeting the student number targets.
- The review of the Strategic Plan is going well with the reports of the thematic working groups providing food for thought. Documents setting out how the University engages with the community and with business were being drafted and a cost/benefit model would also be produced by the end of the year.
- The NBN Engagement Expo in Kiama was extremely successful with the University showcasing
  its research and technological capabilities. The Vice-Chancellor noted that UOW was the first
  research-led University to be working with the NBN rollout and that many opportunities to
  capitalise on the NBN were emerging.
- The Vice-Chancellor was asked to comment about recent newspaper reports in the Sunday Telegraph and Illawarra Mercury. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the article in the Telegraph was not accurate and was a pastiche of ideas taken from an article he had written for The Australian about higher education fee policies in general and comments he had made about wanting the University to be in the top 1% of universities worldwide. He noted that his first address to the Academic Senate had included his vision for UOW to be an elite but not elitist institution and that is was essential to ensure that, as the institution progresses, scholarships and bursaries continue to be available to encourage local students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds to continue to be a vital part of the University.

#### **2011 Financial Statements**

The Deputy Vice-Principal (Finance & IT) and the Chair of the Audit Management & Review Committee reported on the robust process undertaken to approve the 2011 Financial Statements. The NSW Auditor-General has issued an unqualified audit report and the Financial Statements were recommended for Council approval.

# **Student Services and Amenities Fee Expenditure**

The University Council approved the disbursement of Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) revenue for 2012 to a range of projects, initiatives and strategic priorities. More information about how the SSAF revenue will be spent is available on the University website: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/student/finances/ssa/index.html">http://www.uow.edu.au/student/finances/ssa/index.html</a>

# Review of 2011 Performance against the Strategic Plan

The Vice-Chancellor spoke about the report on 2011 performance against the current strategic plan. For information on Strategic Planning: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/index.html">http://www.uow.edu.au/planquality/index.html</a>

#### **International Status Report Update**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) gave a summary of the University's position with regard to international students, noting that UOW was nearing a tipping point that would see us with more offshore than onshore international students. He advised that offshore student numbers grew by 44% in 2011 and that UOW was already registering a further 45% growth in 2012. The growth in offshore numbers is apparent at UOWD but also in Malaysia as a result of the Laureate partnership.

The DVC(I) advised that international student income had dropped by 1% between 2010 and 2011 (from \$98 million to \$93 million) which was a minor fall compared to the sector average. He noted that onshore international enrolments had fallen by 11% this year but that overall, the increase in offshore students had kept the university's position stable.

#### **OH&S Report**

As part of the Occupational Health and Safety Report, The Director of the Human Resources Division advised Council of the strong response to the University's involvement in the Global Corporate Challenge which is aimed at improving the long-term health of employees. With the encouragement of the Deputy Chancellor, Council also agreed to form 1-2 teams.

#### **Committee Business**

Council received the minutes of the 10 February and 30 March Audit Management & Review Committee, the 10 February and 30 March iC Oversight Committee and the 13 March Administrative Committee. Further information about these committees can be found on the Council webpages: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/council/index.html">http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/council/index.html</a>

# **University Rules and Policies**

Amendments to the conferrals delegations within the Delegations of Authority Policy were approved at the April Council meeting. This Policy can be accessed via the Policy Directory: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/index.html">http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/index.html</a>

# **Reports from UOW Student Associations**

The 2011 Financial Reports and April 2012 reports on Activities from the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) were noted by Council. For more information about WUSA AND WUPA:

WUSA: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/">http://www.uow.edu.au/</a>
WUPA: <a href="http://www.uow.edu.au/wupa/">http://www.uow.edu.au/wupa/</a>

# **Reports from University Controlled Entities**

Progress Reports from the University's controlled entities were provided to Council by;

ITC: http://www.itcltd.com.au/

• UniCentre: http://unicentre.uow.edu.au/index.htm

URAC: http://www.urac.com.au/

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday 22 June 2012