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 27 June 2008.

Chair of Senate
Associate Professor Di Kelly from the Faculty of Arts had been elected as the new Chair of Senate and will take up her role on 1 July. The Chancellor thanked the outgoing Chair, Professor David Griffiths for his efforts as Chair of Senate and as a Council member over the past seven years. He noted that, under Professor Griffiths’ stewardship, the Academic Senate had introduced new initiatives to improve the awareness of Senate in the wider University community and amongst Council members and had also presided over an external review of Senate carried out by the Illawarra Regional Information Service. Council passed a resolution thanking Professor Griffiths for his outstanding contribution.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report
The Vice-Chancellor commented on the success of the opening of the Innovation Campus by the Premier earlier in the day and paid tribute to Minister David Campbell who had been instrumental in securing the $15 million funding for the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute announced by the Premier. For further information about the opening of the Innovation Campus on 27 June 2008: [http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW045909.html](http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW045909.html)

The Vice-Chancellor reported as follows:

- The Federal Budget’ was handed down in May with the headline item for higher education being $500 million for capital infrastructure. The former Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) was replaced by the Education Infrastructure Fund (EIF) that will provide a larger amount of infrastructure funding ($11 billion) to a wider group of eligible educational institutions (going beyond higher education to vocational education). UOW would compete for additional places in nursing and early childhood education that were announced in the budget. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his commitment to early childhood education, stressing that it was the key to assisting children from low socio-economic backgrounds getting to University. The Budget made no allocations to student associations or to address VSU. Such issues may be dealt with by the Higher Education (Bradley) Review which is due to report later in the year.

- There are currently three Federal Government reviews relating to higher education: Minister Kim Carr’s Innovation Review (which has almost concluded), the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) Review which is being conducted by former UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and current head of the Australian Research Council, Professor Margaret Sheil and the Bradley Review into Higher Education. All these reviews are significant, particularly the Bradley Review which has the potential to dramatically change the higher education sector. The University will be making a submission to both the ERA Review (co-ordinated by the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Astheimer) and the Bradley Review (co-ordinated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and International, Professor Castle).

- UOW’s Graduate School of Medicine has won a prestigious Platinum Open Learning Award for its innovative online learning environment. This is a significant international award in which Microsoft and Volkswagen Italy were runners up. The GSM’s Online Learning Environment was designed and developed by Associate Professor Lori Lockyer and Mr Martin Olmos. Further information can be found at: [http://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW044669.html](http://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW044669.html)

- In staffing news, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Rob Whelan, has been appointed President of the University of Wollongong in Dubai for an initial term of 3 years and will take up his appointment from the 31st of August 2008. An internal process to select a new Dean for the Faculty of Science has commenced. Further information: [http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW044700.html](http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW044700.html)

Professor Amanda Lawson has been appointed the new Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts.
The University’s Professorial Promotions Committee met last month and three new professors have been appointed: Tim Marchant, Stephen Tanner and Xiaolin Wang.

- In research news, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, The Hon Kim Carr announced the outcomes of the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects (Round 2) for funding commencing in July 2008. The ARC allocated $83.7M nationally to Linkage Projects (Round 2) with a national success rate of 42.7%. The UOW success rate was significantly above the national average at 57.1%, with eight grants awarded a total of $2.2M for the next four years.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, announced the 2008 results for the National Health and Medical Research Council Development Grant Scheme. UOW received one of only 22 grants awarded Australia wide with a total of $197,250 awarded for the two year project.

Professor Kathy Eagar, Director of the Centre for Health Services Development in the Graduate School of Business, has been inducted as an Honorary Fellow into the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM), a faculty of the Royal Australasian College of Medicine in recognition of her exceptional services to the Faculty and to the practice of medicine as it relates to rehabilitation medicine. This is a great honour and especially notable as it is extremely rare for the AFRM to induct a non-physician as a Faculty fellow.

- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) spoke about UOW’s success with a further two of the Carrick Awards going to Anne Porter of Informatics ($220,000) and to Michael Zanko of Commerce who is a research partner with RMIT and UTS on a project on embedding learning in a business curriculum.

- Australian Medical Council representatives visited the Graduate School of Medicine recently and gave a glowing report on the GSM’s second year of operation.

- The winter graduation ceremonies will be held from 16-18 July. Former Council members George Edgar and Brian Hickman will be receiving Fellowships at the ceremony on the morning of Wednesday 16 July.

- The University of Wollongong will have its best representation ever at an Olympic Games. Sisters Mia Santoromito (Arts/Communications) who is studying on the main Wollongong campus and Jenna Santoromito (Business Administration/Hospitality) who is studying at our Loftus Education Centre have made the water polo team. A graduate, Zoe Uphill (Commerce/Law), has made the rowing team (Quad sculls). Two other graduates are very strong contenders to be chosen for the Paralympics. They are wheelchair basketballers Brendan Dowler and Tristan Knowles. Final selection for the Paralympics is in July.

Business from the Administrative Committee
Council received the minutes of the 29 May Administrative Committee Meetings. For further information about the Administrative Committee:

Financial Benchmarking Presentation
The Deputy Vice-Principal (Finance & IT) gave a presentation to Council on the University’s financial position as compared to other universities in NSW and to universities of similar size and characteristics. He advised that the University’s operating position is sound and the balance sheet has capacity. This view has been recently confirmed by the Standard and Poor’s AA credit rating.

Occupational Health & Safety

Innovation Campus Report

Report on the Implementation of the Review of Student Associations
The Vice-Principal (Administration) reported on progress made on implementing the recommendations of the review of Student Associations conducted last year and reported to Council in August 2007. He advised that, following a submission by the WUSA President, the University has approved an amount of $30,000 per year be provided to WUSA to cover the costs of producing the Tertangala. He reported that the University and student associations had been successful in recruiting an independent Student
Advocacy Officer. Finally, he noted that an analysis of the financial position of the student associations had been undertaken and it was clear that WUPA did not have the funds to continue operating until the end of the year. Council approved that, as an interim arrangement, $30,000 per year would be provided to WUPA to allow it to continue its operations. The University is working on a longer term plan to set up a student hub that would house WUSA, WUPA, the Student Advocacy Officer, the Tertangala, the Alsorts Collective and a women’s’ space together with a shared administrative resource. This plan is still in its early stages but it is hoped that it will become a workable and cost effective solution. The VP(A) thanked both WUSA and WUPA for their ideas and the time they had put in to achieving positive outcomes.

**Policy Approvals:**
The Admissions and Advanced Standing Policy was approved by Council with immediate effect. To view the policy: [http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/AdmissionsAndAdvancedStandingPolicy.pdf](http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/AdmissionsAndAdvancedStandingPolicy.pdf)

**2007 UOW Annual Report**
The University Library’s 2007 Annual Report was received by Council. To view the report online: [http://www.uow.edu.au/about/annualreport/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/about/annualreport/index.html)

**Reports from Controlled Entities**
Council received an updated progress report and annual report from the ITC Ltd, UniCentre and URAC. Further information about the Universities controlled entities is as follows:


*The next University Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 8 August 2008.*