

UTS Council meeting report

21 June 2023

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 21 June 2023 meeting.

**The Report structure replicates the flow of the agenda.*

Strategic items of business

Strategic Briefing (Research)

Following on from discussion at the Annual Council Retreat, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), provided an update on the Research Strategy. The UTS Research Strategy was formulated to ensure that the University improves its research performance and productivity to deliver the benefits across a myriad of global and national communities. Achieving this requires UTS to take a more proactive and purposeful approach to implementing viable, valuable, and well used pathways to impact.

Some of the elements to achieve the Strategy were discussed, including scale, diversification of our partnerships and research revenue sources and creatively combining our research expertise. The DVC provided an update on work in progress, geared towards positioning UTS to be able to make informed decisions regarding research.

Council recognises that the execution of the Research Strategy will require purposeful and data driven decision making.

UTS Risk Appetite

UTS Council sets the Risk Appetite for the University. Council discussed the Risk Appetite Statements and noted that they will continue to be refined. The Risk Appetite Statements are a companion piece to the Strategy and give guidance on the boundary conditions in pursuit of the Strategy at an institutional level.

To further the already established understanding of risk throughout the organisation, UTS definitions and shared understanding of risk, will be promulgated throughout. Once the Risk Taxonomy is agreed, the top-level risks will be mapped across the Council Committees for oversight and responsibility.

Operations and performance

Report from the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor provides a report to each Council meeting containing updates on key developments and events that have occurred since Council's last meeting. Updates include; the implementation progress of the UTS 2027 Strategy, State and Federal Government issues, updates regarding the university sector and internal matters, particularly achievements and awards.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to his report and highlighted various matters. The Vice-Chancellor briefly highlighted some of the items within his report. Recent staff and alumni recipients announced as part of the King's Birthday Honours were identified and congratulated.

The UTS submission to the Australian Universities Accord panel was briefly discussed and Council will be provided with further updates as appropriate.

The Vice-Chancellor provided Council with a progress summary of key UTS 2027 projects and programs. At this stage, the Strategic Initiatives are largely on track to deliver anticipated outcomes.

UTS Sustainability Report 2022

UTS has continues to implement the UTS 2027 Strategy, with a commitment to deliver a sustainable future as we work towards our vision of being a leading public university of technology recognised for our global impact. We have also continue to embed sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our core activities – from research on the impacts of climate change to equipping our students with the knowledge and skills they need to become the next generation of leaders.

The *2022 Sustainability Report* highlights UTS's sustainability activities and achievements for 2022. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report format enables UTS to demonstrate how it is responding to globally agreed sustainability challenges and fulfils our obligations as a signatory to the UN SDGs, which affirms the UTS intention to support and promote the SDGs through research, education and operations.

UTS's 2022 sustainability achievements were discussed and Council noted that the UTS achievements highlighted in the Sustainability Report reflect a deep commitment to the sustainability goals and a pervasive culture of sustainability at UTS.

Reports from committees

Council has a number of committees, whose membership have particular expertise, to provide assistance and advice to Council on matters for Council consideration. These committees report back to Council.

Report from Audit and Risk Committee

The primary responsibility of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist Council in overseeing the activities undertaken by the UTS body corporate and, from time to time, other related entities as requested by Council.

The Chair outlined the background to the Procurement Policy changes, requested for approval. The Procurement Policy has been reviewed as part of the Procurement Uplift Project. The result of the review was a full re-write of the Policy and further alignment with the Procedures. Council approved the updated Procurement Policy.

Council noted that this will be the last meeting for the current Chair, Audit and Risk Committee, to report to Council. Ms Michelene Collopy was thanked for her leadership and diligence as Chair.

Infrastructure Committee

The Infrastructure Committee provides advice to Council on physical infrastructure, information technology infrastructure and precinct matters in the context of the UTS 2027 strategy, the budget and the Medium-Term Finance Plan.

The Chair, Infrastructure Committee, outlined the background and process for the development of the guiding principles for the Campus 2040 Master Plan.

Council was briefed on the Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the investment in a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, noting that considerable investment will be required. The replacement of NEO (the current HR and Finance system) is required to improve process efficiency, cost savings in ongoing operations, better workforce management and productivity, reduced business and cyber security risk, improved staff experience, and deliver better reporting functionality to support decision-making.

Annual Academic Board Report

The Chair, Academic Board outlined the key activity and achievements of the Board. Council discussed the KPI's and reports that the Board considers as part of its oversight role on behalf of Council. The UTS 2027 Strategy is front of mind for the Board and focus sessions on various pillars of the Strategy have been discussed.

Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) Presentation

Council was briefed on the Institute's history and focus areas. The ISF 2024 Strategy was outlined, including the transformational research with impact, lifetime learning and enablement strategy initiatives. The high demand for sustainability partnerships and collaboration was discussed in context with the opportunities and challenges for the Institute.

Items for approval

- Council Committee Meeting Dates for 2024
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Items for noting

Council are provided papers for noting and include activity that has occurred between Council meetings.

- Chancellor's Report
 - Use of Power of Attorney, University Seal and Executive Action
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Items of General Business

- Council Reviews the Meeting and Reports at each Meeting
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Other reports

- Performance metrics (UTS 2024 KPI's)
- Work Health and Safety Report
- Governance Committee Report
- Finance Committee Report