

UTS Council meeting report

14 August 2024

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 14 August 2024 meeting.

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

Strategic items of business

UTS College: UTS Perspective

Council discussed the challenges confronting the College that included the rapidly changing external environment and the need to adapt to government immigration policy changes.

The Vice-Chancellor made several observations in relation to the ongoing role of the College. These included the critical importance of the College's contribution to supporting the UTS International Strategy and alignment with the University's Strategy overall. In this respect a shift in the mindset of the College being a provider to being a partner will be crucial to realising the opportunities.

Opportunities for new areas of collaboration between the College and the University were also discussed. This included consideration of how the College and University could partner in support of the emerging transnational education strategy to leverage institutional strengths.

Council noted that any Government imposed cap on international student numbers will also likely impact the College.

Evolving Business Models for Global Growth

Council discussed the discussed the new business models and the opportunities within the market. The proposed Framework and Global Growth Strategy was discussed, including the investment of time and resources required to support the proposed approach.

Council also discussed the considerable complexity involved in offshore delivery and the development of partnership models. It will be of critical importance to ensure the University has appropriate systems of quality assurance in place to protect the UTS brand and comply with regulatory requirements. It will also be important to leverage systems to enable integration rather than developing bespoke models for each TNE activity.

Council will monitor ongoing reports on the progress of implementing the TNE Strategy, including reports on financial performance.

UTS Creative Industries Strategy: reimagining the creative disciplines

Council discussed the Creative Industries Strategy and the increased strategic focus on leveraging emerging market opportunities across the creative practice disciplines at UTS. These are currently predominantly situated across the faculties of Design, Architecture and Building (DAB), Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and Engineering and IT (FEIT). The Creative Industry Strategy will directly support and enhance UTS' interdisciplinary work across both the creative and social practice disciplines and includes a proposal to develop a new faculty to bring these disciplines together.

Noting the establishment of the proposed new Faculty, there was discussion on the importance of managing the change process in support of the Strategy.

Council noted that the ambition in the Strategy and the transformational thinking required across the whole University, will require strong leadership to ensure all the transformational elements are realised, and recognition that the Strategy's implementation is not just a cosmetic change. Council recognised the potential for the Strategy to be a key point of differentiation for the University.

Foundations for 2030 Update

Council received an update on the progress of Foundations for 2030, and the activities supporting is consideration across the University.

The ongoing discussions will inform the 2025 Corporate Plan and Budget development.

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.

In May, the Australian Government released a draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework and introduced a Bill to amend the Education Services and Overseas Students Act (the ESOS Amendment Bill) to give effect to its plans to impose limits on the enrolment of international students.

The UTS submission to the Senate Committee inquiring into the ESOS Amendment Bill confirmed our support for the Government's aims to ensure the sustainability, quality and integrity of our world-class education sector. We also emphasized that UTS's international students are an integral and valued part of our community and that revenue from international education also supports the delivery of high quality facilities and learning experiences for our domestic students.

Key challenges with the proposed legislation identified in our submission included: increased regulatory burden, impacts on current international student recruitment, operational complexity, reputational risk and broader social and economic impacts, including job losses.

Consistent with its approach to academic freedom, UTS maintains a strong partnership framework to support research, teaching and related activities. As a public university UTS receives funding from many national and international organisations. In relation to our responsibility to contribute to national security priorities, concerns have been expressed about the links some organisations have with arms manufacturing, however UTS does not conduct research on arms manufacturing, ensures that any defence and security related work operates within the legal boundaries of the strict defence trade controls, foreign interference and foreign arrangements and that our partnerships with companies in this area are consistent with and compliant with both our obligations and role as a contributor to research and education.

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.

Academic Board Report

Council approved changes to delegations regarding Research and changes to Section 11 of the UTS Student Rules.

UTS College CEO Presentation

Ms Morwenna Shahani (UTS College CEO) gave a presentation to Council. Council noted the special relationship between UTS College and UTS, as a pathway provider, giving rise to higher quality education and relationships.

Council noted the impact of the College's strategy of diversifying its student load over the past three years. In particular, Council noted the financial impact of pursuing a diversification strategy.

The overall impact of the pandemic on UTS College revenue was discussed.

Students who articulate from the College into UTS undergraduate programs continue to have high success rates. The pastoral care provided to these students whilst studying through the College is a significant contributor to future academic success when students are subsequently admitted to the University.

The opportunities for the College to partner with the University in support of the transnational education strategy are significant and will likely be a key area of focus over the next five years.

Items for approval

- Appointment of Committee Members

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
- Notice of Election of Deputy Chancellor

Items of General Business

- Council Reviews the Meeting and Reports at each Meeting

Other reports

- UTS Corporate Plan 2024 Mid-Year Report
- Work Health and Safety Report
- Finance Committee Report
- Infrastructure Committee Report
- Remuneration Committee Report