

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday, 15 March 2017, in the Jim Potter Conference Room,
Old Physics, University of Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, Ros McMillan, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5.30 pm.

2. Guest Speaker

Professor David Shallcross, Director of the Engineering Learning Unit in the University of Melbourne School of Engineering, was the guest speaker.

He outlined his career, starting as a BEng undergraduate, here, in 1978, then a PhD at the University of California, Davis working on mathematical modelling of ion exchange to purify the Los Angeles water supply, then post-doctoral work at Stanford on enhancing the extraction of oil from oil fields, then CSIRO before returning to the University of Melbourne in 1990.

His research work on ion exchange was applied by NASA to the recycling of water during planning for manned spaceflights to Mars, and his teaching interest in Concept Maps was applied by NASA to the possibility of growing crops in the Martian atmosphere which is almost all carbon dioxide.

He served in a senior role in a World Chemical Engineering Conference in Melbourne and, later, spent some time as Head of the Chemical Engineering Department. While Vice President of the UK-based Institution of Chemical Engineers he helped to greatly expand its non-UK membership.

He described how teaching nowadays is so different from former times.

The Committee members found by this talk very interesting and asked a number of questions, afterwards. Professor Shallcross was warmly thanked by the President.

3. Attendance

Members:

David Bellair (Minute-taker), Lesley Boston, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, John Nelson, Christine Oldham, Barbara Perry, Beverley-Anne Rodan, John Scott, Laurence Simpson, Noel Whiting.

Apologies Received:

Anne Ada, Elizabeth Mitchell, Peter Ross, Jenny Stillman.

Leave of Absence:

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16 November 2016, were confirmed, as issued and without alteration. Moved: Ros McMillan. Seconded: John Nelson.

5. Membership

a) Additions and Withdrawals

The resignation of Ian Rechtman from the Committee was noted and appreciation of his considerable contribution to the Committee, over many years, was expressed.

b) Leave of Absence

The President agreed to contact David Ford who had been on leave of absence for 2016.

6. Election of Office Bearers

a) Ros McMillan, the elected President, continues for two years from 2016.

b) John Nelson was elected unopposed as Vice President.

c) John Scott was elected unopposed as Secretary.

d) Christine Oldham was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

7. Appointments

a) The President reported that the Executive had asked Cecily Close to make the dinner bookings, at University House, and Barbara Perry to collect the money.

b) Irene Jablonka was asked to continue her appointment as Speakers and Tours Coordinator.

8. Report of the President

The President reported on the following matters.

a) The Executive had met over lunch on 16 February 2017.

b) The President had written to the new Chancellor, Dr Allan Myers, offering the support of the Committee.

c) Parking permits for Committee members would continue for 2017.

d) In response to a letter from the President, Dr Joseph Doyle had responded saying that he would help promote the standing of the Committee as an Alumni body.

e) After questions about whether the University web site still had a link to the Committee of Convocation web site, the President agreed to follow up the matter with the Advancement Office. [After the meeting John Harcourt did find more than one such link.]

f) The Executive suggested the Committee should aim for one extended duration tour each semester not on a meeting day, and that was supported by the Committee.

9. Finance Report

The outgoing Treasurer, John Nelson, advised that the bank account balance of the Committee stood at \$492.10.

It was resolved that Chris Oldham be added as a signatory to the bank account. Moved: Ros McMillan. Seconded: Lesley Boston. It was noted that Ros McMillan and John Nelson would continue as signatories.

Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

10. Faculties and Schools Reports

- a) Gary Israel advised that the Arts Faculty has recently reported on the application of funds from the recent Hansen Bequest to the History School, as follows.
 - An Endowed Professorship of History (The Hansen Chair in History) has been created and Professor Mark Edele appointed from the University of WA. He will focus on mid-20th Century European History, particularly Soviet history. He starts next semester.
 - A 5-year Senior Lectureship has also been created and Dr Jenny Spinks appointed from the University of Manchester.
 - There are three 5-year lectureships
 - One or more annual PhD scholarships.
- b) Gary Israel also reported on the very well-attended launch of the School of Geography, within the Faculty of Science, at which Tim Costello AO spoke in his capacity as the Patron of the Australian Geography Teachers Association. David Belair and Irene Jablonka were also present.
- c) Ros McMillan reported on the launch of the book "Educating Australia: Challenges for the Next Decade ", edited by Glenn Savage and Tom Bentley. It was launched by the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training, Gill Callister, and the University Vice-Chancellor, Glyn Davis, The book contains 21 chapters written by people associated with the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Ros and a colleague, Pip Robinson, wrote one of only two chapters on curriculum that concerned music education, entitled: "Lying on the floor: why Australia can lead the world in music education".
- d) Ros McMillan also advised that the Melbourne Graduate School of Education was about to undergo a substantial restructure.
- e) Irene Jablonka mentioned an exhibition at the Baillieu Library: "Plotting the island: dreams, discovery and disaster" It navigates both real and imaginary voyages, seeing the island of Australia as a pivotal destination. More details may be found at:

<http://library.unimelb.edu.au/exhibitions/plotting> .

11. Key Matters for Consideration

- a) Actions Update

The Actions listing was reviewed and updated (see attachment).
- b) It was agreed not to pursue the matter of business cards for Committee members.
- c) It was agreed to accept the previously-circulated changes to the Committee Aims and Objectives (as attached). Moved: Ros McMillan. Seconded: John Nelson.

- d) The Committee continues to seek new members.
- e) Ros McMillan advised she would continue with item 97, researching contacts with faculties.
- f) John Scott advised that he would circulate an updated Membership Directory, now that the new Deputy President and Treasurer have been appointed.

12. Other Business

a) Committee Website

An e-mail diversion to the address of the Deputy President is to be added to the Committee website.

b) Speakers and Tours

It was confirmed that people from other University organisations were welcome to join our tours and that Committee members would be advised whenever such was to occur.

The aim will be to organise one good tour per Semester, not on a meeting day.

c) University Website

It was established that a link to the Committee does exist on the website of the University:

<https://www.alumni.unimelb.edu.au/volunteer/alumni-groups> .

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 April 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm.

14. Close

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Attachments:

Updated Actions listing

Aims and Objectives (Rev 0)

Papers Circulated:

E-mailed discussion input

Updated Membership Directory

Future Speakers and Tours:

The speaker for April is to be Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne. She is Professor - International Workforce in the Centre for Health Policy at the University of Melbourne within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

See, also, item 12 (b), above.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
85	2015-09-16	Identify individual graduates who may be approached to determine their possible interest in joining the Committee	All	In progress	85
97	2016-10-19	Consider how each member of the Committee might appropriately approach their faculty (faculties) to request regularly e-mailed information that could be passed on to all members of the Committee to provide them with an understanding of the fundamental progress and achievements of the faculty (faculties)	All	In progress	97

Aims and Objectives of the Committee of Convocation

The following aims and objectives were approved at the Committee of Convocation meeting that was held on 15 March 2017.

Role of the Committee of Convocation

1. Seek to inform members about the policies, practices, facilities and equipment of the University through speakers, tours, reports back from members and direct involvement in faculties and schools where possible.
2. Be prepared to express the viewpoint of a graduate group after careful consideration by members - recognising that, given the independence of the C of C, this can be pursued vigorously, if necessary.
3. Provide a forum for social interaction and exchange of views between graduates of those faculties represented by members of the C of C.
4. Stand ready to support the University, Alumni Relations and the Alumni Council where possible.
5. Explore links to Alumni via Staff news bulletins and social media.
6. Build the membership of the Committee to maximise its diversity.
7. Allow electronic communication for those members who would prefer such contact.
8. Seek to have relevant members of the University's administrative staff interact with the Committee - through invitations to address the group, for example.

Ways and Means

1. Asking questions of speakers at Committee meetings.
 2. Writing letters and presenting the Committee's view and / or developing written questions.
 3. Sending delegations to present viewpoints.
 4. Supporting the University through constructive participation in its activities.
 5. Widening contacts and extending membership by recommending potential new members and exploring additional avenues.
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Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 19 April 2017, in the Jim Potter Conference Room,
Old Physics, University of Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, Ros McMillan, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5.30 pm. She welcomed all those who were in attendance and introduced the Guest Speaker.

2. Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker was multi-disciplinary social scientist and global field migration expert Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne, Professor - International Workforce in the Centre for Health Policy at The University of Melbourne within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

The Professor indicated that her career had been a varied one. She began as a freelance journalist, wrote a book and then moved into research (skilled migration and regulation policy formation processes, role of Government versus private employers) before her present career as an academic. She has been in the Faculty for 20 years, chairing the University's Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee and acting as Assistant Dean International, for a period. She is largely involved in research in her present position but teaches PhD students in her field.

The Professor has researched the different approaches to obtaining skilled migrants – Government, employers and via international students at universities. She has undertaken comparative studies of other nations especially Canada and Germany and provided advice to the governments of those countries. She has traced employment patterns for the successful and unsuccessful and is undertaking “powerful” research presently for the Australian Government. She states that great issues for today's world are defence, energy, regional containment and migration. She provided members with most interesting statistics about numbers, issues and types of migrants in Australia, Canada and Germany.

The President thanked the Professor for her interesting and enlightening address and wished her well on behalf of the Committee for her work in her field.

3. Attendance

Members Present:

David Bellair, Lesley Boston, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel (Minute-taker), Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, Elizabeth Mitchell, John Nelson, Christine Oldham, Barbara Perry, Beverley-Anne Rodan, John Scott.

Apologies Received:

Peter Ross, Laurence Simpson, Noel Whiting.

Leave of Absence Granted:

Anne Ada, Jenny Stillman.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15 March 2017 were confirmed with one alteration, being a correction to the book title mentioned by the President, which should read: **Educating Australia - Challenges for the Decade Ahead.**

5. Membership

a) Additions and Withdrawals

David Ford has resigned from membership due to conflicting commitments. He will be thanked in writing for his services and involvement, over the years, by the President.

b) Leave of Absence

As granted.

Following discussion, it was decided to retain this item in the agenda.

6. Report of the President

The President reported on the following matters.

a) The President reported on difficulties experienced in her attempt to contact Alumni Relations to have Committee issues addressed.

b) A congratulatory letter to the newly appointed Chancellor had not met with a reply, thus far.

7. Finance Report

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, advised that the bank account balance of the Committee stood at \$402.40, website costs having been paid.

Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

8. Faculties and Schools Reports

a) John Harcourt had provided a written report of the Dental Advisory Committee held on April 11th. 2017 (previously circulated).

b) Irene Jablonka had attended a parallel histories symposium on early Australian landscape art and American landscape art and advised of an exhibition at the Potter Museum of Art in Parkville in relation to this.

c) John Nelson advised that he was now receiving the Science Faculty newsletter, at last.

d) Cecily Close reported on attending the University Archives' Section launch of the donated papers of Germaine Greer. Discussion followed.

9. Key Matters for Consideration

a) Actions Update

The Actions listing (attached) was reviewed.

b) Membership Development

The President again asked members to continue to seek to recruit additional members of the Committee.

c) Contacts in Faculties and Schools

The President asked that members forward to her the names of their Faculty and School Development Officers.

10. Other Business

a) Committee Website

John Harcourt indicated that the web site was being updated as required.

b) Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka reported that a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens was under consideration.

c) University Carpark

John Harcourt pointed out that new machines were being prepared for controlled entry to the underground car-park.

If necessary, members will be notified as to how they might obtain entry when these begin operating.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 May 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm.

12. Close

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Attachments:

Updated Actions listing

Updated Membership Directory

Papers Circulated:

E-mailed discussion input

Future Speakers and Tours:

The speaker for May is to be Professor Julie Willis; Melbourne School of Design.

See, also, item 10 (b), above.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
85	2015-09-16	Identify individual graduates who may be approached to determine their possible interest in joining the Committee	All	In progress	85
97	2016-10-19	Consider how each member of the Committee might appropriately approach their faculty (faculties) to request regularly e-mailed information that could be passed on to all members of the Committee to provide them with an understanding of the fundamental progress and achievements of the faculty (faculties)	All	In progress	97

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION
Graduates of the University of Melbourne
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT

Dr Rosalind McMillan

(VCA AND MUSIC)

18 Myrtle Avenue

Kew VIC 3101

Tel (home): 9817 6260

Fax: 9817 7034

E-mail: rosmcm@aapt.net.au

(Re-elected 2010)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Dr John Nelson

(EDUCATION)

12 Stinton Ave

Newtown VIC 3220

Tel (home): 5221 2207

E-mail: jmjnelson@optusnet.com.au

(Re-elected 2010)

SECRETARY

Mr John Scott

(ENGINEERING)

19/211 Wellington Parade South

East Melbourne VIC 3002

Mobile: 0412 757 818

E-mail: johnbscott@hotmail.net.au

(Elected 2010)

TREASURER

Dr Christine Oldham

(ARTS, EDUCATION)

3/6 Florence Road

Surrey Hills VIC 3127

Tel (home): 9890 3303

Mobile: 0429 957 757

E-mail: clo56@internode.on.net

(Elected 2015)

Ms Anne Ada

(EDUCATION)

62 McConnell Street

Kensington VIC 3031

Tel (home): 9376 0064

Mobile: 0417 377 241

E-mail: anne.ada@bigpond.com

(Re-elected 2010)

Dr David Bellair

(SCIENCE)

PO Box 433

Rosanna VIC 3084

Tel (home): 9459 5394

Mobile: 0429 968 216

E-mail: david.bellair.cofc@rosebell.com

(Elected 2012)

Dr Lesley Boston, AO

(ARTS)

4 McGregor Street

Middle Park VIC 3206

Tel: (03) 9699 5510

E-mail: bostonlj@bigpond.net.au

(Elected 2013)

Dr Cecily Close

(ARTS)

70 Kambrook Road

Caulfield VIC 3161

Tel (home): 9571 5714

E-mail: cecilyclose@hotmail.com

(Re-elected 2010)

Dr John Harcourt, OAM

(MD&HS)

24 Faircroft Ave

Glen Iris VIC 3146

Tel (home): 9822 2273

Mobile: 041 210 3461

E-mail: jharcour@bigpond.net.au

Alt. e-mail: johnkh@unimelb.edu.au

(Re-elected 2010)

Mr Gary Israel
(ARTS)
48 Through Road
Camberwell VIC 3124
Tel (home): 9889 0740
Mobile: 0412 570 798
E-mail: glei@bigpond.com
(Re-elected 2010)

Ms Irene Jablonka
(SCIENCE, LAW)
P O Box 2173
Wattletree Road LPO
Malvern East VIC 3145
Mobile: 0422 464 464
E-mail: fastmail590@yahoo.com.au
(Elected 2010)

Mr David Janson
(LAW)
P O 332 Fitzroy B C VIC 3065
Mobile: 0428 887 273
E-mail: janson01@bigpond.com
(Elected 2016)

Ms Elizabeth Mitchell
(MUSIC)
50 Highett Street
Richmond VIC 3121
Tel (home): 9428 8527
Mobile: 0438 288 527
E-mail: eemi@unimelb.edu.au
(Elected 2016)

Ms Barbara Perry
(ARTS)
Apartment 505
505 St Kilda Road
Melbourne VIC 3004
Tel: (home): 9867 5544
E-mail: barbaraperry7@bigpond.com
(Re-elected 2010)

Dr Beverley-Anne Rodan
(ARTS, MD&HS)
80 Roden Street
West Melbourne VIC 3003
Tel (home): 9329-9981
Mobile: 0410-547-391
E-mail: bevrodan@iinet.net.au
(Elected 2012)

Mr Peter Ross
(VCA AND MUSIC)
905/2 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Tel: 9699 5215
Mobile: 0433 405 997
E-mail: peterross@netspace.net.au
(Elected 2012)

Dr Laurence Simpson, OAM
(MD&HS)
Unit 137, Lobelia Court, Aveo Mingarra,
77 - 115 Mount Dandenong Road, Croydon 3136
Tel (home): 9876 0074
Mobile: 0408 536 142
E-mail: simpsonl@netspace.net.au
(Re-elected 2010)

Dr Jenny Stillman
(LAND AND ENVIRONMENT and VETERINARY
SCIENCE)
185 Fenton Hill Road
Clarkefield VIC 3430
Tel (home): 5428 5570
Mobile: 0412 349 849
E-mail: jennystillman@optusnet.com.au
(Re-elected 2010)

Mr Noel Whiting
(BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS and MBS)
5/7 Boston Road
Balwyn VIC 3103
Tel: 9880 7722
Mobile: 0408 585 959
E-mail: noel.whiting@outlook.com
(Re-elected 2010)

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 17 May 2017, in the Jim Potter Conference Room,
Old Physics, University of Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, Ros McMillan, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5.30 pm. She welcomed all those who were in attendance and introduced the Guest Speaker.

2. Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker was Professor Julie Willis, recently appointed to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. She gave an interesting account of her research and teaching. Her work has been in the field of institutional and civic (chiefly hospital and school) architecture rather than domestic. Her research interests encompass women architects and, more recently, nineteenth century architects who travelled to and practised in Asian countries as well as in Australia. Professor Willis spoke of the success of the Architecture building in becoming a hub of student and academic activity, visited by a wide range of outside groups. She mentioned the establishment of a new degree (Bachelor of Design) and engagement with other faculties, such as the VCA/MCM and Engineering.

The Professor was warmly thanked for her presentation and for her willing response to questions.

3. Attendance

Members Present:

David Bellair, Cecily Close (Minute-taker), John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, Ros McMillan, Elizabeth Mitchell, Christine Oldham, Barbara Perry, Beverley-Anne Rodan, John Scott, Noel Whiting.

Apologies Received:

Lesley Boston, David Janson, John Nelson, Peter Ross, Laurence Simpson.

Leave of Absence Granted:

Anne Ada, Jenny Stillman.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19 April 2017 were confirmed on the motion of Gary Israel, seconded by Beverley-Ann Rodan.

5. Membership

a) Additions and Withdrawals

None.

b) Leave of Absence

As granted.

6. Report of the President

The President reported on the following matters.

- a) She thanked those who had obtained the names of development officers in their respective Faculties.
- b) She had met Allan Myers QC, Chancellor of the University, who requested an invitation to attend an event of the Committee of Convocation after September. At the meeting of the Committee, some discussion followed, including the suggestion that Dr Myers be invited to the November End-of-Year dinner. This will be finalised at the next meeting.
- c) Also reported was a letter from Juliet Flesch, former member of the Committee, suggesting that the Committee support restriction of the sale of sugary drinks on the campus as a matter of student welfare. In discussion that followed, members noted that the University of Sydney is already investigating such action. The President agreed to draft a letter to the Vice-Chancellor on this subject for consideration at the next meeting.
- d) In response to a question from Gary Israel, the President advised the meeting that she had, indeed, taken the opportunity to mention to Professor Willis that the Committee would be pleased to have graduate representation from architecture and design.

7. Finance Report

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, advised that the bank account balance of the Committee continues to stand at \$402.40.

Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

8. Faculties and Schools Reports

- a) Irene Jablonka reported on an event organized at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute as part of Immunology Week. This commenced with a brief history of the Institute, which is affiliated with the University and is 100 years old, and an outline of the research work it currently undertakes. A brief demonstration of the sorting of cells by a special machine followed. Also shown were research work on cells of patients with coeliac disease, and work that tries to find an early way of detecting changes on the cell surface of cancer cells.
- b) John Scott reported on his attendance, on 16 May, at the 2017 Miegunyah Lecture by Professor David Sholl of the engineering department at Georgia Institute of Technology, USA entitled: *Chemical Separations- A Critical Area in the World's Energy Budget*. Professor Sholl pointed out that a high proportion of energy use is for chemical separations (e.g. oil refining, polymer manufacture). These processes require large amounts of heat and renewable sources of energy for the production of electricity are not suitable, so radical increases in the use of renewables will not greatly impact on overall energy use. Alternative process technologies are needed. Factors to be considered include the heavy investment in current processes and the great reluctance to take on the risks of applying new technology. Lead times for new developments are long. Rapid change will be hard to achieve.
- c) It was noted that at least five members of the Committee had attended events arranged by the Advancement Office in connection with the Van Gogh Exhibition at the National Gallery.

9. Key Matters for Consideration

a) Actions Update

The Actions listing (attached) was reviewed. It was agreed to continue to look for suitable new members.

b) Membership Development

The President mentioned to the Guest Speaker the need for a member of the Committee to represent architecture and design.

c) Contacts in Faculties and Schools

The President asked members to ascertain the names of the development officers in Faculties and Schools where such have not yet been identified.

10. Other Business

a) Committee Website

John Harcourt is keeping the website up to date.

b) Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka advised that Professor Charles Zika has accepted the invitation to be our guest speaker in September. Professor Gregor Kennedy will be the speaker in August. With respect to our planned tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens, staff who guide tours are waiting for the return of their Director, from overseas, before setting up a programme for us.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 June 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm.

12. Close

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Attachments:

Updated Actions listing

Papers Circulated:

E-mailed discussion input

Future Speakers and Tours:

The speaker for June is to be Professor Stephen Harrap, Professor of Physiology in the Department of Physiology at the University of Melbourne

See, also, item 10 (b), above.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
85	2015-09-16	Identify individual graduates who may be approached to determine their possible interest in joining the Committee	All	In progress	85
97	2016-10-19	Consider how each member of the Committee might appropriately approach their faculty (faculties) to request regularly e-mailed information that could be passed on to all members of the Committee to provide them with an understanding of the fundamental progress and achievements of the faculty (faculties)	All	In progress	97
99	2017-05-17	Arrange dialogue with the Chancellor	President	In progress	99
100	2017-05-17	Draft a letter to the Vice-Chancellor concerning the availability on Campus of sugar-containing commodities	President	In progress	100

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 16 August 2017, in the Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room,
Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, Ros McMillan, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5.30 pm. She welcomed all those who were in attendance and introduced the Guest Speaker.

2. Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker was Professor Gregor Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at the University of Melbourne and Director of the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education. Professor Kennedy briefly examined current developments in University Education, especially the changes since the Dawkins Report of 1989 and the transition from elite to mass education at university level.

One of the developments referred to by Professor Kennedy was the growth of 'micro-credential' programs. These have arisen following pressure from employers and competition from elements of the non-university sector, such as professional associations.

Classic credentials consisted of a simple Certificate of Graduation ("testamur"), perhaps supplemented by a statement of results ("transcript"). Micro credentials involve the provision of more evidence of specific attainment. In contrast with past practice, courses now taught at universities comprise skill-based programs that are more attractive to employers and professional associations. Further, the micro-credentials approach facilitates course delivery via the internet, including the provision of MOOCs that incorporate "stackable credits". Novel techniques include the development of on-line peer group support.

The President thanked Professor Kennedy for his instructive and engaging address.

3. Attendance

Members Present:

Anne Ada, David Bellair, Max Chester, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka,
David Janson (Minute-taker), Ros McMillan, Elizabeth Mitchell, Christine Oldham, Barbara Perry, Beverley-Anne Rodan, John Scott, Noel Whiting.

Apologies Received:

Lesley Boston, John Nelson, Peter Ross, Laurence Simpson.

Leave of Absence Granted:

Jenny Stillman.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 June 2017, were confirmed - moved by Max Chester, seconded by Noel Whiting.

5. Correspondence

Noel Whiting tabled the attached letter for further consideration by the Committee.

6. Membership

a) Additions and Withdrawals

None.

b) Rules for admission - Motion on Notice - moved by Gary Israel, seconded by David Bellair:

“That the Membership Rules be amended to include the following:

Every ordinary member of the Committee of Convocation shall first be a member of Convocation, the whole body of graduates of the University of Melbourne.

The Committee of Convocation may vote to appoint honorary members, to a maximum of two, these honorary members to be alumni as defined by the University of Melbourne and to have full voting rights. Appointed honorary members shall have made a significant contribution to and shall have a deep knowledge of the University of Melbourne.”

Motion carried.

A proposed amendment then arose from the floor - moved by Irene Jablonka, seconded by Noel Whiting:

“That the previous motion be amended by increasing the maximum honorary membership to more than two honorary members.”

Proposed amendment lost.

c) Composition of the Executive - Motion from the Chair - moved by Ros McMillan, seconded by Max Chester:

“That the Executive be composed of the President, the Deputy President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.”

Motion carried.

d) Leave of Absence

As granted.

7. Report of the President

The President reported on the following matters.

a) She advised that the Chancellor has apologised for his inability to attend the November dinner to be held by the Committee.

b) There has been no response to the letter from the Committee to the University concerning the availability of sugary drinks on Campus.

- c) There has been a call for volunteers to assist at the Grainger Museum.
- d) The Graduate School of Education is experiencing a significant staff cut resulting from budget overrun.

8. Finance Report

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, advised that the bank account balance of the Committee now stands at \$422.40.

Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

9. Faculties and Schools Reports

- a) Irene Jablonka reported that the Science Festival was in progress. Earlier in the week, at her request, the Secretary had circulated the hyper-link to the programme of the festival. Irene Jablonka had attended the official opening of an exhibition on Blood, part of the festival.
- b) Irene Jablonka further reported that, this year, there are 5 bachelor degrees, 14 diplomas/certificates 18 Master of Science degrees, by coursework, and three post graduate degrees on offer by the Faculty of Science. She contrasted this with fewer than 10 awards on offer by the faculty during the 1970s.
- c) Gary Israel reported on the success of a Torres Strait Islander in gaining her Bachelor of Arts (Extended) at the University of Melbourne, despite initial discouragement from her careers counsellor. She has since set her sights on being accepted into the University of Cambridge as an Aurora Scholar. The Bachelor of Arts (Extended) is awarded following successful completion of a four-year course offered to motivated and aspiring indigenous students.
- d) Gary Israel further reported on his attendance at the opening of the Special Collections Exhibition “Art on the Page” in the Baillieu Library Gallery. This interesting exhibition looks at the use of famous artists and others by publishers to illustrate printed works. The University holds many rare examples of this. The exhibition will continue for some time, so interested members may view it.
- e) John Harcourt reported that a full-time School Manager had been appointed to replace Patricia Murray, who had done a great job as manager of three schools in the faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Patricia will now move to managing one of the other schools in the faculty.
- f) Barbara Perry made mention of her attendance at the Public Lecture entitled “Truth and Truthfulness in the Age of Trump”.
- g) Anne Ada and John Harcourt both participated in the new Welcome to Melbourne program.

10. Key Matters for Consideration

- a) Actions Update

The Actions listing (attached) was reviewed. It was agreed to continue to look for suitable new members.

b) Contacts in Faculties and Schools

The President again asked members to ascertain the names of the development officers in Faculties and Schools where such have not yet been identified.

11. Other Business

a) Committee Website

John Harcourt continues to maintain the website.

b) Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka confirmed that Professor Charles Zika has accepted the invitation to be our guest speaker in September.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 20 September 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm.

13. Close

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Attachments:

Updated Actions listing

Letter from N J Whiting

Membership Rules as amended

Papers Circulated:

E-mailed discussion input

Future Speakers and Tours:

The speaker for September is to be Professor Charles Zika, cultural historian of late mediaeval and early modern Europe, Professorial Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and Chief Investigator, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, University of Melbourne

See, also, item 11 (b), above.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
85	2015-09-16	Identify individual graduates who may be approached to determine their possible interest in joining the Committee	All	In progress	85
97	2016-10-19	Consider how each member of the Committee might appropriately approach their faculty (faculties) to request regularly e-mailed information that could be passed on to all members of the Committee to provide them with an understanding of the fundamental progress and achievements of the faculty (faculties)	All	In progress	97
101	2017-08-16	Issue revised Membership Rules as approved	Secretary	In progress	101

UOM CoC Letter re Convocation

Dear Ros

Over the past few weeks I've been doing a bit of thinking about the Committee of Convocation. We are all attempting to maintain the Committee as a way of influencing the University of Melbourne to search for the truth (which is a basic part of any university) to help the University perform its basic objective.

Recently I have met a gentleman from China who plays bridge at the RACV. He appears to have no family or relatives in Australia. We have recently learned that he is extremely well educated and is connected in some way to Melbourne University. I thought he would be an ideal person to assist us in our endeavours, however, I realised that it would be difficult to introduce him to our meetings and hope that he would persevere. To attract a person of his caliber and background we would need to have something more to offer.

I think the same would apply to the person that you have suggested we introduce and welcome to the Committee. Apart from our visiting staff members who provide us with useful, interesting and sometimes challenging information, I would like to suggest that as we have at our meetings between 10 and 16 well educated and highly intelligent members, who could provide us with their opinions on the matters that affect the University.

We are in a position where the nation, the governments and the press are discussing and making decisions on matters that will, in the not too distant future, have an enormous impact on the University the staff and especially the students –

These include

1. Government financial support not only for Melbourne but for all universities. Are the universities using the money in the best way for the nation?
2. It appears there are over 30 billion dollars owed to the Federal Government by students who do not meet (or disclose?) the level of income that would make them responsible to repay part of their loans. The government wants to change the rules, what effect will that have not just on the students but on the Universities' Federal funding?
3. Are the changes suggested by the government of funding for secondary education based on the best interests of the secondary students, on their employment & incomes and on the Universities they attend? Are they in fact properly educated to take on the study required to qualify for a degree?
4. The problems apparently associated with discussions on Climate Change have never been the subject of a properly adjudicated debate, where educated people who have differing views are able to express their views and explain the basis of those views. It is astonishing that some universities have refused to allow such a debate to take place on the campus and that at times where halls have been hired for a debate or a lecture are blockaded so that the other side is prevented from expressing its views. The CoC could, amongst ourselves, conduct the first such debate in Australia.
5. The universities are educating more lawyers than there are need for or jobs for. The number of lawyers in Australia has increased by 30% in less than 10 years. Many graduate with no hope of work, in law, but a huge HECS debt.

Other members of the committee will have additional subjects for discussion-some were raised at the last meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Noel J Whiting

Committee of Convocation

Membership Rules

1. Every ordinary member of the Committee of Convocation shall first be a member of Convocation, the whole body of graduates of the University of Melbourne.
2. The Committee of Convocation may vote to appoint honorary members, to a maximum of two, these honorary members:
 - a. To be alumni, as defined by the University of Melbourne;
 - b. To have full voting rights; and
 - c. To have made a significant contribution to and to have a deep knowledge of the University of Melbourne.
3. The Committee of Convocation shall elect a President from amongst its members for a term of two years.
4. A retiring President may continue as a member of the Committee of Convocation and may serve additional terms as President, subject to re-election as may be required.
5. The Committee of Convocation shall elect a Deputy President, a Secretary and a Treasurer from amongst its members, each for a term of two years.
6. The Executive of the Committee of Convocation shall be composed of the President, the Deputy President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.
7. An employee of the University shall not be eligible for membership of the Committee of Convocation if engaged in that employment for more than the equivalent of one day per week.
8. The Committee of Convocation shall aim to reflect the spread of faculties and schools of the University of Melbourne by arranging, as far as is practicable, for representation of each of them by at least one member of the Committee.
9. Any graduate of the University of Melbourne may nominate for ordinary membership of the Committee of Convocation by an expression of interest addressed to the President of the Committee.
10. Before accepting any nomination for membership of the Committee of Convocation it shall first be ensured that:
 - a. the nominee is a graduate of the University of Melbourne (unless nominated for appointment in accordance with Rule 2); and
 - b. the nominee has expressed willingness to meet the objects and purposes of the Committee.
11. The acceptance of each nominee for membership shall be by a majority of those members present at a duly convened meeting of the Committee of Convocation.
12. The membership of any member who fails to attend at least half of the properly convened meetings of the Committee of Convocation held in any calendar year without leave of absence may be deemed to have lapsed.
13. Any interested graduate of the University may attend any meeting of the Committee of Convocation but without voting rights if not a member.

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, at the Jim Potter conference Room,
Old Physics, University of Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, Ros McMillan, took the chair and opened the meeting at 5.30 pm. She welcomed all those who were in attendance and introduced the Guest Speaker.

2. Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker was Professor Charles Zika, cultural historian of late mediaeval and early modern Europe, Professorial Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and Chief Investigator, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, University of Melbourne.

European history of emotions over the period 1300 to 1850 is the focus of research being undertaken, with emphasis on the plasticity of the brain. Emotions are not fixed, nor are they uniform – they change with time. Centre of Excellence projects include: the effects of natural disasters on communities, contemporary cultural influences and their effects and the effects of pilgrimages on the formation of new communities and cultures. Mention was made of the “social ice age” of the 1650s.

Ideas change history and they are always connected with emotions. No human emotion exists without objects. Emotions are at the intersection of the body and the mind. Peace, empathy and music are central to the relationship between cognition and emotion.

The President thanked Professor Zika for his fascinating and enlightening address.

3. Attendance

Members Present:

Anne Ada, Lesley Boston (Minute-taker), Max Chester, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, John Nelson, Christine Oldham, Barbara Perry, John Scott.

Apologies Received:

David Bellair, Elizabeth Mitchell, Beverley-Anne Rodan, Laurence Simpson, Noel Whiting.

Leave of Absence Granted:

Peter Ross, Jenny Stillman.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16 August 2017, were confirmed – moved by Max Chester, seconded by Cecily Close – subject to an amendment of the report by Gary Israel at 9 (c), therein, to reflect that the candidate in question has been accepted by the University of Cambridge as an Aurora Scholar.

5. Correspondence

Nil.

6. Membership

Additions and Withdrawals

It was unanimously approved that Professor Trefor Morgan be invited to join the Committee as an Honorary Member – moved by John Nelson, seconded by Gary Israel.

7. Report of the President

The President reported on the following matters.

- a) On-campus parking has been secured for members of the Committee following great assistance from the Parking Officer.
- b) Given the fact that several worthwhile matters for discussion, raised by members, lie largely beyond the collective expertise of the Committee, efforts would be made to find speakers who are able to address those matters.
- c) The Advancement Office has been running an on-line survey of alumni opinions relevant to the University. Some time was spent, during the meeting, informally surveying the opinions of those present. Although the criteria were not clear, there was strong consensus amongst members of the Committee that social benefits, student success, global outreach and financial viability were key outcomes from the activities of the University.

8. Finance Report

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, advised that the bank account balance of the Committee remains at \$422.40.

Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

9. Faculties and Schools Reports

- a) Gary Israel reported that Mr Philip Kent, University Librarian and Director of Cultural collections, will shortly leave the University to take up the post of Librarian at the University of Bristol. This represents a significant loss to the University of Melbourne. The Library Sub-committee of the Committee has worked with Mr Kent, with the support of the whole Committee, and it has sought to assist to improve library facilities.

Gary Israel wrote to Mr Kent to wish him well and to thank him for his professionalism and for his interest in the Committee in relation to library matters. The President was aware of this letter. Mr Kent has written back thanking Gary for his letter and good wishes and for ongoing support of the library. Mr Kent further wrote that he was “pleased that the relationship with Convocation is stronger and hopes this continues into the future”.

- b) Irene Jablonka brought to attention the fact that a University of Melbourne team of health experts, physicists and engineers, led by Dr Bryan Sobott, has won the ANSTO Eureka Prize for Innovative Use of Technology. The team has developed a method of easily and inexpensively producing medical grade oxygen without electricity. The system uses energy from a small amount of running water to separate oxygen from surrounding air. This is a life-saving innovation for third world countries lacking power supply.
- c) Irene Jablonka also advised that Professor Jörg Wrachtrup, from the University of Stuttgart, has joined the staff of the University as Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellow. He will work with colleagues in the School of Physics in furthering their work in quantum sensing.
- d) Barbara Perry made mention of her attendance at the Faculty of Arts Public Lecture entitled “Trump, the American Dream and the Humanities”. This lecture was delivered by Professor Sarah Churchwell, Chair for the Public Understanding of the Humanities at the University of London. The humanities are seen to have a role in reshaping global discourse and in underpinning global resistance to shockwaves from the Trump Presidency. The lecture dealt with the rise of Donald Trump within the history of the “American Dream” and the idea of “America First” in order to consider their relation to the struggle for democracy and the role the humanities can play in that struggle.

10. Key Matters for Consideration

a) Actions Update

The Actions listing (attached) was reviewed. Items 85 and 97 are ongoing whilst item 101 is complete.

b) Contacts in Faculties and Schools

No further action was reported.

c) Points for Discussion

Discussion of the letter from Noel Whiting, that had been tabled at the previous meeting for consideration by the Committee, was deferred, given the absence of the writer.

11. Other Business

a) Committee Website

There was discussion as to whether the web site hits counter might possibly be inaccurate.

b) Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka confirmed that Professor Paul Mulvaney, Professor of Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Bio21 Institute at the University, has accepted the invitation to be our guest speaker in October.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18 October 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm.

13. Close

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Attachments:

Updated Actions listing

Papers Circulated:

E-mailed discussion input

Future Speakers and Tours:

See item 11 (b), above.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

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Committee of Convocation

Agenda for Meeting

Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 5.30 pm

Jim Potter Conference Room, Old Physics, University of Melbourne

1. Welcome

2. Guest Speaker

The Speaker is to be Professor Paul Mulvaney, Professor of Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Bio21 Institute at the University of Melbourne

3. Attendance

Apologies and Leave of Absence

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting, held on 20 September 2017

5. Membership

Additions and withdrawals

6. Report of the President

7. Financial Report

8. Faculties and Schools Reports

9. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Actions update
- b. Membership development
- c. Contacts in Faculties and Schools
- d. Letter from N J Whiting – discussion points

10. Other Business

- a. Website
- b. Tours and speakers
- c. Annual Dinner

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 15 November 2017, commencing at 5.30 pm

12. Close

Attachments

Updated Actions

Diners List

Noel Whiting letter

Ross Gittens article

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

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COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION

Permanent Dinner List 2017

- David Bellair
- Max Chester
- Cecily Close
- John Harcourt
- Gary Israel
- Irene Jablonka
- David Janson
- Ros McMillan
- Elizabeth Mitchell
- John Nelson
- Chris Oldham
- Barbara Perry
- John Balfour Scott
- Laurie Simpson

UOM CoC Letter re Convocation

Dear Ros

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Recently I have met a gentleman from China who plays bridge at the RACV. He appears to have no family or relatives in Australia. We have recently learned that he is extremely well educated and is connected in some way to Melbourne University. I thought he would be an ideal person to assist us in our endeavours, however, I realised that it would be difficult to introduce him to our meetings and hope that he would persevere. To attract a person of his caliber and background we would need to have something more to offer.

I think the same would apply to the person that you have suggested we introduce and welcome to the Committee. Apart from our visiting staff members who provide us with useful, interesting and sometimes challenging information, I would like to suggest that as we have at our meetings between 10 and 16 well educated and highly intelligent members, who could provide us with their opinions on the matters that affect the University.

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These include

1. Government financial support not only for Melbourne but for all universities. Are the universities using the money in the best way for the nation?
2. It appears there are over 30 billion dollars owed to the Federal Government by students who do not meet (or disclose?) the level of income that would make them responsible to repay part of their loans. The government wants to change the rules, what effect will that have not just on the students but on the Universities' Federal funding?
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4. The problems apparently associated with discussions on Climate Change have never been the subject of a properly adjudicated debate, where educated people who have differing views are able to express their views and explain the basis of those views. It is astonishing that some universities have refused to allow such a debate to take place on the campus and that at times where halls have been hired for a debate or a lecture are blockaded so that the other side is prevented from expressing its views. The CoC could, amongst ourselves, conduct the first such debate in Australia.
5. The universities are educating more lawyers than there are need for or jobs for. The number of lawyers in Australia has increased by 30% in less than 10 years. Many graduate with no hope of work, in law, but a huge HECS debt.

Other members of the committee will have additional subjects for discussion-some were raised at the last meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Noel J Whiting

The young are getting a bad deal – here's how

Ross Gittens – 'The Age' 22/9/17

When they look at the economy that older generations are leaving for them, young Australians have a lot to be angry about. Some of their fears and resentments are misplaced, but most aren't. Oldies who should know better have, for their own reasons, given them an exaggerated impression of the likely extent and timing of digital disruption in the jobs market.

There's much resentment of the higher education tuition fees the young have to repay, but I've never thought it unreasonable to ask them to contribute about half the cost of their qualifications, which will greatly increase their lifetime incomes - especially when repayments are geared to the size of that income and the loan carries a real interest rate of zero.

But I must add some qualifications. It *is* a bit rich for federal governments to have been tightening up on subsidies to students at the same time as they've been increasing subsidies to the retired, particularly those who believe themselves entitled a handout because they're "self-funded" (that is, too well off to get the age pension).

You can understand why young people resent being lumbered with education debt when governments have gone for years tolerating distortions in the tax system - negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount - that favour older people buying investment properties over first-home buyers, and push the price of homes and the size of home loans even higher.

And it's understandable that graduates should be uncertain about the economic value of their degrees at a time when so many uni leavers are taking so long to find a full-time job - which is partly because the past few years of weakness in employers' demand for workers is being borne mainly at the entry level, and partly because universities have lowered the *average* value of their degrees by lowering entry standards and by educating far more people for particular occupations than are ever likely to be needed.

A big part of this last problem comes from the way successive 'reforms' by both sides of politics at both levels of government have stuffed up the choice between going to uni and going to TAFE or a for-profit provider of VET - vocational education and training.

The plain truth is, while it's right that, in our ever-more complicated, knowledge economy, almost all students need further education after completing their schooling, it's wrong to believe everyone should go to university. The less academically inclined - of whom there will always be many - would be better served going on to vocational education and training, as would the economy (that is, the rest of us).

Yet recent times have seen multiple pressures for every kid to go to uni. The first and most potent is that being a graduate carries more social status - an irresistible lure to many parents and students. The long-standing policy of encouraging students to stay to the end of year 12 adds to the presumption that young people will and should go on to uni. The last years of high school are overwhelmingly academically inclined.

It was always accepted, in principle, that not all students were suited to university and that, for many, their last years of schooling should be a "pathway" to a trade or other technical qualification. Great idea; doesn't seem to have amounted to much in practice. And then we have the introduction in 2012 of demand-driven federal funding of undergraduate places at university, which has prompted a huge increase in student numbers as unis - some more than others - dropped their entry standards so as to maximise their federal grants.

Would it be surprising if this led some students to go to uni when they should have gone to TAFE? I'm told that, at NSW TAFE's big campus at Ultimo in Sydney, more than 30 per cent of the students are there because, though they already have a uni degree, they can't find a job. I'm told there's a shortage of architectural drafters because people who should have done the tech course have gone to uni to be architects. Then they're disillusioned when they're put to work doing drafting.

But would it be surprising if school leavers are steering clear of vocational education when they've read so many stories about the tribulations of TAFE and some private providers ripping off the young and trusting, so as to rot the federal government's VET version of the student loan scheme? The truth is that the efforts of federal and state governments of both colours to make VET 'contestable' by making for-profit education providers part of the system have been a disastrous failure.

Now the federal bureaucrats have belatedly sorted that mess, we're left with private providers who will only ever cherry-pick the most popular and profitable courses, usually those with low capital costs. So we're back to relying on good old government-owned TAFE - always the education system's poor relation, towards which the feds' commitment runs alternatively hot and cold.

But the misguided reformers were right to believe TAFE needs to change from its old complacent, inflexible ways, where the convenience and income of staff were given priority over the changing needs of employers and of young people wanting to gain skills relevant to the needs of present and future employers. TAFE will need to change a lot if it's not to be yet another respect in which the young are getting a bad deal.

Committee of Convocation

Agenda for Meeting

Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 5.30 pm

Jim Potter Conference Room, Old Physics, University of Melbourne

1. Welcome

2. Guest Speaker

There will be no Guest Speaker at the meeting as the Annual Dinner will follow

3. Attendance

Apologies and Leave of Absence

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting, held on 18 October 2017

5. Membership

Additions and withdrawals

6. Report of the President

7. Financial Report

8. Faculties and Schools Reports

9. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Actions update
- b. Membership development
- c. Contacts in Faculties and Schools

10. Other Business

- a. Website
- b. Tours and speakers
- c. Annual Dinner

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 21 February 2018, commencing at 5.30 pm

12. Close

Attachments

Updated Actions

Diners List

Letter from the Vice-Chancellor – sugary drinks sold on campus

Members are reminded of the need to confirm attendances at the Annual Dinner that is to follow the meeting, and to make payments not later than Thursday 9 November 2017. Payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
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COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION

Permanent Dinner List 2017

- David Bellair
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- David Janson
- Ros McMillan
- Elizabeth Mitchell
- John Nelson
- Chris Oldham
- Barbara Perry
- John Balfour Scott
- Laurie Simpson

Dr Rosalind McMillan
President
The Committee of Convocation
18 Myrtle Avenue
Kew VIC 3101

Dear Dr McMillan,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Committee of Convocation of 19 July 2017 relaying a staff member's concerns about vending machines on campus selling sugary drinks and the effect of such beverages on the health of students.

This is a complex matter that raises interesting issues about personal choice, market operations, the leadership role of the University and self-management of health and well-being.

At present, we are not actively considering any policy implementation like the proposed ban on the sale and restriction of sugar-sweetened drinks, as reported for the University of Sydney. For our part, the University recognises and respects the importance of freedom of choice for staff, students, and visitors to the campus and notes that a ban could undermine freedom of choice.

The University as a landlord cannot reasonably direct existing cafés and retail to cease selling sugar-sweetened drinks, as tenants could legitimately claim that this is a restriction on trade that impacts their business, and consequently seek financial compensation. The University does however have 100% direct control of food and beverage service at our Creswick and Dookie campuses, and would be pleased to review the feasibility of declaring these campuses as free from sugar-sweetened drinks in consultation with our community.

There is certainly considerable value in the University making every effort to facilitate staff and student choice around healthy food and beverage choices, and this is reflected in our new Food and Retail Strategy which is currently being implemented. This initiative emphasises the importance of offering healthy food and beverage options and includes a substantial review of the current mix of retail tenancies at Parkville Campus.

The University has recently released a new market tender for the supply of vending machines on campus and is seeking tenderer's responses regarding supply of more healthy food and beverages. We are also continuing to deploy chilled fresh water dispensers as part of the construction or refurbishment of University buildings, to provide free on-campus alternatives to sugary drinks, and to encourage refilling of water containers and reduced plastic waste.

If you would like more information about these initiatives, please contact Mr Byron Collins, Executive Director of Infrastructure Services, on 03 8344 3472.

Yours,



Glyn Davis
Vice-Chancellor

13 / 10 / 2017

cc: Mr Byron Collins, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, University of Melbourne

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