

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 20 March 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest speaker was Professor Alexander Babanin, Professor of Ocean Engineering in the University. He spoke about his work which revolves principally around ocean waves, as caused by wind, and the areas of engineering related to man's sea structures and usages of the oceans. He has previously worked at the Australian Defence Force Academy, University of Adelaide and Swinburne University. He noted that the ocean is a complex environment and can be very aggressive and that two to three metres of ocean have a heat capacity equivalent to that of the entire atmosphere. The redistribution of heat energy via wind and waves is a vital factor in climate modelling with Australia being responsible for approximately 14% of the world's oceans.

Understanding the nature of waves as generated by wind is vital to engineers in designing off-shore oil rigs, exploitation of Arctic resources, designing shipping and ports and dredging operations. Future areas of interest and research are floating oil and gas facilities and storage given that mining is happening further and further into the oceans, off-shore wind farms, oil rigs in Arctic environments and power stations on sea floors to support distant facilities.

Professor Babanin was thanked for his most interesting address by the President.

**3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

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

b. Apologies - Received:

Anne Ada, Noel Whiting.

c. Leave of Absence - Granted:

Peter Ross, Jenny Stillman.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 21 November 2018, were confirmed – Proposed: Ros McMillan, Seconded: David Janson.

#### **5. Correspondence**

Letter to Lesley Boston, upon her resignation, thanking her for her long service to the Committee.

Letter to Trefor Morgan, congratulating him on being made an Officer in the Order of Australia.

#### **6. Membership**

##### **a. Additions and Withdrawals**

On 28 January 2019 Lesley Boston resigned from membership of the Committee.

It was Proposed: John Scott Seconded: Beverley-Anne Rodan that a motion of appreciation be recorded for Lesley Boston's involvement in and services to the Committee over a long period of time. The President agreed to write to Lesley Boston in respect of this.

##### **b. Leave of Absence**

As previously granted.

The extended Leave of Absences of Peter Ross and Jenny Stillman were discussed and it was agreed that the President would make contact with each of them to determine their preferences for future involvement with the Committee.

#### **7. Report of the President**

The President spoke of his forced absence late last year and thanked Deputy President John Nelson for stepping in for him.

The President also thanked Ros McMillan for her preparation of a tribute to the late Ray Marginson, distributed to all members. Proposed: Ros McMillan Seconded: John Nelson that the President write to Mr Marginson's daughter to express the Committee's appreciation for all that he did as Vice Principal to improve so many aspects of University administration.

Discussion occurred regarding the Committee's attempt to obtain a copy of the Alumni Council's 2018 Report to the University Council. Irene Jablonka suggested that Dr Joseph Doyle might be invited to the Annual Dinner. (Note: according to the University website, Ms Margaret Quixley is the current Alumni Council President).

Trefor Morgan was heartily congratulated on recently being made an Officer in the Order of Australia.

## **8. Financial Report**

Christine Oldham reported that the Committee's bank balance stood at \$412.30 following payment for the annual dinner. This was seen as an adequate amount for anticipated expenses.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to:  
BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

- a. Gary Israel reported that Emeritus Professor of Classics, Ron Ridley, Faculty of Arts, has been awarded a most prestigious Gold Medal by key citizens of Rome. The medal was founded by the famous Borghese family in memory of Princess Daria Borghese who passed away in the 1970s. The medal is given for the historian / author who publishes an outstanding book about Rome. Ron's biography *The Prince of Antiquarians: Francesco de Ficoroni (1662-1747)* was awarded the Gold Medal. This is one of Ron's latest books on Rome subject and he has written many going back to 1987 when his *History of Rome* was published.
- b. Irene Jablonka reported on her attendance, on 23 November 2018, at a function, arranged by the Australia India Institute and the University of Melbourne, to welcome the President of India, who was on a 3-day tour of Australia. His Excellency, President Ram Nath Kovind was welcomed to the University by the Chancellor, Mr Allan Myers, Vice Chancellor, Prof Duncan Maskell and the Director of the Australia India Institute, Prof Craig Jeffrey. Mr Kovind responded with a short presentation, in English, about the value of learning partnerships between Australia and India. The title of his presentation was 'Australia and India as Knowledge Partners'. Also, part of the official party consisted of uniformed members of the Indian Armed Forces.
- c. It was noted that a Dental Advisory Committee report, prepared by John Harcourt, had been distributed to all members.

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update

The following currently listed matters are ongoing.

Ref. 85 – identify individual graduates who may be approached.

Ros McMillan urged all members to seek to find one additional new member and stressed that this was an important need to advance the Committee.

Ref. 103 – request access to a copy of the latest Alumni Council Annual Report (refer to Item 7, above).

- b. Membership Development (see above).

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Minute of Appreciation for Lesley Boston (refer to Item 6 a., above).
- b. Gary Israel told the meeting that he is interested in a possible future library tour, if that can be arranged. He mentioned his informal discussion with Ms Thomas, University Librarian, whom he had met at a social function last November.
- c. Irene Jablonka advised the meeting, that she has arranged for Ms Thomas, the University Librarian, to be the guest speaker at the June 2019 Committee of Convocation Meeting. It was agreed that further arrangements regarding future liaison between the Library Services and the Committee of Convocation should be deferred until that time. It was suggested that Ms Thomas may be able to assist in our recruitment of future members.
- d. Website – John Harcourt reported there had been 500 “hits” on the website in the last two years. Invoices for website costs are expected soon.
- e. Tours and Speakers – a report had been emailed to members. The current arrangements are:
  - April - Professor Nikos Papastergiadis;
  - May - Professor Mike Morgan;
  - June - Ms Gwenda Thomas.
- f. University Governance – The President will update the Committee as soon as possible.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 17 April 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

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### **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## 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 [Sub-committee of David bellair, Ros McMillan and Gary Israel formed on 2018-06-20]	All Sub-committee	In progress	85
103	2018-09-19	Request access to a copy of the latest Alumni Council Annual Report	President	In progress	103

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 17 April 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker and former member Dr Stan Sahhar.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest Speaker was Professor Nikos Papastergiadis, Director of the Research Unit in Public Cultures and Professor in the School of Culture and Communication within the University.

Professor Papastergiadis began by discussing the path from working towards his PhD thesis to his current research, which focuses on the connections between multiculturalism, migration, the arts and culture. He postulated that migration should not be seen as a 'problem' but rather as an integral part of the lives of everyone. Over time he developed a journal based on the contribution of visual artists, who were neither American nor British, a journal that documented the work and lives of contemporary artists who have become the 'Who's Who' of the art world.

Professor Papastergiadis discussed how migration has shaped the world, noting that his book 'The Turbulence of Migration' (2000) focuses, particularly, on how Australian migration is linked with both politics and visual art. Since then he has continued his research into the role of artists, who use world politics to create responses to various situations through their art work. He noted that there are now many artists throughout the world, who connect with society in this way.

At the conclusion of the talk, the President thanked Professor Papastergiadis for his inspiring talk and this was followed by applause from all members.

**3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

Anne Ada, David Bellair, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan (Minute-taker), Elizabeth Mitchell, Trefor Morgan, Christine Oldham, Beverley Rodan, John Scott.

b. Apologies - Received:

John Nelson, Noel Whiting.

c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Peter Ross, Jenny Stillman.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 20 March 2019, were confirmed – Proposed: Beverley Rodan, Seconded: David Janson.

#### **5. Correspondence**

The President has written to Lesley Boston in respect of her recent resignation from the Committee, thanking her for her past involvement. Lesley's contribution to the Committee of Convocation has been extensive, including her role as a former President and as the leader of the process of 're-visioning' of the Committee that followed the introduction of the University of Melbourne Act 2009.

The President plans to send an e-mail to the newly elected President of the Alumni Council asking whether the Council makes its reports publicly available.

#### **6. Membership**

a. Additions and Withdrawals

Dr Stan Sahhar, who was in attendance, indicated his willingness to re-join the Committee and a motion for him to do so was proposed by John Scott, seconded by John Harcourt. The motion received unanimous approval from the members present.

The President reported that he had contacted Peter Ross, who was previously granted Leave of Absence due to ill-health. Given less than hoped-for health improvement, Peter has decided that he is unable to attend future meetings and that he should resign from the Committee. A motion to accept this resignation was moved by Ros McMillan, seconded by Elizabeth Mitchell. It was agreed that the President should write to Peter thanking him for his past involvement.

b. Leave of Absence

The leave of absence previously granted to Jenny Stillman will continue as it is hoped that, eventually, she will be in a position to resume her involvement with the Committee.

#### **7. Report of the President**

The President reported that he has cancelled the Facebook account of the Committee of Convocation due to the negative use of Facebook following the tragedy in Christchurch, New Zealand.

There was discussion as to how the Committee of Convocation is viewed, as an Alumni body. Committee members who are also members of the staff of the University are requested to check the University website for references to alumni groups on the basis that relevant and useful information might thus be found.

The branding of the Committee was also discussed and it was agreed that there should be a review.

## **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$412.30, unchanged since the last report.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

- a. Gary Israel reported on several matters concerning the School of History:
  - A History Alumni newsletter has been initiated. Further, a History Society has been established, resulting from undergraduate enthusiasm and supported by the School of History.
  - Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Perpignan, France in 2018.
  - Professor Joy Damousi has been elected President of the Australian Historical Association. Professor Antonia Finnane (Chinese History) is retiring and the new Head of School, from mid-2019, will be Professor Margaret Cameron.
- b. John Harcourt reported that Professor Mike Morgan, Head of the Dental School, has created a Dentistry newsletter.
- c. Irene Jablonka reported that she attended an excellent concert given by the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at the Melbourne Recital Centre. She mentioned that currently there is a partnership agreement between the Recital Centre and the University of Melbourne, which enables University of Melbourne alumni to purchase a two-year membership to the Recital Centre at half price.
- d. John Scott reported that he attended an engineering seminar at which the future of the Murray-Darling river system was discussed. It was the first of a series.

- e. Anne Ada indicated that she had attended events run by the Graduate School of Education and the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science and that it was her belief that those two faculties are making an effort to connect with their alumni.
- f. Ros McMillan advised that, on 01 April 2019, she had attended the Opening of the new Conservatorium of Music building at the Southbank campus.
- g. Christine Oldham advised that the Graduate School of Education currently has a series of excellent Dean's Lectures, which are public.

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update - the currently listed matters are ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members are urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Website – no action reported.
- b. Tours and Speakers – Irene Jablonka reported that she is seeking to organise a tour of the new Southbank campus of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. The new Master of Ormond College is a possible future speaker.

Planned speakers are:

For the May meeting - Professor Mike Morgan, Melbourne Dental School;

For the June meeting - Ms Gwenda Thomas, Director Scholarly Services and University Librarian.

- c. University Governance – The President intends to update the Committee as soon as possible.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 15 May 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

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### **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## 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 [Sub-committee of David bellair, Ros McMillan and Gary Israel formed on 2018-06-20]	All Sub-committee	In progress	85
103	2018-09-19	Request access to a copy of the latest Alumni Council Annual Report	President	In progress	103

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 15 May 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest Speaker was Professor Mike Morgan of the Melbourne Dental School.

Professor Morgan gave a very interesting account of his background and career in dentistry, from his training in New Zealand to the present, tracing the changes he has seen in techniques and methods used. These have led to the current emphasis on prevention of dental problems through an emphasis upon oral health, a pursuit in which he is now a leader. He also drew attention to changes in the composition of the student population, and to the problems of a falling budget and rising debts incurred by students in taking their courses.

At the conclusion of the talk, the President offered thanks to Professor Morgan for his informative presentation and this was warmly applauded by all members.

**3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

David Bellair, Cecily Close (Minute-taker), John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, John Nelson, Christine Oldham, Beverley Rodan, Stan Sahhar, John Scott.

b. Apologies - Received:

Anne Ada, Elizabeth Mitchell, Trefor Morgan, Noel Whiting.

(The good wishes of the members were to be conveyed to Elizabeth Mitchell for a speedy recovery.)

c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Jenny Stillman.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 17 April 2019, were accepted and confirmed.

## **5. Correspondence**

None.

## **6. Membership**

### a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

### b. Leave of Absence

None.

## **7. Report of the President**

The President reported having been in touch with the President of the Alumni Council, Margaret Quixley, and that he had arranged for a breakfast meeting with her on 27 May.

Referring to the document that he had compiled and circulated earlier to members dealing with University personnel and the reporting structure, the President reported having found, in seeking to up-date this information, numerous changes in both. His updated list will be circulated in due course. He remarked on the disappearance, from the public pages of the University of Melbourne website, of details relating to faculties, with which the Committee should stay in touch. There is resultant difficulty when searching for contact information.

Following the discussion, at the last meeting, regarding the “branding” of the Committee of Convocation and our absence from its website, the President reported the discovery, by Ros McMillan, of the reference to the Committee on a part of the University website dealing with alumni. There it is listed amongst small groups supported by the University and designated as “alumni networks”.

After discussing the question of “branding” for the Committee of Convocation, a motion was passed to describe it as “representing University graduates”. Then there was an expression of concern as to the correctness of this wording, so it was decided that members should consider it further and let the President know their views before the next meeting (Action 105).

## **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$322.60.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

- a. John Scott reported that it had been indicated to him that there appeared to be a risk that the teaching of Italian at the University might soon be discontinued.
- b. Irene Jablonka reported attending a lecture on the cash economy at the Law School.

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update  
Action 104 (University website search for references to alumni groups) is complete. It was identified that the Committee is included and described as an “alumni network”. Actions 85 and 103 are ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members are urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Website – no action reported.
- b. Speakers and Tours - Irene Jablonka reported that the speaker on 19 June would be Ms Gwenda Thomas, Director, Scholarly Services and University Librarian. Tours had been approved at the new Southbank campus of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, Ormond College and the Buxton Gallery of Contemporary Art. Irene asked members for the most suitable day for the tour of Ormond College and it was agreed that a Wednesday would suit best.
- c. University Governance – The President intends to update the Committee as soon as possible.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 19 June 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

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### **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## 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 [Sub-committee of David bellair, Ros McMillan and Gary Israel formed on 2018-06-20]	All Sub-committee	In progress	85
103	2018-09-19	Request access to a copy of the latest Alumni Council Annual Report	President	In progress	103
105	2019-05-15	Consider and advise the President as to the status of the Committee according to the University website	All	In progress	105

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 19 June 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest Speaker was Ms Gwenda Thomas, Director, Scholarly Services and University Librarian. She has been in the position since 2018, her previous appointment having been at the University of Capetown.

Ms Thomas used her document *UoM & Scholarly Services Overview* as the basis of her presentation to the Committee. The first area of her presentation was “Leading global university” where the University’s ranking among the top universities in the world was stated. She detailed aspects of the University, such as having a student population of almost 70 000 of whom some 40% are from overseas and having a diverse and extensive footprint over multiple campuses that include state-of-art precincts. Her comments regarding The Melbourne Model included emphasising the interconnectedness of academic excellence, professional expertise, and agenda and direction setting. The point she made was that these areas must interconnect and they should not be silos.

Ms Thomas detailed the Scholarly Services Organisational chart, which showed that there were, below the Director Scholarly Services and University Librarian, four associate directors: Associate Director Library Liaison and Learning; Associate Director Information Services and Library Spaces; Associate Director Learning Environments; and Associate Director Research and Collections. Ms Thomas indicated that, by 2021, there would be a “highly adaptive team enabling academic study and research”. With an emphasis on diversity, inclusion and open access the University would be able to “provide a complete experience for our students, academics, researchers and partners in advancing knowledge and inquiry.”

Also included in her document was information on an operational plan for 2019 – 2021, a plan for the library spaces, explanations of Learning and Teaching cluster and Research Service clusters. Ms Thomas concluded with an extensive outline of services.

Ms Thomas’s talk was well received by members of the Committee and the President thanked her on behalf of the Committee for her comprehensive and interesting presentation.

### **3. Attendance**

#### a. Members Present:

David Bellair, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, Trefor Morgan, John Nelson (Minute-taker), Beverley Rodan, Stan Sahhar, John Scott.

#### b. Apologies - Received:

Anne Ada, Elizabeth Mitchell, Christine Oldham, Noel Whiting.

#### c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Jenny Stillman.

### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 15 May 2019, were accepted and confirmed (Ros McMillan, Stan Sahhar).

### **5. Correspondence**

None.

### **6. Membership**

#### a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

#### b. Leave of Absence

Granted to Stan Sahhar for the August 2019 meeting.

#### c. Honours

On 10 June 2019 it was announced that Ros McMillan, Immediate Past President of the Committee of Convocation, has been awarded the honour of Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to music education in Victoria.

### **7. Report of the President**

- a. The President reported on his recent breakfast meeting with Margaret Quixley the President of the Alumni Council. He reported that it was a positive meeting and that there is the possibility of cooperation with the Alumni Council.
- b. The President's paper on University Governance has made slow progress with little information coming from faculties.

- c. Discussion of the President's paper on the letterhead for the Committee centred upon the first of two suggestions. It was moved (Ros McMillan, John Nelson) that the first of the two options be used. This motion was amended, with the agreement of the mover and seconder, that the second sentence of that option be removed. This amendment motion was passed. Accordingly, the letterhead is to read: "The Committee of Convocation – Supporting the University since 1867".
- d. The president mentioned the recent QS university rankings in which Melbourne again was ranked high among the Australian universities.
- e. Recently reported simultaneous discussions between Chancellors and between Vice-Chancellors, about the issue of free speech on university campuses around Australia, were commented on by the President.

[Note: On the following day, June 20, The Age (on page 5) reported that "The University of Melbourne has released a free speech policy for the first time, but says it does not support the principle being exercised if it 'unreasonably disrupts [the] activities or operations of the university' ".]

## **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, transmitted a report to the effect that the bank balance of the Committee remained at \$322.60, there having been no transactions since May.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

- a. Ros McMillan reported on her attendance, on 01 June, at the Official Opening of the Ian Potter Southbank Centre, the new home of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Highlights included an impressive and moving Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony that included graduates from the Victorian College of the Arts amongst the dancers and singers. The thirty-minute indoor Opening Ceremony began with a fanfare for brass and percussion instruments written, especially for the occasion, by Head of Composition, Professor Stuart Greenbaum. The Minister for Creative Industries, Martin Foley, officially opened the building. A lavishly catered-for reception followed the formalities.

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update - Action 103 (Request access to Alumni Council Report – none exists) is complete. Action 106 (Committee branding) is complete. Action 85 is ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Website – John Harcourt reported that the website had received a routine update.
- b. Speakers and Tours - Irene Jablonka reported that the speaker on 21 August would be Prof Udaya Parampalli, Faculty of Engineering, an expert on Cybersecurity, coding theory, cryptography, and applications of sequences in information hiding and communications. As previously reported, tours have been approved at the new Southbank campus of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music and the Buxton Gallery of Contemporary Art.
- c. University Governance – The President confirmed his intention to update the Committee in the near future.
- d. The University Strategy plan for 2030 created much discussion with the Committee of Convocation deciding that a submission would be appropriate. Discussion centred around the size of the university, the business model being pursued, the issue of overseas students and the nature of what constitutes a university.

It was agreed that the way forward would be for members to express their views and to forward them in writing to the President (requested to be by Wednesday 03 July) for collation. The summarised views would form the basis for further discussion, and they would lead to an initial response.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 21 August 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.11 pm.

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## **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## 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 [Sub-committee of David bellair, Ros McMillan and Gary Israel formed on 2018-06-20]	All Sub-committee	In progress	85
107	2019-06-19	Advise the President as to opinions in relation to the Strategy 2030 initiative of the University	All	In progress	107

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 21 August 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

---

**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest Speaker was Professor Udaya Parampalli, (PUP) Computing and Information Systems, Melbourne School of Engineering, an expert in the area of cryptography, sequences and coding theory.

Professor Parampalli explained reciprocal communication has taken place for millennia from person A to person B. Codes of various types were developed in case a 3rd party wanted to listen in to the message.

With the huge boom in communication through development of computers there was a need for more sophisticated security systems. Diffie-Hellman (DH) key exchange is a way of *generating* a shared secret between two people in such a way that the secret can't be seen by observing the communication. Complex mathematics underlie cryptography. The DH method allows two parties that have no prior knowledge of each other to jointly establish a shared secret key over an insecure channel. This key can then be used to encrypt subsequent communications using a symmetric key cipher.

DH is used to secure a variety of internet services. Recent research suggests that the parameters in use for some DH internet applications may not be strong enough to prevent compromise by very well-funded attackers.

Quantum computing presents a challenge to established cryptography. Hence “quantum safe cryptography” is an active area of research. Teaching at University of Melbourne is cognizant of recent developments.

Professor Parampalli’s research interests are:

- Steganography – the practice of concealing a message within non secret text or data. Medical systems are rapidly shifting into the cloud and mobile environments for data security. A doctor can test the medical image along with patient information, which is sent from a remote location that helps in diagnosis and treatment. Security parameters such as authentication, integrity, confidentiality and availability have to be considered for secure transmission.
- Trust and privacy in networks
- Cryptography

- Sequences for communication and security
- Coding theory
- Theory of error correcting codes.

The presentation of Professor Parampalli was very well received by members of the Committee and the President thanked him on behalf of the Committee for his comprehensive and interesting presentation.

### **3. Attendance**

#### a. Members Present:

Anne Ada (Minute-taker), David Bellair, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, Trefor Morgan, Christine Oldham, Beverley Rodan, John Scott.

#### b. Apologies - Received:

Elizabeth Mitchell, John Nelson, Stan Sahhar, Noel Whiting.

#### c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Stan Sahhar, Jenny Stillman.

### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 19 June 2019, were accepted and confirmed (Proposed: Ros McMillan, Seconded: Beverley Rodan).

### **5. Correspondence**

Submission in respect of the Strategy 2030 initiative of the University and an e-mail acknowledging receipt.

E-mailed appeal for support for study at the University from a student in Ethiopia – referred to the Faculty of Science, by the Secretary (acting on the feedback of four members).

### **6. Membership**

#### a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

#### b. Leave of Absence

Granted to Gary Israel for the September and October meetings.

Granted to Ros McMillan for the September meeting.

## **7. Report of the President**

- a. The President noted the difficulty that exists for most Committee members to follow the progress of Strategy 2030. The public part of the website does not allow access to this. He would be grateful if members who have staff access could forward information.
- b. Email communication within the Committee should generally go via the Secretary or President.
- c. Irene Jablonka had suggested that Committee members may have valuable experiences of university and professional life that may be able to be extrapolated to inform current practice and to contribute to Strategy 2030. Members agreed to have this as an agenda item at the next meeting. Those who feel they can contribute should bring their ideas as prepared documents to the next meeting [refer, also, to item 11 (d), below].

## **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee remained at \$322.60, there having been no transactions since June.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

- a. Ros McMillan showed the impressive invitation to the opening of the new Ian Potter Southbank Centre (University of Melbourne Southbank Campus).
- b. John Scott reported on his attendance, that day, at a Public Lecture presented by Professor Roger King, University of Bath, on the subject of "Governing Risk and Uncertainty in English Universities", organised by the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne.
- c. Irene Jablonka and David Bellair both attended the inaugural winter reception held by the Faculty of Science in the newly renovated "Old Quad area". Irene spoke of the Pop-up Science Gallery experiments prepared for Science Week.
- d. John Harcourt reported that there was expected to be a meeting of the Melbourne Dental School Advisory Committee during the following week. He also advised as to some Dental School staff movements.
- e. David Bellair had attended three seminars at the Centre for the Study of Higher Education. The matters covered could be subjects for discussion by the Committee. [He subsequently circulated details.]
- f. Anne Ada attended a Graduate Faculty of Education Dean's lecture, given by Professor Michael Steger, Professor of Psychology, Colorado State University USA, entitled "Meaning and Purpose in Life: what is it, why should I care and how can I get some"?

Lectures on generalist topics such as this draw a large audience and often have to be rescheduled to large lecture theatres.

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update - Actions 85 and 107 are ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Website – John Harcourt reported that the website had received a routine update.
- b. Speakers and Tours
  - Irene Jablonka reported that the proposed tour of the Southbank Campus has been deferred.
  - Gwenda Thomas, Director of Scholarly Services and University Librarian, led members on a tour of the Baillieu Library. Members noted the obvious changes with regard to the shift from books and journals to the online study environment and how the physical spaces have been altered to accommodate these changes in learning style. There are now many spaces available for groups of students to work together, reflecting the emphasis in team projects.
- c. University Governance – The President confirmed his intention to update the Committee as necessary and when appropriate.
- d. As a mechanism for the development of constructive dialogue with the University it was proposed and accepted that members desiring to contribute descriptions of their study and career experiences should submit those to the president for collation.
- e. The University Strategy plan for 2030 was discussed and is expected to continue to be a matter of importance deserving further input from the Committee.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 18 September 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

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### **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## 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 [Sub-committee of David bellair, Ros McMillan and Gary Israel formed on 2018-06-20]	All Sub-committee	In progress	85
107	43635	Advise the President as to opinions in relation to the Strategy 2030 initiative of the University	All	In progress	107
108	2019-08-21	Prepare recollections of study and career experiences as a mechanism for constructive dialogue with the University (President to collate)	All	In progress	108

**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance including the Guest Speaker.

**2. Guest Speaker**

The Guest Speaker was Professor John Langmore of the Melbourne School of Government. Professor Langmore spoke on whether immigration is in the Australian national interest. He leads the research of the Melbourne School of Government into security and political engagement. He discussed foreign policy independence and referred to the causes of international conflict.

Professor Langmore referred to the underfunding of Australian diplomacy and the lack of adequate training and personnel for the Diplomatic Corps. Professor Langmore suggested that Australian diplomacy should see us thinking more for ourselves and being involved in mediation between nations. He also indicated that Australia should be less involved in areas such as the Straits of Hormuz, near Iran, and more in areas to our North, especially those near China.

The presentation by Professor Langmore was very well received and the President thanked him on behalf of the Committee.

**3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

David Bellair, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Irene Jablonka, David Janson (Minute-taker), Christine Oldham, Beverley Rodan, Stan Sahhar, John Scott.

b. Apologies - Received:

Anne Ada, Trefor Morgan, Elizabeth Mitchell, John Nelson, Noel Whiting.

c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Gary Israel, Ros McMillan, Jenny Stillman.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 21 August 2019, were accepted and confirmed (Proposed: Beverley Rodan, Seconded: Cecily Close).

## **5. Correspondence**

- a. Advice from the Advancement Office as to its plan to create an opportunity for Alumni to review and to provide feedback on the developing Strategy 2030 initiative of the University.
- b. E-mailed correspondence between the Secretary and a prospective member who had been recommended by Professor Babanin (who was the Guest Speaker at the meeting of the Committee that was held in March 2019).

## **6. Membership**

- a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

- b. Leave of Absence

As previously granted.

## **7. Report of the President**

- a. Reference was made to the continuing high ranking of the University according to the annual Higher Education global survey that is conducted by The Times (London) newspaper.
- b. The President thanked Irene Jablonka for making the arrangements for the excellent speakers at the Committee meetings and for arranging the recent tour of the University Library with Gwenda Thomas, the University Librarian.
- c. Discussion followed concerning the invitation made by Ms Thomas for members of the Committee to participate in the 60th anniversary of the University Library.
- d. The President also referred to the written responses he has received from Committee members in relation to their personal experiences at the University. The President said the above responses would be discussed at item 11(c,) of the Agenda.

## **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee continued to remain at \$322.60, there having been no transactions since June.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

## **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

Nil – time was reserved for Item 11 (c).

## **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update - Actions 85, 107 and 108 are ongoing.

- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. Website – John Harcourt reported that the website had received a routine update.
- b. Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka foreshadowed a possible opportunity to tour the University archives, during October.

- c. As a mechanism for the development of constructive dialogue with the University, members desiring to contribute descriptions of their study and career experiences have been submitting contributions to the president for collation. The President encouraged all Committee members to prepare such submissions, detailing their personal experiences and conclusions, for the purposes of Strategy 2030.

John Scott and Irene Jablonka read their submissions to the meeting, at the invitation of the President.

John Harcourt advised that he had prepared a description of the changes that he had seen in the teaching and practice of dentistry over the past 65 to 70 years, a personal journey, and that he would make it available to the Committee.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 16 October 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

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### **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
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**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 16 October 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

---

**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Guest Speakers**

- Dr John Stone of the Melbourne School of Design

Dr Stone spoke about autonomous transport and investigations into how various cities look at the ways in which developing technologies may be applied to transportation.

Autonomous vehicles, having no drivers, are operated by technology and they have the potential to make traffic safer by eliminating human error. However, it would be both expensive and complex for cities to implement autonomous vehicles.

Autonomous vehicles could be used for car fleets and car sharing but whether or not there would be sufficient demand is unclear.

Autonomous technology is a combination of features both inside and outside vehicles (including sensors and 5G communications). This would require state investment and come at great cost. This may lead to a conflict between public good and private profit.

Autonomous vehicles would require the support of the mass transit system. There is a question as to what regulations would be needed for new technologies to make sure that they truly serve the community good.

Dr Stone also addressed the issue of level crossing removal. He stated a belief that elevated rail is a better option than going underground. Level crossing removal by elevated rail facilitates the flow of traffic. Consideration needs to be given to connectivity between trains and buses.

Academics have an important role to play in the development of public policy. (This could be considered when discussing Strategy 2030.)

The President thanked Dr Stone for his engaging presentation.

- Mr Peter Kronborg of the Alumni Council

Mr Kronborg outlined the history of the Alumni Council and its transformation, from its early days, noting the positively changing relationship between the University administration and the alumni.

Mr Kronborg spoke about the work of the Alumni Council, in general. This includes representing the interests of the University and its alumni around the world, working to enhance the student experience and guiding alumni programs that promote the University and help it to raise philanthropic support.

The focus of Alumni Council members has been to act as ambassadors for the University and to constitute a primary alumni advisory body. Insights and advice are provided to the University administration on operational challenges and opportunities. The Alumni Council has also taken an active stance on promoting mentoring programs.

In 2019 the Alumni Council has been considering how the university should frame its goals and ambitions for the next 10 years as part of the Strategy 2030 project.

Mr Kronborg believes alumni do not have enough presence in the university. An 'alumni house' — a centre for alumni and visitors where all aspects of alumni involvement are on display — would help to give alumni a greater presence. Many guests visit the University and an alumni house would be a place to showcase the University.

Discussion followed about ways of strengthening links between the Alumni Council and the Committee of Convocation. Questions included:

- How can the Committee of Convocation work more closely with the Alumni Council;
- How much power do alumni have in influencing the University administration; and
- How could the Committee of Convocation be more involved with alumni?

It was observed that the Committee of Convocation feels able to speak freely to the University administration, given the position of independence of the Committee. The Alumni Council is within the structure of the University. Perhaps the Committee of Convocation sees the University from a broader perspective.

The President thanked Mr Krongold for his comprehensive coverage of the activities of the Alumni Council.

### **3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

Anne Ada, David Bellair, Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Gary Israel, Irene Jablonka, David Janson, Ros McMillan, Elizabeth Mitchell, Trefor Morgan, John Nelson, Christine Oldham (Minute-taker), Beverley Rodan, Stan Sahhar, John Scott.

b. Apologies - Received:

Noel Whiting.

c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Jenny Stillman.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 18 September 2019, were accepted and confirmed.

#### **5. Correspondence**

Nil

#### **6. Membership**

- a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

- b. Leave of Absence

As previously granted.

#### **7. Report of the President**

Nil – time did not permit.

#### **8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee continued to remain at \$322.60, there having been no transactions since June.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

#### **9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

Nil – time did not permit.

#### **10. Key Matters for Consideration**

- a. Actions Update - Actions 85, 107 and 108 are ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.

#### **11. Other Business**

- a. Strategy 2030 Discussion Paper – a readily legible version had been circulated by the President. All members were requested to send their observations, suggestions and general comments to the Secretary. David Bellair spoke about his initial impressions. It was agreed that we need to be positive.
- b. The cost of the November dinner will be \$45 per person. As in previous years, payment should be made in advance by bank deposit into Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account No. 141 509 497. Guests are most welcome. Payment should be made by Wednesday

13 November 2019. Drinks are to be separately ordered and paid for at the bar. Ros McMillan will send an email reminder to members closer to the time.

- c. The president proposed a Minute of Appreciation for Laurie Simpson.

“The Committee of Convocation expresses its sadness at Laurie’s passing and its appreciation for his many years of service to the Committee and for his encouragement and support. It also recognises Laurie’s involvement in and concern for medical and surgical education, and for his wider contributions to the community in Victoria and internationally.”

The minute was unanimously approved.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 20 November 2019, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

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## **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

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**Committee of Convocation**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, 20 November 2019, at Graduate House,  
220 Leicester Street, Carlton, commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**1. Welcome**

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Guest Speaker**

There was no guest speaker on this occasion.

**3. Attendance**

a. Members Present:

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

b. Apologies - Received:

Stan Sahhar.

c. Leave of Absence – As granted:

Jenny Stillman.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The previously distributed Minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 16 October 2019, were accepted and confirmed: Moved – John Harcourt; Seconded – Gary Israel.

**5. Correspondence**

Nil

**6. Membership**

a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

It was noted that Gary Israel is in discussion with a fellow Arts graduate who may attend in March.

David Bellair is to follow up with Professor Miles Lewis.

b. Leave of Absence

As previously granted.

**7. Report of the President**

David Bellair reported on his attendance, on 15 November, at an open meeting organised to consider matters to do with the future of the library services of the University. Approximately 20 people participated. It was reported, at the meeting, that the Vice-Chancellor had asked the librarians to make the best use of the library spaces available before requesting additional facilities. The business case for the library was discussed.

**8. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Oldham, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$1,232.72, an amount that would be markedly reduced following payment for the evening's meal. Ros McMillan and John Harcourt had been reimbursed for their Committee expenses.

The report of the Treasurer was accepted:

Moved – Christine Oldham; Seconded – Cecily Close.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee should be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

**9. University of Melbourne Items of Interest**

David Janson reported that he had attended a fifty-year law alumni re-union. He spoke with Professor Pip Nicholson, the recently appointed Dean of Law, and mentioned the possibility of her being the speaker at a meeting of the Committee of Convocation. Her response was positive.

Irene Jablonka reported that she had attended a presentation of "Where to from here - Fashion design law, technology and practice" at the Melbourne Business School, on 13 November.

Gary Israel made mention of his attendance at an occasion, arranged by the Faculty of Arts, to interpret the stained-glass windows at the entrance to the old Law Library space, now refurbished.

John Harcourt advised that Stan Sahhar had attended a Dental Advisory Committee meeting, a report of which is to follow. Professor Michael McCullough has been appointed temporary Head of School until Professor Alister Sloan takes over as Head of the Dental School at the end of January 2020.

Anne Ada reported attending a meeting on climate change and feeding the world which included a presentation by Professor Tim Rees.

David Bellair made mention of the very successful event that had been organised to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baillieu Library.

## 10. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Actions Update - Actions 85, 107 and 108 are ongoing.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee.
- c. The President had circulated a discussion paper in relation to Strategy 2030 and he reiterated his request for comment from members, before Christmas, for collation by him. The President also re-issued his invitation for members to submit accounts of their University of Melbourne and subsequent professional experiences.

## 11. Other Business

- a. Website

John Harcourt reported that the web site is in need of an upgrade as there is no longer iWeb software support. He will work with David Bellair to explore options including, possibly, the adoption of Wordpress.

Irene Jablonka asked for a review of the registration of the domain name and hosting so that the website would be registered in the name of the Committee of Convocation and invoices would be issued in the name of the Committee.

- b. Tours and speakers

Irene Jablonka advised that Professor Pip Nicholson is included in the list of potential speakers and that every effort is being made to align with her program for that to occur.

Professor Nicholson has succeeded Professor Carolyn Evans who has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University.

- c. Library Motion

Discussion took place on the motion received by e-mail on 20 November 2019, shortly before the commencement of the meeting.

There was recognition of a lack of study space on campus for students. It was noted that student surveys showed that the University of Melbourne ratings amongst G8 members had slipped, partly because of this. Storage of the special collection was also discussed with regard to protection, fire proofing and access.

At the suggestion of John Harcourt, it was agreed that the first sentence of the motion that had been circulated (initially by Gary Israel) would be adopted as the motion on which a vote would be taken, the original motion having been withdrawn.

The motion became: "The Committee of Convocation urges the University to fully support the recommendations of the Scholarly Services Accommodation Master plan (SSAM)."

Moved – Trefor Morgan; Seconded - Anne Ada. Motion passed.

It was agreed that the President would convey the motion to the Vice Chancellor, also providing the remaining text of the original motion as an appendix, by way of explanation.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at Graduate House on Wednesday 18 March 2020, commencing at 5.30 pm.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 6.52 pm.

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## **Attachments**

Updated Actions listing.

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## COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

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