

AGENDA ITEM 6 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

6.1 Report on Senate matters

6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 20 February 2005

Senate, at its meeting held on 20 February 2005:

- (1) adopted the following Statement of Senate's Primary Responsibilities in accordance with National Governance Protocol 2, without prejudice to Senate's capacity to debate whether there are any more primary responsibilities to be added to the Statement:

The Senate's primary responsibilities are:

- (a) appointing the Vice-Chancellor as the principal executive officer of the university, and monitoring his or her performance;
 - (b) approving the mission and strategic direction of the university, as well as the annual budget and business plan;
 - (c) overseeing and reviewing the management of the university and its performance;
 - (d) establishing policy and procedural principles, consistent with legal requirements and community expectations;
 - (e) approving and monitoring systems of control and accountability, including general overview of any controlled entities;
 - (f) overseeing and monitoring the assessment and management of risk across the university, including commercial undertakings;
 - (g) overseeing and monitoring the academic activities of the university;
- (2) resolved, pursuant to section 9(2) of the *University of Sydney Act 1989*, to nominate and recommend to the Minister the following for appointment as Fellows of Senate under section 9(1)(b) of the Act:
 - The Hon Henry Shui-Lung Tsang, OAM MLC
 - The Hon John Joseph Aquilina, MP
 - (3) resolved that the Senate unanimously was of the view that the current proposal for an additional condition of grant for funding arrangements as set out in the Minister's letter of 8 December 2004 was strongly opposed in so far as it interfered with the responsibility of this University to devise courses appropriate to its needs, but would not object to an appropriately worded condition that made the closure of specialist courses the subject of negotiation and consultation with the Government so long as it was clear that the Government did not have the power of veto.
 - (4) congratulated Fellow of Senate Mrs Margaret Varady on being made an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2005 Australia Day awards for leadership in education, particularly as Principal of Sydney Girls High School, to fostering academic excellence and to promoting student participation across a range of community activities, sports and the arts.
 - (5) approved the change of name of the Faculty of Nursing to the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.
 - (6) noted that Mr David Hoare had been re-elected unopposed as Chair of the Finance Committee for a term of office from the Senate meeting on 20 February 2005 to the Senate meeting in February 2006 and congratulated him on his re-election.
 - (7) noted the Vice-Chancellor's update that the Sydney University Flames had again been runners up in the Grand Final.
 - (8) noted the report that the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency had again cited the University of Sydney as an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women in 2005.

- (9) noted the report that the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies would take over the Refugee Language Program from the beginning of 2005, with this arrangement to be reviewed at the end of the year.
- (10) noted the report that the Vice-Chancellor had approved the change of name of the Institute of Transport Studies to the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies.
- (11) noted the report on overseas visits.
- (12) noted the report on international activities.
- (13) noted the report on University Relations, in particular the report that 2004 had been a record year in terms of gifts received to the University.
- (14) noted the report on the positive outcome for the University from its review by the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

6.1.2 Report of the Senate retreat held on 20/21 February 2005

Senate, at its retreat held on 20/21 February 2005:

- (1) approved with acclamation the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the University of Sydney and the Australian National University.
- (2) noted presentations by senior officers on and gave in principle support for the draft University of Sydney Strategic Directions 2005-2010.