

FACT SHEET

MONASH UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL?

Council is the governing body of Monash University, established by the Monash University Act 2009 (the “Act”). Council is responsible for the overall superintendence of the University, with specific accountability to the relevant State and Commonwealth Ministries for the University’s fulfilment of its role in the Australian community. It discharges that role by deliberating on strategies and policies to achieve the University’s objects and by ensuring that the University has in place appropriate and effective governance processes.

WHAT DOES UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DO?

Council’s primary responsibilities include:

- appointing and monitoring the performance of the Vice Chancellor as Chief Executive Officer of the University; approving the mission and strategic direction of the University and its annual budget and business plan; overseeing and reviewing the management of the University and its performance;
- establishing policy and procedural principles for the operation of the University consistent with legal requirements and community expectations;
- approving and monitoring systems of control and accountability of the University, including those required to maintain a general overview of any entity over which the University has control within the meaning of section 3 of the Audit Act 1994;
- overseeing and monitoring the assessment and management of risk across the University, including university commercial activities;
- overseeing and monitoring the academic activities of the University; and
- approving any significant university commercial activities.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUTIES

In undertaking the role, a member of Council will operate in accordance with the Act, the University Statute, the University (Council) Regulations, other applicable laws (including common law and equitable obligations), the Council Charter, and relevant University policies. They will also seek to ensure that the University as a whole also abides by those legal and policy obligations.

A member of Council must:

- act in good faith, honestly and for proper purposes consistent with the objects and interests of the University;
- exercise reasonable skill, appropriate care and diligence;
- take reasonable steps to avoid all conflicts of interest, and to disclose a conflict of interest in matters considered by Council;
- not make improper use of their position as a member, or of information acquired because of his or her position as a member, to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for the member or for another person;
- act in the best interests of the University as a whole and not fetter their discretion by promoting the interests of particular groups;
- not disclose, or allow to be disclosed, any confidential information relating to the University, the Council, members of Council, University employees and/or any operations, which may be received in the course of the exercise of their duties as a member of the Council, unless they first obtain the consent of the Chancellor or are required to do so by law;
- be diligent in attending Council meetings and act with respect for fellow Council members; and
- support the letter and spirit of Council decisions.

HOW OFTEN DOES COUNCIL MEET?

University Council meets eight times per year and meetings are of roughly 4-5 hours duration. Council members are expected to be members of at least one Council committee and there are approximately seven additional meetings per year, each of 2 hours duration. The position will be principally located at the Clayton Campus, however travel to other campuses of the University will be required from time to time.

HOW MUCH WORK IS INVOLVED?

Depending on the nature and number of matters that University Council needs to consider at the Council meeting, the amount of work will vary. Council meeting papers comprise roughly 300 pages per meeting. Members are expected to be well prepared and familiar with papers before each Council meeting.

HOW LONG DO COUNCIL MEMBERS SERVE?

The term of office for elected staff and elected student members of University Council is two years commencing on 1 November 2024.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information about Monash University Council, please visit the [Council website](#).

If you have any questions about University Council, please contact Richard Long, Secretary to Monash University Council at Richard.Long1@monash.edu