ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting No 7/2005: Monday 17 October 2005 at 4.00 pm

1 PRESENTATION
Council received a brief presentation from Professor Mark Burry, Innovation Professor Architecture and Design.

2 ATTENDANCE
Chair: Professor R D Gibson

Present: Ms F Awcock, Mr A Ballagh, Ms T Bramley, Professor P Coloe, Ms A Dalton, Mr S Evans, Mr T Francis, Professor M Gardner, Dr J Gilmour, Mr G Lampe, Mr M Lee, Ms R Lever, Ms V Messimeri-Kianidis, Mr H Pekarek, Mr N Robinson, Ms M Schulze, Mr C Simonetto, Mr T Tappenden, Ms J Varcoe-Cocks (except for item 19), and Mr D Young(except for item 19).

Apologies: Professor J Nieuwenhuysen

In Attendance: Mr C Anderson, Professor A Cumming, Professor N Furlong, Professor D Mainwaring, Mr K Parsons, Professor C Whitaker and Mr C White.

Secretary: Mr D Knight

Assistant Secretary: Ms H Sloane

3 DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
The Chancellor advised Council that he had received no declaration of potential conflict of interest from members prior to the meeting.

No declarations of potential conflicts of interest were raised by members of Council in respect of matters due to be considered at the meeting.

4 MEETING PROCEDURES
4.1 Tabled Papers
Council agreed to consider a tabled paper [C-07-05-094] in relation to Item 20 Property Matter.
4.2 **Business Without Notice**

Item 20 Property Matter was included on the agenda as a business without notice item.

4.3 **Starring of Items**

Item 12.3 RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd was starred as an additional item for discussion.

4.4 **Unstarred Items**

Council resolved to note, receive and approve all unstarred items.

5 **MINUTES**

*Paper C-07-05-087*

Council considered and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting No. 6/2005 held on 12 September 2005.

6 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 **Actions Completed and Actions Pending from Previous Meeting and Meetings**

*Paper C-07-05-088*

Council received and noted a Rolling Action Report showing actions completed and actions pending since the last report.

6.2 **Other Business Arising from the Minutes**

6.2.1 **InQuirion Pty Ltd**

In noting that the proceeds of the sale detailed under item 13 of the minutes was to be invested in research, Council was assured that this would occur.

7 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council noted that the dates of the next meetings were:

Tuesday 25 October 2005 at 4.45pm (Special Meeting in camera)
Monday 5 December 2005 at 4.00pm.

8 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Requests for leave of absence were approved for Ms T Bramley and Dr J Gilmour for the meeting on 5 December 2005.

9 **BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE**

There was no business without notice dealt with under this heading.
10 **FORESHADOWED ITEMS**

No additional agenda items were foreshadowed for the next meeting.

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**UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE**

11 **VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

*Paper C-07-05-089*

Council received a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner. The Vice-Chancellor drew Council’s attention to the following matters:

- The Voluntary Student Unionism legislation was not likely to be considered by Parliament before November and it may not be considered until next year. The RMIT enrolment process will proceed under the existing legislation.
- Recent delegations from Vietnam from the Ministry of Education and Training and from the Vietnam Academic of Science and Technology had demonstrated the strength of the relationship between RMIT and Vietnam and the potential for teaching, learning and research activities in Vietnam.
- The quality of the university grant applications had been demonstrated with the recent success of the School of Accounting and Law in obtaining a research grant from the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Advice on the success of research grant applications would be sent to members.
- RMIT had been awarded a TAFE Teaching Equipment Grant of $802,500.
- The identification of positions to be made redundant was well underway with 120 positions having been through the process and the rest scheduled to be completed by the end of December.
- The progress for RMIT to certify its Academic and General Staff Enterprise Agreement and for the agreement, policy and procedures to comply with the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements was on schedule to meet the requirements for the Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding.
- The first day of Enrolment on Line (17 October 2005) had progressed well.

Council noted the value of the organisational reviews, the understanding panel members developed of the university and it was agreed that executive summaries of the reviews should be made available to members.

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**ITEMS REQUIRING NOTING AND/OR APPROVAL**
12 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MATTERS

12.1 Submissions to Council for Approval from Academic Board and the Board of Technical Studies

12.1.1 Policy and Procedure
Council noted that the Boards have approved a New Timetabling and Class Scheduling Policy and Procedure

12.2 Swanston and Bundoora Library Refurbishment-Project
Council noted that the Finance and Major Initiatives Committee received and considered a paper on the Swanston and Bundoora Library Refurbishment Project and resolved to recommend to Council that the Swanston and Bundoora Library Refurbishment Project be approved to proceed as one project at an estimated cost of $2.4 million from the additional HECS fee funds, across the 2005 and 2006 financial years.

Council so approved

12.3 RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd

Paper C-07-05-090
Council noted the Finance and Major Initiatives Committee (FAMIC) received and considered a paper on the creation of a company called RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd.

Council was informed that the creation of the company was a requirement of the state government grant. The benefits to the university would be in teaching and research. Council noted that the projected student numbers were conservative, pricing had been structured to gain entry into the market, there would be an appropriately structured board of directors, and that insurance policies were in place.

Council further noted that FAMIC recommended to Council that the university enter into an agreement with the State Government of Victoria to provide preclinical drug safety evaluation on a commercial basis and to establish a company called RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd as the means of doing this.

Council so approved

13 APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVES
Council noted that in the past Council has appointed Michael David Knight as its representative to act at any Annual General Meeting or General Meeting of RMIT International Pty Ltd. Such an appointment is required to ensure the validity of any Annual General Meeting or General Meeting and the company secretary for RMIT International Pty Ltd has requested that Council appoint two representatives in case one is not available when such a meeting is scheduled.
Council appointed, from 17 October 2005 to 31 December 2006, Michael David Knight and Helen Rosemarie Sloane to act as its representatives at any Annual General Meeting or General Meeting of RMIT International Pty Ltd in accordance with Section 250D of the Corporations Act 2001.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

14 **ACADEMIC BOARD AND BOARD OF TECHNICAL STUDIES MINUTES**

*Paper C-07-05-091*

Council received the confirmed minutes of meeting No 9/2005, 5 September 2005.

15 **COMMITTEE MINUTES OR REPORTS**

15.1 **Finance and Major Initiatives Committee Minutes**

*Papers C-07-05-092*

Council received the unconfirmed minutes of meeting 6/2005 held on 27 September 2005.

16 **REPORTS**

16.1 **Chancellor’s Determination**

Council noted that there had been no Chancellor’s Determinations since the last report.

16.2 **Use of the University Seal**

Council noted that the University Seal has been used on the following occasions since the last report:

- **9 September 2005** Variation to Contract of Sale RMIT and others [Janefield land sale-agreement on date for final payment]
- **15 September 2005** Deed of Settlement RMIT and Sub One Pty Ltd [to settle claims re tenancy of Shop 2 Building 48]
- **30 September 2005** Intellectual property assignment InQuirion Pty Ltd
- **5 October 2005** Licence Agreement RMIT and Thomson Legal and Regulatory Ltd [for on line publication of commercial law journal]
- **6 October 2005** Statement of Certification [National Protocols for Higher Education Providers]
- **10 October 2005** Awards [sealing of testamurs]
17 AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY NETWORK (ATN)
Council received and noted correspondence to the Chancellor from the Chair of the ATN.

18 ADEQUACY OF THE AGENDA AND PAPERS
The adequacy of the agenda and the papers was discussed and Council noted that the Vice-Chancellor’s Report gives the right degree of flavour and texture to the activities of the university.

IN CAMERA ITEMS

19 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
Paper C-07-05-093
Council received advice from the Chancellor and was asked:

1. To resolve to re-appoint Ms Jenny Varcoe-Cocks as a member of Council for a term commencing on 1 January 2006 and concluding on 31 December 2008.
2. To resolve to re-appoint Mr Derek Young as a member of Council for a term commencing on 1 January 2006 and concluding on 31 December 2008

Council so resolved

20 PROPERTY MATTER
Paper C-07-05-094
Council considered and discussed a paper concerning the possible acquisition of a property and agreed that following detailed consideration by the Finance and Major Initiatives Committee of an expanded paper which detailed a business plan and financing options that Council should meet to decide whether to proceed or not.

CHAIR: ______________________

DATE: ______________________

HS:hs 17-Oct-05