

## CEREMONIAL AND HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE – CHARTER

### 1. Establishment

- 1.1 There shall be a Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee (*the Committee*) reporting to the Council. The establishment of this Committee is under Division 2, Section 11 of the *James Cook University Act 1997*. The Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee was established by Council on 4 June 1998.
- 1.2 The purpose of this charter is to outline the role, responsibilities, composition and operating guidelines of the Committee in accordance with the *James Cook University Act 1997*, other relevant legislation and other appropriate University Policies and Procedures and has been approved by the 15th Council of James Cook University.
- 1.3 The charter will be reviewed annually by the Committee to ensure it remains consistent with the Committee's authority, objectives and responsibilities. The Committee or Chairperson may propose to Council, following that review and from time to time, amendments to this Charter for approval.

### 2. Authority, Independence and Relationships

- 2.1 The Committee has no executive powers, unless delegated to it by the Council of the University.
- The Committee is a Committee of the University and is directly responsible to the Council of the University. In discharging its responsibilities the Committee has the authority to:
- Conduct or authorise investigations into matters within its scope of responsibility.
  - Access information, records and personnel of the University for such purpose.
  - Request the attendance of any employee, including executive staff, at Committee meetings.
  - Conduct meetings with any relevant Directorates/Divisions/Faculties, as necessary.
  - Seek advice from external parties and independent experts, as necessary, which the Committee reasonably considers necessary to execute its duties and responsibilities; obtaining the necessary funding approvals through Council should this be necessary.
  - The Committee shall liaise with other Committees of Council as required, to ensure:
    - its statutory and operational responsibilities are met;
    - there is no material overlap between the functions and duties of the groups; and
    - frank and meaningful interchange of information.

### 3. Purpose, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities

- 3.1 The purpose of the Committee is to:
- (a) maintain the highest standards for all ceremonial activities involving the University;
  - (b) make recommendations on nominations received in relation to Honorary Awards offered by the University; and
  - (c) ensure the appropriate use of the University's corporate identifiers.
- 3.2 The Committee shall:
- (a) perform the duties and responsibilities specified in Schedule A;
  - (b) act on behalf of the Council on such other matters as are delegated to it from time to time by the Council;
  - (c) advise the Council on such other matters that are within its duties and responsibilities (Schedule A), as referred by the Council or as it deems appropriate.

### 4. Membership

4.1 The Committee shall comprise the following members:

- (a) ex officio
  - (i) Chancellor
  - (ii) Vice-Chancellor
  - (iii) Chairperson of the Academic Board (Chair)
  - (iv) Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (University Services) & Registrar
- (b) Appointed – by the Council

Three members elected by and from the Council whose election shall be based on their appropriate skills and/or experience in relation to the business conducted by the Committee.
- (c) Additional

Council shall have the power to co-opt one additional member external to the University who has the appropriate skills and /or experience in relation to the business conducted by the Committee.

4.2	The Chairperson shall be the Chairperson of the Academic Board. At its first meeting after its appointment, and thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs in the office, the Committee shall elect a Deputy Chair.
4.3	Coopted and Additional members shall have appropriate qualifications/experience and may be from within or outside the University. Appointments including appointments of coopted and additional members shall be for a period of up to four years and shall be recorded in a membership list for appending to the Charter, shall be until their successors are appointed or until they resign from the Committee or as Council members cease to be members of the Council subject to the maximum term as set out in the National Governance Protocols of 12 years.
4.4	Before appointing a member, the Committee shall: (a) undertake consultation as appropriate; and (b) give consideration to the principle that members shall be not entirely of the same gender or from the same campus.
4.5	Any person assuming a role in Committee business on behalf of another person as a consequence of an acting or nominee arrangement (e.g. acting as the <i>ex officio</i> member, Deputy Chairman assuming chairmanship) shall as far as practicable consult and report through that other person.
4.6	Attendance by others at Meetings - the Committee or its Chairperson may invite other University staff members and persons external to the University, as required for the purposes of the Committee, to attend meetings as advisors.  The following internal advisors shall be invited to attend meetings and shall have rights of audience and debate: (i) the Ceremonies & Events Manager.
<b>5. Secretariat</b>	
5.1	The University Secretary or nominee shall be the Secretary to the Committee. There may be an Assistant or Minutes Secretary to assist the Secretary and to take minutes.
5.2	The Secretary, in consultation with the Chair, will prepare and send notices of meetings, agendas, will accurately transcribe all decisions of the Committee and table all correspondence, reports and other information relevant to the Committee's activities and operations. The Governance & Corporate Services Directorate shall provide the resources necessary for the performance of the Committee.
<b>6. Convening a Meeting</b>	
6.1	The Committee shall meet as often as necessary in order to perform its functions. It is recommended that the Committee meet a minimum of three times per year and the schedule of meetings will be agreed in advance, however the number of meetings may vary in accordance with the volume of business that falls within the remit of the Committee.
6.2	Meetings shall be convened by either the Chairperson or the Secretary and the Secretary shall send a notice of a meeting in reasonable time to all members of the Committee. For the purposes of accountability and meeting efficiency, all meetings shall be run according to a pre-determined agenda with items presented under an item coversheet that clearly identifies the recommended action.
6.3	The Committee should determine its own agenda, ensuring appropriate consultation to include emerging issues and emphasis on the most significant risks and threats. Proposals for agenda items from Committee members are to be submitted to the Secretary for consideration by the Chairperson for inclusion on the agenda. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary, shall determine the agenda. The agenda and relevant papers will be distributed to members at least five working days before the meetings.
6.4	The Committee may appoint sub-committees and working parties to report to the Committee on specific matters which are the responsibility of the Committee. The majority of members of any sub-committee or working party must comprise members of the Committee.
<b>7. Conduct of Meeting</b>	
7.1	Except as hereinafter provided the Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee. If the Chairperson is absent from a meeting, the Deputy Chairperson shall preside. If the Deputy Chairperson is absent also, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.
7.2	A quorum exists at a meeting of the Committee if a simple majority of its members are present.

7.3	Questions arising at a meeting of the Committee shall be determined by consensus, however when required a question shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee present and voting. The Chairperson at a meeting of the Committee shall have a vote, and in the case of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.
<b>8. Rules for the Conduct of Business and Ethical Practices</b>	
8.1	Subject to the general control of the Council, the Committee may make its own rules for the conduct of its business that are in keeping with its Charter.
8.2	Members are required to declare any interests, in accordance with the University's <i>Conflict of Interest of Members of Council Policy</i> and the <i>Code of Conduct for Council Members</i> that could constitute a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest with respect to participation on the Committee. The declaration must be made on appointment to the Committee and in relation to specific agenda items at the outset of each Committee meeting, and be updated as necessary.
8.3	Confidentiality issues shall be dealt with in accordance with the University's <i>Confidentiality Provisions - JCU Council, Council "Committees", Controlled Entity Directors and Nominee Directors of Non-Controlled Entities</i> . The Committee will receive the provisions each year at its first meeting.
<b>9. Reporting Obligations</b>	
9.1	As soon as practicable after each meeting, the Committee shall submit minutes of the meeting confirmed by the Chairperson to its parent body or the Council. The minutes shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) advice, with recommendations as relevant, in respect to those matters set out in Schedule A;</li> <li>(b) confirmation of action taken in respect of any matter for which delegated authority has been exercised; and</li> <li>(c) advice on other matters referred to it by Council or any other Committee of Council or that the Committee wishes to draw to the attention of the Council.</li> </ul>
9.2	The Committee shall provide to Council an Annual Schedule of Business for the Committee. The Schedule of Business and the Committee's membership list shall be appended to the Charter but do not form part of the Charter.
<b>10. Executive Actions/Circularised Resolutions</b>	
10.1	Where circumstances do not allow a matter relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the Committee to be put to a meeting of the Committee, and a resolution of the Committee is required, the Chairperson shall cause the matter to be considered by members by circularised resolution. The principles and procedures adopted by University Council for managing business by circularised resolution apply.
10.2	Where it is not practicable for the matter in 10.1 above to be put to members by circularised resolution, the Chairperson or Secretary may act executively on the matter where delegated authority has been agreed.
10.3	Where it is necessary for the Chairperson to have a matter determined as in 10.1 or 10.2 above, the approval shall be reported by the Secretary to the next meeting of the Committee and where appropriate to its parent body or the Council.
<b>Schedule A</b>	
<b>Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee</b>	
1.	The Committee has been delegated the following by Council or its parent body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the design of a University Medal</li> <li>• approve the design of Academic Dress</li> <li>• approve the use of the JCU Crest for memorabilia purposes</li> <li>• approve the naming of a University facility where the naming is to honour people, companies or organisations</li> <li>• consider ceremonial matters of the University,</li> <li>• consider the use of the full achievement of the University Armorial Bearings and the component parts</li> <li>• consider proposals for the awarding of an Honorary Award in accordance with the Honorary Award Requirements</li> <li>• seek and facilitate the development of nominations for an Honorary Award of the University</li> </ul>
2.	The Committee shall provide advice to the Council on the matters above, any matter within its remit or referred to it by the Council or any other Committee of Council.

3.	The Committee may make recommendations to the Council on the matters above, any matter within its remit or referred to it by the Council or any other Committee of Council on matters relating to the advice.
4.	<p>In order to provide advice and recommendations, the Committee shall:</p> <p>a) in respect of consideration of ceremonial matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o determine the order of proceedings of University ceremony, in conjunction with the appropriate University officers, subject to any specific directions by the Council;</li> <li>o consider matters into the use and reproduction of the armorial bearings and badge of the University; other matters as required, under the University's <a href="#">Statement on the Use of Corporate Identifiers</a>;</li> <li>o undertake study of specific questions relating to ceremonial referred to it by the Council or the Vice-Chancellor;</li> <li>o consult with the Chancellor and the University Secretary and following the completion of both the Townsville and Cairns graduation ceremonies, conduct a review of all graduation and presentation ceremonies which have occurred since the previous review</li> </ul> <p>b) in respect of consideration of seeking and facilitating the development of nominations for an Honorary Award of the University -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o strengthen the links between the University and the community, organisations and other institutions;</li> <li>o actively overview the policies and procedures for an Honorary Award and provide advice to the University and the wider community on the nomination process;</li> <li>o consult appropriately on actively seeking marketing and promotional opportunities for the University through its honorary awards;</li> <li>o consider lists of potential nominees and initiate the nomination process for the appropriate honorary awards, noting that individuals who had already been honoured sufficiently or acknowledged by other means would not normally be considered for an Honorary Award of the University;</li> <li>o whilst considering members of the community to whom an honorary degree could be awarded, consider overall balance based on community standards and the University's equity policies, and that the prime focus for search should be based on the region of northern Queensland or people who have links with it, but which is not necessarily limited to the region.</li> </ul> <p>c) in respect of considering proposals for an Honorary Award of the University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o this is done in accordance with the <a href="#">Honorary Award Requirements</a>;</li> </ul> <p>d) in respect of naming a University facility to honour a person, company or organisation, referred to the Committee, in confidence, by the Vice-Chancellor—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o conduct such investigation as it deems necessary;</li> <li>o decide whether the University facility shall be so named;</li> <li>o report to the Council on any decision to name a University facility to honour a person, company or organization;</li> <li>o this is done in accordance with <a href="#">Naming of Professorial Chairs, Facilities, Scholarships and Prizes Policy</a></li> </ul>
5.	Nothing in the stated duties and responsibilities is intended to limit the matters on which the Committee may provide advice. However, the Committee should not go outside of the general scope of its charter without the approval of the parent body or the Council.

#### Approval Details

Policy sponsor:	Director, Governance Services & University Secretary
Approval authority:	Council
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#### Modification History

Version no.	Approval date	Implementation date	Details
13-1	21/02/2013	06/03/2013	Conversion into the new format and text relevant to the awarding of honorary degrees was moved into the Honorary Award Requirement Policy.