

Message from the Chancellor

Thursday 28 January

Dear colleagues

Like so many of us in the UNSW community, I am saddened by the announcement earlier today that our President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Jacobs, wishes to step down from the role early in 2022.

Ian has presided over an impressive era at UNSW of academic and educational excellence, innovation, and social and global impact.

Ian was the right person to be appointed to his role in 2015. Since that time he has worked tirelessly and effectively to take our university to its next stage. His Strategy 2025 plan is and was outstanding in its structure and vision and with the energy and focus he has brought to implementing it, has placed us in an excellent position.

Indeed, Ian has worked deliberately to build on our proud legacy of “hand, heart and mind” to elevate the University’s ideals and ambitions to stand out in a rapidly changing global educational and research environment.

I believe Ian can be very proud of his achievements at UNSW to date and I wish to emphasise that his decision to leave us in early 2022 is his own.

On a personal note, it is and has been a privilege to work with him and I will miss him greatly.

Together with my colleagues on Council, I understand and respect the reasons behind Ian’s difficult decision to leave – he wishing to join his wife Chris in supporting their parents and other family members in the UK in 2022.

We are very appreciative that Ian has given us a long notice period and will not be leaving until the beginning of 2022, giving the Council ample time to undertake a global search for his successor. Details on this recruitment process will be announced in due course.

There will be further opportunities throughout 2021 to properly recognise Ian’s contributions but I want now to publicly thank him and to wish him and Chris the very best for what lies ahead in the next stage of their lives and careers.

David Gonski AC
Chancellor