

Mr Robert Hogan
3 McLachlan Crescent
Weetangera ACT 2614

By email: harveyr35@aol.com

14 October 2022

Dear Mr Hogan

Right to information application – Overseas Visits and Tours – 2016 – 2017

I refer to the application for assessed disclosure of information made by you under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Tas) ("RTI Act") dated and received on Thursday 21 March 2022.

1. The terms of your RTI Application

Your request for information was on the following terms:

UTAS' annual report for 2016 includes a statement that:

"Following the visit to King's, the Vice Chancellor and Chair of the University Council's Built Environment and Infrastructure Committee joined with the Hobart City Council to attend the annual conference of the Academic Association Conference, entitled UniversCities - Higher Education Institutions and their Habitat. Following the conference, delegates visited the exemplar cities of Freiburg in Germany and Cambridge in the UK." (p33)

UTAS's annual report for 2017 includes a reference to:

"...a tour for the mayors and aldermen of Hobart, Burnie and Launceston to collaboratively explore how strong partnerships between universities and cities can create social, cultural, and economic benefits." (p30)

I request all UTAS Council and Built Environment and Infrastructure Committee records relating to these two visits/tours ("visits"), including but not limited to:

- *proposals for the visits;*
- *lists of UTAS officers, mayors and alderman involved in the visits/tours ("delegates");*
- *choice of delegates;*
- *briefs prepared for the visits;*
- *reports on/assessments of the visits;*
- *Council discussion of the visits; and*
- *the costs of the visits (I would expect these to include line item expenditures, rather than detailed accounts or receipts).*

2. Background

The background to this matter is as follows:

- On 21 March 2022 you submitted an application for assessed disclosure of information.
- On 22 March 2022 Mr Parnell accepted your application on the following terms:
 - *“records relating to overseas visits/tours by UTAS officers to the UniversCities conference and overseas universities, as reported in UTAS’ annual reports for 2016 and 2017.”*
- On 14 April 2022 Mr Parnell provided you with an itinerary of travel, and confirmed the total cost of travel under the itinerary at Attachment 1 was \$94,455.75.
- On 3 May 2022 Ms O’Keefe wrote to you by email and advised that the University had made a decision prior to the receipt of your 3 applications to make a routine disclosure of information related to the University’s move from Sandy Bay into the Hobart CBD within the foreseeable future, and before the expiration of 12 months from the date of receipt. Accordingly, the University refused to accept three of your Right to Information applications.
- On 3 June 2022 you wrote to the Vice Chancellor requesting Internal Review of Mr Parnell’s decision of 14 April 2022.
- On 27 June 2022 Ms Beaumont wrote to you to advise you were out of time to seek internal review of this decision. However, although you were out of time to lodge an application for internal review, we advised you that we were in the process of compiling information to make a routine disclosure of information relating to your application.

We are now in a position to make a routine disclosure of information relating to your application.

3. Information to be released by routine disclosure

The following information which relates to your request is scheduled for release by routine disclosure:

Information requested	Information released
proposals for the visits;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>“2016 to 2017 overseas travel itinerary”</i>• <i>“20160904 Itinerary summary for overseas business visit to Europe and USA”</i>
lists of UTAS officers, mayors and alderman involved in the visits/tours ("delegates");	2016 – ALLISON, JANELLE PROF BARLING, CRAIG MR CALFORD, MICHAEL MR CLERK, DAVID MR FIELD, MICHAEL MR FYFE, MOYA MS MURRAY, JEFFREY MR O GRADY, ALICIA MS

	<p>ORR, KIRSTEN PROF</p> <p>RATHJEN, PETER PROF</p> <p>2017 -</p> <p>DOW, ANITA MS</p> <p>EBERHARDT, SHANE MR</p> <p>RATHJEN, PETER PROF</p> <p>SKIDMORE, MONIQUE PROF</p> <p>VAN ZETTEN, ALBERT MR</p>
choice of delegates;	N/A
briefs prepared for the visits/ reports on/assessments of the visits;	<p>Documents provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explanation of trip staff news</i> • <i>France brief</i> <p>Notes:</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor also provided verbal briefings on the UniverCities Conference and associated visits to the Built Infrastructure and Environment Committee University Council and records indicate that findings from the visits would have been presented verbally in other strategic University forums to inform decision making at this time.</p> <p>Key leaders across the university undertook a trip that covered a number of key strategic and relationship orientated activities. A number of the members of the leadership team only attended parts of the trip that were relevant to their role, which included activities like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing a partnership with the University Bologna, the world's oldest university • Hosting an alumni event in London, where the University's alumni award was presented to Brodie Neill • Pursuing a partnership with the Scripps Institute at UCSD, who is a world leader in marine research and has strong linkages to IMAS • Learning about effective pathway programs to increase education participation in Tasmania, such as the Freiburg University College (which our own College is also named) and the American College system which has had great success in areas like Georgia and North Carolina

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting universities to understand their campus developments and how best to tailor our facilities to meet a diverse student cohort who are less prepared for university study • A visit to the UK to understand the City Deal framework, which was being used by the Australian Government at the time in regards to university developments • Learning about effective higher education business models to help create more education opportunities for Tasmanians <p>The visit was instrumental in building relationships with our alumni, understanding how to lift participation in disadvantaged regions and establishing partnerships with world leading universities.</p>
Council discussion of the visits; and	"RTI- July 2022" (Extract of Council Minutes)
The costs of the visits (I would expect these to include line item expenditures, rather than detailed accounts or receipts).	The cost to the University for visits was \$199,305.92 for the 2016 visits, and \$53,453.69 for the 2017 visits.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the information disclosed, we reiterate our invitation for you to meet with senior members of our Southern Transformation team: southern.future@utas.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Simon Perraton
Right to Information Officer

Attachment 1

Vice-Chancellor		
Country travelled to	Month of travel	Purpose of travel
Indonesia, Malaysia, and China	April 2016	<p>Indonesia – Agreement signing with LPDP, Indonesian Endowment Fund. Provides sponsorship opportunities for Indonesian students to study at UTAS.</p> <p>Malaysia -Agreement signing with partner university, Malaysian University of Science and Technology.</p> <p>China – Australia Week in China, trade mission. Participated in the ‘International Education’ stream of this program with federal ministers, delivered public lecture at University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, agreement signing with Shandong University Weihai, launch the joint Sino-Australia Westa College, and attend the 110th anniversary of partner Southwest University.</p>
(Austria) Czech Republic, Italy, (Switzerland), Germany, United Kingdom, and USA	August – September 2016	<p>Purpose of the Mission was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View universities’ systems, specifically the community college model. • Look at the student experience including student accommodation. • Examine Associate Degrees, Schools’ Outreach. • Examine the overall Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) build at universities. • sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a specialist Institute of UCSD, La Jolla in California; and • Further develop discussions in relation to the MoU. <p>Austria – transit point to Brno, Czech Republic. Visit to Mendel University, Brno, campus design for Arts and STEM buildings.</p> <p>Italy – Visit to the University of Bologna, case study of campus design.</p> <p>Switzerland – transit point to access Freiburg Germany. Visit to Freiburg university, to examine the role of technical campuses in Germany, associate degree structures. In Germany also visited Bremen University.</p> <p>United Kingdom - Meetings with partner universities including King’s College, London for the formation of a partnership agreement, host an alumni function.</p> <p>United States of America – visits to key institutions for discussions relating to understanding community colleges and the pathway programs into universities – Scripps, UCSD, Arizona State, University of North Carolina.</p>
Hungary, (Switzerland), Germany and UK	November 2016	<p>The purpose of the Mission was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the opportunity for the University and the Hobart City Council to collaboratively explore university cities and how strong partnerships between universities and cities can create social, cultural and economic benefits and act as catalysts for regional rejuvenation and growth. <p>Hungary - Delegates attended the Academic Cooperation Association Annual Conference 2016 UniverCities – Higher education institutions and their habitat in Budapest, Hungary 20-22 November.</p> <p>Switzerland – transit point to Freiberg, Germany- Following the conference, the mission travelled to Freiburg, Germany to further explore the concept of university cities through dialogue with civic and university partners and potentially investigate opportunities for civic relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freiburg City, exemplifies the ‘university city’ concept and best practice in sustainability, innovation, regional development and urban renewal. <p>United Kingdom – Visit to Cambridgeshire, England, illustrates how city deals can bring together university infrastructure programs and the leveraging of national policy priorities and funding opportunities.</p>
France and UK	January – February 2017	<p>Purpose of this mission was to identify strategic opportunities in France, develop the strategic partnership with King’s College London, introduce Hon Angus Taylor</p>

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Itinerary - Summary

Date	Details
Sunday 4 September	Visit to Mendelova univerzita v Brně, Zemědělská 1665/1, 613 00 Brno, Czech Republic with a guided walking tour of the University campus
Monday 5 September	Visit to University of Bologna to view campus design and to visit the Magna Charta Universitatum Observatory, Via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 Bologna - Partita IVA: 01131710376
Tuesday 6 September	Visit to Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Rectorate of the University of Freiburg Friedrichstr. 39 7908 in Freiburg
Wednesday 7 September	Visit the Francis Crick Institute before attending the London Design Biennale
Thursday 8 September	Visit to the University of Oxford, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square
Friday 9 September	In London with visits to include Cambridge for some delegates and the University of Surrey for others
Saturday 10 September	Travel to New York
Sunday 11 September	Rest Day <u>and</u> allowing time to go through papers such as those for the finance committee <u>or</u> travel for those who are going to Georgia
Monday 12 September	Lunch with the Hon. Nick Minchin, Consul-General of Australia in New-York for those delegates based in New York, <u>or</u> tour of West Georgia Technical College Coweta Campus, 200 Campus Dr, Newnan in Georgia for the others
Tuesday 13 September	Visit the Wake Technical Community College Northern campus at 6600 Louisburg Road and then the University of North Carolina, Spangler Centre, 910 Raleigh Road in Chapel Hill
Wednesday 14 September	Visit the Arizona State University, Fulton Center, northeast corner of University Drive and College Drive in Tempe, Phoenix in Arizona
Thursday 15 September	Private architecture tour of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Friday 16 September	Visit to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, with the visit to include a signing of a MOU at UCSD. Visit to SpaceX in LA

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen today (**Friday, 16 September 2016**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego).

The MoU contains agreement that the universities – both world leaders in particular research fields – will work together on a range of fronts, including student exchanges and research internships.

Professor Rathjen, pictured with UC San Diego's Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr Juan González, said the agreement was born of an enduring, growing friendship between the institutions – a friendship based upon reciprocal visits and a mutual interest in research with global implications.

“Through our Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), the University of Tasmania shares interests with the UC San Diego, particularly in areas such as ocean science, climate and the environment,” he said.

“This aligns with the activities and focus of UC San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography, with which IMAS already has strong ties.

“That an academy of global standing, like UC San Diego, chooses to work together with us shows that we are among a handful of organisations which is truly at the upper echelon of the worldwide research community.”

UC San Diego was recently placed by the highly regarded international ranking system, ARWU, as one of the best institutions in the world, based on a range of measures including research and graduate quality.

The MoU will lead to consideration of a range of initiatives including the creation of virtual classrooms and laboratory programs, joint degrees and summer programs.

The UC San Diego signing is one of a number of stops on an itinerary which included Europe and the US, during which University leaders examined a number of world-leading institutions and systems. Delegates to the party included Chancellor Michael Field AC, Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen and academic and professional leaders from a range of discipline areas critical to the University’s future planning and success.

Chancellor Field said investing in such study missions were core to maintaining a world-class, internationally competitive university.

“Universities are part of a global community and, if we are to be among the best in the world, we need to be an active part of that community, establishing partnerships that enable an exchange of knowledge,” Chancellor Field said.

“We have an obligation as the State’s only university to forge these relationships for both our benefit and Tasmania’s more broadly.

“Just last year the University had research collaborations spanning 88 countries which resulted in 1762 publications, something which underpins our position as an institution of world-standing and renown.

“We invest every year in international travel, the majority of which is for academic pursuits funded by external grants and which informs an essential part of our international research collaboration. Along with our international student recruitment, this helps deliver a return of more than \$200 million year on international education for Tasmania, a market we intend to grow in partnership with the State Government to \$400 million.

“We see a future in which a core pillar of the Tasmanian economy is the export of high quality, world-leading higher education at associate degree, undergraduate and post-graduate levels.”

Similar visits have been key in informing the thinking behind the University of Tasmania’s bold \$300 million transformation plan, which includes the implementation of a new type of curriculum which is more affordable and regionally relevant.

“The ability to come and look at some of the very best working models of these principles in the US and elsewhere, has allowed us to progress to the point of being able to deliver our transformation plans at a rate that would not have been possible otherwise,” Chancellor Field said.

Published on: 19 Sep 2016 9:10am



SUBJECT: SENIOR EXECUTIVE MISSION FRANCE
18-24 MARCH 2017

FROM: PROFESSOR MONIQUE SKIDMORE, DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR, GLOBAL

DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2017

PURPOSE OF MISSION:

- To sign a memorandum of understanding with a consortium of four of France's leading graduate schools of Engineering (GEMA), positioning the AMC strategically within Australia's maritime defence capabilities.
- To explore opportunities for connected agriculture in the Champagne-Ardennes region.

The Vice-Chancellor has extended invitations to all Tasmanian Senators.

BACKGROUND

Two key opportunities in France were identified and developed during the Vice-Chancellor's February mission to Europe. The partnership with the GEMA is currently the highest priority, however, the visit offers the opportunity to explore collaboration in the Champagne Ardenne region in agricultural extension.

Memorandum of Understanding with GEMA Consortium

In 2016 the Federal Government announced that the next fleet of Australian submarines would be built in South Australia and appointed DCNS as the design partner.

DCNS is an advanced technology company, the European leader in naval defence and designs and builds sub-marines and surface combatants and develops associated systems and infrastructure as well as support services to naval bases and shipyards.

France is a leader in advanced technology research and development associated with defence industries. The four French parties to the MOU are leading French engineering institutions with expertise in advanced defence and maritime technologies and partner with DCNS in research and development:

- **ENSTA ParisTech** is a French “Grande École” (Graduate School of Engineering) under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence;
- **Centrale Nantes** is a French “Grande Ecole” has developed strength in the field of oceanic and naval engineering based in particular on experimental equipment unique in Europe;
- **CentraleSupélec** is a top French public Institute of Science and Technology, resulting from the merger of the Ecole Centrale Paris and Supélec, it is a founding Member of University Paris-Saclay and leads the Ecole Centrale Group.
- **École Polytechnique** is the leading French institute which combines top-level research, academics, and innovation at the cutting-edge of science and technology. It has 22 laboratories, 21 of which are joint research units with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). École Polytechnique is also a founding member of Université Paris-Saclay.

The MOU, to be witnessed by DCNS and a Tasmanian State Government Minister, provides a framework for academic research and cooperation in the disciplines of subsea engineering, submarines, hydraulics, hydrodynamics and wave energy, linked to industry.

Flinders University has entered into a similar agreement with the consortium and will leverage research, research training and technical expertise for the Future Submarine program. The University of South Australia will arrive in Nantes to sign their part of the agreement on March 29 and ECN have asked if it is possible for UTas to sign our agreement before that. UniSA is taking a large contingent but there is no maritime expertise among the academics going to France.

The partnership with French institutions is crucial to Tasmania’s ongoing and undisputed global leadership of maritime research and training, and continues the mission of the Australian Maritime College (AMC) as established by the Federal Government as the national centre for maritime defence related research, development and training. There is an opportunity to ensure that the joint programs initiated by UTas are central to the Future Submarine Program as the other Australian universities in the consortium are unable to provide this leadership.

It is intended that the visit to Nantes in March will bring together key professorial staff from AMC with the four GEMA partners and potentially researchers from Brest with whom the AMC have a longstanding partnership. AMC delegates are being finalised, but the delegation would include Professor Neil Bose and Assoc Professor Jonathan Binns. ECN are seeking to establish our interest in the pursuit of a joint research centre in Nantes between the French engineering consortium and the University of Tasmania in these areas.

The University would pursue a parallel partnership with Centrale Nantes to establish joint masters courses. Currently, there are a number of relevant 2 year courses taught in English in areas relevant and complementary to the University’s offerings:

- Master of Engineering in Hydrodynamics and Ocean Engineering
- Master of Engineering in Computational Mechanics
- Master of Engineering in Design of Systems and Products
- Master of Engineering in Energetics and Propulsion
- Master of Engineering in Materials, Processes and Technology of Composites
- Master of Civil Engineering
- Master of Engineering in Automatic Control, Signal and Image
- Master of Engineering in Advanced Robotics

- Master Amasone Atlantic Master on Ship Operation and Naval Engineering (Marine and Ocean Engineering).

Students undertaking the degrees will be funded by DCNS and it is envisaged one year will be undertaken in Nantes, the other in Launceston.

Champagne Ardennes

Following on from the meetings between UTas and GEMA academics and the signing of the consortium MOU, the delegation will travel to the Champagne-Ardennes region. The purpose of this short visit is to respond to an invitation to consider opportunities for research collaboration in “connected agriculture,” primarily through Sense-T. The Director of Research in Sense-T, Dr. Stephen Cahoon, has been invited and the State Government Minister, if confirmed, will also travel to the region where the Lord Mayor of Chalons has offered to host discussions and will be accompanied by the Governor of the region.

Right to Information Request – July 2022

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"Following the visit to King's, the Vice Chancellor and Chair of the University Council's Built Environment and Infrastructure Committee joined with the Hobart City Council to attend the annual conference of the Academic Association Conference, entitled UniverCities - Higher Education Institutions and their Habitat. Following the conference, delegates visited the exemplar cities of Freiburg in Germany and Cambridge in the UK." (p33)

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 - lists of UTAS officers, mayors and alderman involved in the visits/tours ("delegates");
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 - Council discussion of the visits; and
 - the costs of the visits (I would expect these to include line item expenditures, rather than detailed accounts or receipts).
-

A search on all **Built Infrastructure and Environment Committee (BEIC)** meetings for the years 2015 – 2017 inclusive was undertaken as per the search request above and the following references have been found:

Built Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting minutes – 16 November 2016

3.3 * Overview of Europe trip

16/B4/145

The Committee received the oral overview of the Europe trip.

Built Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting Agenda 27 February 2017

Agenda Item 3.1

* Update on UniverCities Conference and associated visits

Presenter: Chair and the Vice-Chancellor

MOTION:

- That the committee receives the verbal update on the UniverCities Conference and associated visits.

The Chair and the Vice-Chancellor will provide a verbal update on the UniverCities Conference and associated visits from November 2016.

Built Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes - 27 February 2017

3.1 * Update on UniverCities Conference and associated visits

The Chair and the Vice-Chancellor provided a verbal update on the UniverCities Conference and associated visits. Key matters noted:

- Conference in Budapest was attended by delegates including attendees from the University and the Hobart City Council. The benefits of this joint delegation were noted.
- Visit to Freiberg (Germany) noted that the University was central to the city and has significant impact on local industry and economic performance. There had been a focus on use of public transport and bicycles with a reduction in motor vehicles use in the city.
- Visit to Cambridge (England) noting the establishment of a significant new health focused research park on the outskirts of the city.

17/B1/151

The Committee received the verbal update on the UniverCities Conference and associated visits

A search on all **University Council** meetings (Agenda papers and Minutes) for the years 2015 – 2017 inclusive was undertaken as per the search request above and no references have been found in any of the search categories.