

ACU appoints new Chief Financial Officer

Mr Petrus Swemmer has been appointed Australian Catholic University's new Chief Financial Officer.

Mr Swemmer will join ACU in November from the University of Sydney where he is currently Director of Finance for the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Campus Operations Services, University Infrastructure and University Capital. He brings 14 years of experience in the higher education sector.

At the University of Sydney, Mr Swemmer has provided financial stewardship for the successful merger of five health faculties into a single Faculty of Medicine and Health. He also co-developed a Business Partnering Program with the University of Sydney Business School.

Before joining the University of Sydney, Mr Swemmer was Group Commercial Director and Group Financial Controller for global education company StudyGroup. He was responsible for commercial strategy, developing and enhancing decision support and enterprise reporting to the executive, board, and private equity owners.

Before entering the higher education sector, he worked in the fast-moving consumer goods industry with Unilever for 13 years, gaining experience in business turnaround, mergers and acquisitions, product launches and financial controllership.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate) and Chief Operating Officer Patrick Woods said he was delighted to welcome Mr Swemmer to the university.

"As we continue to advance towards ACU's Vision 2033, Mr Swemmer's experience will be invaluable," Mr Woods said.

"His appointment is an opportunity to continue the strengthening of finance and planning as a collaborative enabler, working alongside colleagues across the university to provide the insight, solutions and stewardship that will support us in delivering our long-term business plan with clarity and confidence."

Mr Swemmer said he was honoured to join ACU and excited by the opportunity to continue making a positive contribution to the higher education sector.

"The mission of ACU resonates deeply with me, and the values of truth, excellence and service strongly align with my own values and how I seek to express them in the workplace, family, and broader community," he said.

Mr Swemmer holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours and Bachelor of Accountancy from the University of Stellenbosch. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA), and an Associate Chartered Management Accountant (ACMA).

He and his family are based in Sydney and he will take up his new role on 24 November at ACU's North Sydney Campus.

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