



## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

Meeting 23/06 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday, 8 December 2023 at, 9:30 am, at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) and on Zoom.

### **Present**

Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate  
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright, Vice-Chancellor's Nominee  
Dr David Arness, School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative Representative)  
Dr Evan Atlantis, School of Health (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Clive Baldock, Dean, Graduate Research School  
Professor Si Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Futures  
Dr Maria Bhatti, School of Law (Level A, B or C Representative) (Exited 11:58 am.)  
Mr Glenn Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, The College  
Professor Dennis Chang, Director, Research Institute representing the University's Research Institutes,  
Dr Ritesh Chimoriya, Postgraduate Student Representative (Arrived 9:55 am. Exited 11:56 am.)  
Dr Evan Crawford, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative) (Arrived 9:42 am.)  
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education  
Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research  
Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon, Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment  
Professor Miroslav Filipović, School of Science (Level D, E Representative)  
Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations  
Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor and President (Arrived 10:19 am. Exited 12:05 pm.)  
Dr Erika Gyengesi, School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Associate Professor Ana Hol, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (Level D, E Representative)  
Professor Sarah Lewis, Dean, School of Health Sciences  
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level D, E Representative)  
Professor Gregory Kolt, Dean, School of Health Sciences  
Dr Erin Mackenzie, School of Education (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Amir Mahmood, Dean, School of Business  
Professor Rod McClure, Dean, School of Medicine  
Professor Graciela Metternicht, Dean, School of Science  
Professor Susan Page, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education  
Dr Alexie Papanicolaou, One academic staff member of University Research Institutes, elected by the RI  
Professor Clare Pollock, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost  
Dr Margarite Poulos, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level A, B or C Representative) (Exited 11:59am.)  
Dr Ana Rodas, School of Social Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative)

Ms Elen Seymour, Interim Dean, School of Law  
Ms Payal Shah, Postgraduate Student Representative (Arrived 9:50am.)  
Ms Tiffany Sharpe, Indigenous Australian Student Representative (Exited 10:42am.)  
Professor Simeon Simoff, Pro Vice-Chancellor STEM and Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences  
Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor Humanities, Arts and Social Science Cluster and Dean, School of Social Sciences  
Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)  
Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President, Research, Enterprise & International  
Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International  
Associate Professor Gabrielle Weidemann, School of Psychology (Level D, E Representative)  
Professor Anna Williams, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level D, E Representative)

### **Apologies**

Professor Sarah Zhang, Deputy Chair, Academic Senate  
Associate Professor Amit Arora, School of Health Sciences (Level D, E Representative)  
Associate Professor Ann Dadich, Associate Professor, School of Business (Level D, E Representative)  
Ms Leanne Hunt, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Tanya Meade, Dean, School of Psychology  
Professor Matt McGuire, Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts  
Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level D, E Representative)  
Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Educational Partnerships and Quality  
Dr Ben Perry, School of Science (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement  
Mx Vicky-Rae Reed, Disability Matters Student Representative  
Ms Fiona Salisbury, Executive Director, Library Services  
Professor Michele Simons, Dean, School of Education  
Associate Professor Liesel Spencer, School of Law (Level D or E)  
Dr Ayda Succarie, School of Business (Level A, B or C Representative)  
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership  
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)

### **Absent:**

Professor Andy Marks, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Government and Alliances  
Professor Neil Merrett, School of Medicine (Level D, E Representative)  
Ms Vidushi Sethi, International Student Representative  
Ms Sirjan Sidhu, Undergraduate Student Representative

### **In Attendance:**

Dr Linda O'Brien AM, Pro-Chancellor and member of the Board of Trustees  
Dr Amanda Larkin, member of the Board of Trustees  
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services  
Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, Director, Learning Futures (Exited 11:56 am)  
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services  
Associate Professor Emilee Gilbert, Associate Professor in Psychological Science, School of Psychology (Arrived 9:43 am. Exited 11:36 am.)  
Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager - Student Systems (Exited 10:09 am)  
Ms Jo Maguire, Manager, Policy & Governance and Privacy Officer  
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer  
Ms Leanne Yard, Head, Technology Enabled Learning (Arrived 11:03 am. Exited 12:19 pm.)

# CONFIRMED MINUTES

## 1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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### 1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer formally opened the meeting at 9:30am by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, and welcoming members and attendees.

The Chair welcomed all members and attendees, with a specific mention to Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon, the new Dean for the School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment, Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Professor Sarah Lewis, the new Dean for the School of Health Sciences.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Deans, Professor Gregory Kolt, Dean School of Health Sciences and Professor Simeon Simoff, Pro Vice-Chancellor STEM and Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences, for their service to the University and Academic Senate, and Professor Vivian Tam, interim Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment, for stepping into the role until the appointment of the new Dean.

The Chair also thanked all outgoing elected members of Academic Senate for their work and commitment.

### 1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have concerning the items on this agenda or this Committee more broadly. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) and the [Compliance Program Unit webpage](#).

Members were reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during this meeting.

### 1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1 – Credit for Prior Learning
- Item 2.2 – SMS Update
- Item 3.1 – Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor’s Report
- Item 3.4 – Update from Schools
- Item 3.5 – School of Social Sciences Review 2023
- Item 3.6 – Questions on Notice
- Item 3.7 – Academic Integrity Implementation Strategy 2023
- Item 3.9 – Academic Senate Policy Committee Update & Policy Review
- Item 4.4 – Senate Assessment Committee
- Item 4.5 – Research Committee

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:01):**  
*All unstarred items noted and items endorsed.*

#### **1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A re-arrangement of the order of business was needed.

Only the items noted below were re-arranged.

Item 3.2 – Vice-Chancellor’s Report  
Item 3.6 – Questions on Notice  
Item 3.9.4 Responsible Conduct of Research Policy  
Item 3.4 – Update from Schools  
Item 3.5 – School of Social Sciences Review 2023  
Item 3.7 - Academic Integrity Implementation Strategy 2023  
Item 4.4 – Senate Assessment Committee (update)

The remaining items were discussed in the order noted in the agenda.

#### **1.5 OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was nominated for this meeting.

#### **1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 13 October 2023, (meeting 23/05) were attached for confirmation.

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:02):**  
*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 13 October 2023, (meeting 23/05), as an accurate record.*

#### **1.7 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

To assist members with monitoring and controlling the work of the Committee, the current action sheet (incorporating items arising from previous meetings) was attached.

Members were requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

**Action: 23/05: 2.1 Academic Integration Plans and Disability Governance**  
**Update:** Update by Ms Ellen Brackenreg at a meeting in 2024.  
Update by Peter Tow in first quarter of 2024.

**Action: 23/05: 3.2 Vice-Chancellor’s Report**  
**Update:** Professor Clare Pollock, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor confirmed that Mr Angelo Kourtis, Vice-President People and Advancement has sought proposals for other newspaper subscriptions including the New York Times and Fairfax media and is waiting for responses. This item is to be revisited in the first quarter of 2024 by the Vice-Chancellor.

**Action: 23/05: 3.7.1 Enablers and Barriers to Improving Student Experience at Western Sydney University**

**Update:** An update on the Engaged Teaching Project to be provided by Professor Simon Bedford in the first quarter of 2024, when there will be some reporting available on the holistic view of the student experience, based on questionnaires administered in October 2023. An Update will be provided at the February 2024 meeting.

**Action: 23/05: 4.6 Research Studies Committee**

**Update:** Professor Clive Baldock reported back to Senate on externally funded scholarship stipend and top-up in the 2023 budget. This Item was resolved at the Research Studies Committee and the students were paid the amounts owing to them. Item closed.

**Action: 23/04:3.5 Academic Literacy Strategy**

**Update:** A revision of the Strategy including the provision regarding disciplinary literacy. Ms Fiona Salisbury to provide update at the February 2024 meeting of Senate.

**Action: 23/04:3.6 Transnational Education**

**Update:** A high-level view of governance and the appropriate Academic Senate level oversight for Western Sydney Universities overseas. Update to be provided by Dr Nicolene Murdoch at the first meeting of Senate in 2024.

**Action: 23/02:3.1 Chair's Report**

**Update:** Deputy Chair vacancies now exist for APCAC, Senate Education and Third-Party Provider Committees). Elected members of Senate who are interested in accepting these positions or for more information on these positions are requested to contact the Chairs of these committees. An update is to be provided at the first meeting of Senate in 2024.

**Action: 23/01: 46 MRes Scholarships Metrics**

**Update:** Professor Clive Baldock advised that the metrics were reviewed in consultation with Dr Alexie Papanicolaou and the new Bachelor of Science pathway to the Master of Research/pathway to PhD. Item to be closed in Academic Senate and moved to Research Studies Committee.

**Action: 22/02: 3.1SMS Update**

**Update:** An update is on the agenda, noting that there is no longer a need to have regular item. Updates can be provided when required. Item closed.

## **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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### **2.1 CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING**

Ms Jess Gleeson, Director Data Integrity, Quality and Operation (DIQO), advised Senate that her team was working achieving consistency on the implementation of the Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), as required by the Higher Education Standards Framework. This work, which started in 2022, consists of three deliverables:

- Collection of existing processes in Schools. This involved the development of a template, which was sent to Schools for return in 2023. The template is currently being updated following feedback from Deans. The aim is to capture flexibility on a discipline level within an envelope of consistency.
- Training for staff in the application of CPL through roadshows in 2024 to assist implementation.

- guideline documents to assist Schools with consistent processing of CPL. They started looking at processes with Schools in 2022, however, noted that these cannot be standardised as the processes are so different. It is possible to have consistency at an institution level but have flexibility at the discipline level. A standard template has been developed; this is currently being updated based on the feedback from Deans. The template will be implemented in the Schools and DIQO will be running roadshows in 2024 to assist the implementation.

Ms Gleeson noted that she has had conversations with Emeritus Professor Paul Wormell, who is leading the TEQSA Steering Committee and the Chair of Academic Senate, to ensure the CPL guidelines documentation will comply with TEQSA re-accreditation and will be ready in time.

Work lead by Simon Potts, Associate Director, Data Integrity Quality and Operations, will commence in 2024, with the aim to have a fulsome update for the April meeting of Senate and in time for TEQSA re-registration (by June 2024).

## **2.2 SMS UPDATE**

Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager, Student Systems, provided Senate with an update on the Student Management System (SMS) implementation and Information Technology and Digital Services (ITDS) initiatives more broadly.

### SMS Update

The overall status of SMS is stable, and most of the business units are now operating as they should be because of post implementation refinements and improvements. The areas that still require attention are student fees and finances, completions and graduation, scholarships and the FNS (Failed Non-Submit) conversion process. Scholarships will be a key priority for the next financial year.

The Recruit module is under review with the University going to market to find an alternative solution. The Progressions module is being updated, and the ARGOS reports are in the process of being upgraded to ensure compliance with NSW Privacy legislation. The next step for the SMS is moving to Ellucian cloud, focusing on integration and delivering improvement to security. The target cut over is May 2024. The project to transition to Software as a Service (SaaS), by partnering with Ellucian, has also commenced. When implemented, the solution will provide access to the following technologies:

Ellucian Experience User Interface- Staff & Student  
 Ellucian Insights – Data and Reporting solution  
 Improved communication capability  
 Enhanced integration capability

### ITDS Update

A review and replacement of the University's Enterprise Architecture (EA) project is underway with the principle of distributed systems ownership. The data infrastructure and data warehouse will be replaced.

As part of this, an Enterprise Architecture model for Learning & Teaching is being established.

A project to implement a Curriculum Management Tool as part of the Digital Acceleration (DX) Program has commenced. The tool will provide an uplift in curriculum design, planning, production, commercialisation, improvement, and disestablishment.

There is a planned restructure of the ITDS support teams, with a move to value stream model. The Teaching Learning team will be moving portfolios and will report to the Senior Value Stream Manager – Learning & Teaching.

A review of the Learning Management System (LMS) will commence with the preliminary work to archive the current LMS solution, followed by a review of the entire system.

The University has already gone to market to select an enterprise-wide CRM platform and system implementation partner. The project is to commence in 2024 which will enable the University to manage interactions with students and partners.

### **3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT**

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A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 13 October 2023 was circulated. The Chair's report to the 6 December 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair noted that he had taken his reports as being read and advised Senate that Mr David Gonski AC, Chancellor of the University of New South Wales gave a keynote address at the recent Australian Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates (OZCABS) conference. Mr Gonski's address asserted that there are three challenges of Academic Senate and Boards:

1. Academic integrity, especially with respect to artificial intelligence.
2. Flexible and stackable degrees.
3. Expectations and diversity of students.

All will be important issues for the University and Senate is discussing these issues already. Importantly, Academic Senate needs to have a clear line of sight when it comes to academic risk.

One of the topics at the conference was looking at ways that universities are providing support for students considering the governments requirement for universities to adopt a Support for Students Policy. There was also a discussion regarding the government's requirement that Universities ensure students have the capability to succeed. This may then have the unintended consequences that the universities restrict who they accept into their courses.

Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, DIQO provided a brief update on the development of a Student Support Policy, stating that the University must have a policy in place by 1 January 2024, based on the Higher Education Provider Guidelines. The Guidelines, however, were currently unpublished. The draft Guidelines had been provided in October 2023 but were being revised after significant feedback from the sector. Ms Gleeson said the new set of Guidelines were expected to be approved early in the following week. Confirmation had been received that some of the language, such as "assessing academic and non-academic suitability" had been removed. The Minister's Office was also working on developing FAQs. Ms Gleeson emphasised that Universities need to have a named stand-alone policy approved by the Department of Education Skills and Employment, confirming that the policy meets the requirements and obligations set out in the guidelines.

It was confirmed that the Student Support Policy would be on the agenda of the Senate Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 December 2023, and would then be on the DDS for wider consultation, once a more fulsome policy is developed, once

the finalised Guidelines are available. Ms Gleeson advised that the working group would start work on the policy in early 2024, and that the University would need to start reporting annually from March 2025.

Professor Pollock assured Senate that the Academic Senate Policy Committee supported the approach that Ms Gleeson put forward, noting that the new policy that would comply with the Guidelines.

### **3.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

The Vice-Chancellor's Report was appended. Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor, acknowledged the two members of the Board of Trustees in attendance, Dr Linda O'Brien AM and Dr Amanda Larkin. The Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone on Senate, particularly the Chair and Deputy Chair, for their contributions, and wished all a safe and festive holiday break.

The Vice-Chancellor took the report as read and highlighted that the Board of Trustees had their last meeting for 2024, at which they approved the 2024 – 2026 budget and Operational Plan. He acknowledged the work of David Greentree and Peter Tow as the budget was created even though there still are unknown variables until the Universities Accord is finalised.

The Vice-Chancellor said the announcement of winning designers for Western's Indigenous Centre of Excellence would take place the following week. He thanked Professor Trudgett and all the staff who were involved in this project, and informed Senate that the unveiling of the design itself would take place at an event in late January 2024.

Professor Glover stated that the Board of Trustees had held a strategic session at the December Board meeting based on a 'provocations document', designed to assist management with the commencement of a draft new strategic plan in 2024. The Board had decided to not just refresh the existing strategic plan but to create a new one, given the major changes that had occurred since the development of *Sustaining Success* in 2021.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Senate that the new campus in Surabaya, was a focus for Board of Trustees focus, and that Senate would play key role in the development of programs. Western is the first foreign university to open a Campus outside of Jakarta, and the first to offer undergraduate programs in Indonesia. He said that Professor Mahmood was an experienced executive to lead that campus as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost, and that Academic Senate would receive updates on Surabaya. Professor Glover further advised that the University's two-year objective was opening a campus in Bengaluru, India.

The Vice-Chancellor provided a brief update on the Accord, highlighting the magnitude of the reform of the educational sector. He said the final draft report of the Accord was a 305-page document and a more comprehensive report than the Bradley Review. Senate would be able to discuss the report and its recommendations depending on availability, possibly at the February 2024 meeting, as Minister Clare would be likely to release the report in February 2024, with a response at time of budget in May. He advised that at the Board Strategy Day in June, the Board of Trustees would discuss the implications of the Accord and its impact on the new Strategic Plan.

A question was raised regarding to what degree the three concurrent reviews regarding primary, secondary, and tertiary education were interacting with each



other, especially regarding the level of discussion between the Chairs of these reviews and the Minister. Clarification was made that the reports were separate pieces but that there was interaction between the chairs. The reforms cover the full spectrum - early childhood, school education and tertiary education, but the Accord covers the overarching issue of lifelong learning. The Vice-Chancellor commended the government for having the forethought to commission a comprehensive review of education in the face of the need for investment and to do things differently. The challenge now is where to put the money in the educational spectrum.

### **3.3 STUDENT REPORT**

There are no reports by the student representatives for noting.

### **3.4 UPDATE FROM SCHOOLS**

A verbal update was provided by the Schools of Psychology, and Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences on the current academic (research and teaching/learning) initiatives, issues and developments and forward planning.

#### **3.4.1 SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Nominated by the Dean of the School, Associate Professor Emilee Gilbert, Associate Professor in Psychological Science, School of Psychology, stated that the School had completed a curriculum renewal and enhancement process, with a detailed mapping of courses and a review of all subjects to identify gaps in content. She said the programs were flexible, maintaining a balance of online and in-person learning. To enhance student participation, the School had held a Psychology Expo, where students had been able to drop in for academic advice session or have individual sessions. She also mentioned a Student Ambassador Program in the School to promote student representation on committees.

Associate Professor Gilbert referenced a first in family research report co-authored with Dr David Arness, which explores how these students navigate the university system, pointing out that there was a need to be cognisant of their support needs.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his interest in this work and requested a copy of the report.

#### **3.4.2 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**

Professor Simeon Simoff, Pro Vice-Chancellor STEM and Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences, noted that the preparations for teaching at the Indonesian campus in Surabaya was a focus of the School. The School had started their preparation work for the technical requirements to ensure the student experience would be the same regardless of where they study.

Professor Simoff informed the Committee that another focus of the School was the employability of its students, and that the School did this through the integration with industry and accreditation with the Australian Computer Society. The School had also recently received a Google grant in cybersecurity.

Professor Simoff also said that there was growing success and interest in STEM entrepreneurship and an increase in the number of students who are interested in

this space. Degrees that had started as boutique degrees were now attracting 80 – 90 students in the class.

In response to a question on whether there was an interest in entrepreneurship by other Schools, Senate was advised that entrepreneurship was a trademark of TNE, where this is seen as an add on to their degree, that is, three-year Business degree and one-year add on entrepreneurship. The School of Business would be offering this next year and the School of Science was exploring this option.

It was noted that the School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences and the School of Medicine are the only schools that showed an increase in EFTSL. Professor Simoff pointed to the post-graduate programs needed by professionals. These programs required frequent refreshing.

### **3.5 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES REVIEW 2023**

The School of Social Sciences Review 2023 paper, panel report and action plan were appended. Professor Brian Stout, Dean, School of Social Sciences focused on the action plan and recommendations, noting that the School was facing challenges in finding placements for social work students. The School was looking at the post-graduate social work structure and curriculum for a different arrangement for placements. He pointed out that cybersecurity was an area of development. The School was also cognisant of providing support for staff who are part of the decasualisation program and providing professional development.

The School was commended for its Indigenous strategy and for the position of Associate Dean, Indigenous Education.

Professor Clive Baldock, Dean of Graduate Studies and Researcher Development, cited the report, “It was noted the School has identified strategies to increase enrolments in the MRes” and queried what these strategies are. Professor Stout advised that APAs and DAPS would identify students who can undertake an MRes degree and then progress into PhD, noting that there are several professional degrees, such as social work and planning which makes it harder to attract students to more academic degrees.

### **3.6 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS**

Associate Professor Ben Etherington, upon receiving consent, circulated to Senate the statement in support of the people of Ukraine in 2022 made in Academic Senate in 2022, and then read out the question on notice which requested that the Vice-Chancellor consider releasing a statement calling for a ceasefire and expressing support for the people of Gaza similar in nature to that issued in support of the people of Ukraine. Associate Professor Etherington stated that he posed this question from a group of academics of diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Associate Professor Etherington for his comments and acknowledged the observers and the depths of their feelings and the impact that this situation was having on their lives. He appreciated the heartfelt sentiments expressed and advised that he would consider the request. Professor Glover said that as Vice Chancellor, he considers the welfare and wellbeing of staff and students when making public statements, as words can trigger psychological trauma for people, and said that he was mindful of the need for a balanced response and consideration of the broader view of student and staff safety. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated that any form of religious intolerance and hatred was abhorrent and would not be condoned. He emphasised that the University is a multicultural community, and that everyone

must be respectful of freedom of speech. However, Professor Glover also emphasised that safe environment must be maintained and acknowledged the impact of words in this respect.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that many people were in pain and assured that the University would provide counselling and support services to those impacted. He also acknowledged the peaceful protests that had been held to date. There was a brief discussion of the paper and the Vice-Chancellor's response.

### **3.7 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY UPDATE 2023**

Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, Director, Learning Futures, provided an update on the implementation of the Academic Integrity Strategy, which had been endorsed earlier this year. There were four enablers and the 2023 progress was noted in Appendix 1. Associate Professor Chuck highlighted the new academic integrity short course that staff who are part of the decasualisation program are directed to complete, and pointed out that it is open to all staff. She said that the team was currently working with the Office of Governance Services (OGS) to secure an enterprise-wide misconduct platform. Associate Professor Chuck pointed out that the compulsory Academic Integrity Module (AIM) had been completed by 50% of students, with encumbrances now in place for those that have not completed.

The team was also examining the University's response to academic integrity, including at processes and the review of assessment. Associate Professor Chuck also pointed out the need to respond to TESQA on how the University is responding to generative AI.

As Professor Kevin Dunn needed to leave the meeting early, Professor Mailhammer, on behalf of Academic Senate, congratulated Professor Kevin Dunn on his appointment as University Provost and acknowledged his significant contribution to Senate.

### **3.8 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT**

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Assessment Committee were amended to include the addition of a nominee for the Director, Director, Education Quality & Policy and Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations, to ensure expert advice on quality and reporting enhancement and compliance including the work of Third-Party Providers. The amended Terms of Reference were appended.

#### **It was resolved (AS 23/06: 03):**

*That the Academic Senate approves the addition of nominee for the Director, Director, Education Quality & Policy and Director of Data Integrity, Quality and Operations and the revised Terms of Reference.*

### **3.9 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE & POLICY REVIEW**

#### **3.9.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Academic Senate Policy Committee update report was appended. Professor Clare Pollock, Chair of the Academic Senate Policy Committee, took the report as read and noted that the Support for Student policy needed to be approved and the events had

superseded what was noted in the report. The new policy framework was aiming at a more streamlined suite with aligned procedures.

### **3.9.2 EXAMINATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The revised Examinations Policy suite had been appended and Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations spoke to the paper. Changes had been made to incorporate deferred exams into the Exams Procedures and to align procedures to policies and vice-versa. The policy and procedures had been endorsed at ASPC and displayed on the Policy DDS, noting that there had been a discussion of incorporating the Assessment Policy into this policy at a future date.

Senate queried whether the default exam was an online un-proctored exam and given the threat of AI, whether this was counterintuitive. It was advised that this was the most appropriate statement, which followed extensive consultation and approval by relevant committees, adding that the Deputy Dean was the risk assessment moderator and that the exam could be invigilated or delivered on campus; the policy does not exclude other forms of examination. Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education pointed to the ongoing discussion about examination and assessment, emphasising the need to assure learning.

#### **It was resolved (AS 23/06:04):**

*Academic Senate approved the revised Examinations Policy and revised Examinations Procedures and the retirement of the Deferred Exam Procedures for implementation from 1 January 2024.*

### **3.9.3 MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION AND USE POLICY**

The revised and renamed *Teaching and Learning Procedures – Multimedia Production and Use* had been appended and Ms Leanne Yard, Head, Technology Enabled Learning, spoke to this paper, noting that these procedures now sit under the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Senate members provided feedback that the *Teaching and Learning Procedures – Multimedia Production and Use* should be read in conjunction with the *Intellectual Property Policy and Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property (ACIP) Protocol*, and that references to these documents should be included in the procedures under clause 3.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the Vice-Chancellor had approved that the transfer of the approval authority from Vice-Chancellor to Academic Senate.

#### **It was resolved (AS 23/06:05):**

*Academic Senate approved the Teaching and Learning Procedures – Multimedia Production and Use, including the change of approval authority from the Vice-Chancellor to Academic Senate, subject to the inclusion of a reference to the Intellectual Property Policy and Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property (ACIP) Protocol under clause (3) .*

### **3.9.4 RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH POLICY**

The revised and renamed *Responsible Conduct of Research Policy* (previously *Research Code of Conduct*) had been appended and Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research advised Senate that this Policy was transitioning from a Vice-Chancellor's policy to a Senate policy and the Vice-Chancellor concurred with this.

Professor Dennis Chang, the Director representing the University's Research Institutes, requested that, as Research Institutes do not have Associate Deans, it would be more appropriate to have Associate Dean or equivalent in Part F Clause 36. This change was agreed to by Senate.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Senate that research integrity was getting a lot of attention and the mismanagement of areas of research misconduct means that it is prudent for the University to have a robust policy, noting that there may be more government reviews and that a national statement on research integrity would be released.

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:06):**

*Academic Senate approved the revised and renamed Responsible Conduct of Research Policy as an Academic Senate approved policy document, pending the amendment of Part F Clause 36.*

### **3.9.5 STUDENT FEEDBACK POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The revised and renamed *Student Feedback Policy*, new *Student Feedback Procedures* and new *Internal and External Occasional Student Surveys Guidelines* was appended and Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Futures, introduced this paper, advising Senate that this policy was there to hear the student voice and the concerns of students. This policy has been revised and Professor Bedford acknowledged the work of Ms Gillian Brown, Ms Deb Farrelly and Ms Leanne Yard and thanked Professor Clare Pollock for championing this policy.

Ms Leanne Yard, Head, Technology Enabled Learning, informed Senate of the overarching approach to reduce the number of surveys students are asked to complete. She said there would be process improvements with one email for subject feedback each semester that includes all relevant links. Reminder emails would only be sent to those who have not responded.

Senate queried whether occasional surveys could still be sent and was informed that anything at a course and subject level does not need executive level approval. (Clause 7B)

Professor Pollock noted that the intent is to listen to student feedback.

It was also noted that the term "unit" was no longer used; this would be updated and corrected to reflect current usage ("subjects").

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:07):**

*Academic Senate approved the revised and renamed Student Feedback Policy, noting that the approval authority is being amended from the Vice-Chancellor to Academic Senate.*

*Academic Senate endorsed the new Student Feedback Procedures to be progressed to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.*

### **3.10 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Committee was requested to consider new scholarships, amendments to the existing scholarships, and a new prize.

#### *New donor scholarship for approval*

- Deloitte BrightStart Scholarship
- Brian Schwartz AM Scentre Group Scholarship for Excellence
- GO Foundation Scholarship
- Charter Hall Indigenous Scholarship
- Ray White Commercial Western Sydney Scholarship
- David and Jennie Sutherland Scholarship

#### *Amendments to Existing Scholarships*

- Baxter Healthcare ATSI Scholarship in Nursing (current name)
- Young Academics Early Learning Centre Scholarship
- GE Healthcare Biomedical Engineering Scholarship for Women
- Neville Amy Scholarship in Science
- Hawkesbury Foundation Aboriginal Nursing Scholarship
- Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship
- Bathurst Regional Council School of Medicine Scholarship
- Veolia Mulwaree Trust Scholarship

#### *New Donor-Funded Prize*

- Denis Burnham Award for Doctoral Student Career Transition

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:08):**

*Academic Senate approved all proposals for immediate execution.*

### **3.11 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS**

There were no posthumous awards for noting.

## **4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

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Selected Chairs of the Senate Standing Committees provided brief updates of the key developments from the committee.

### **4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The report of the Senate Executive meeting (Meeting 23/04) was attached for noting by members, and consisted of the following item:

Endorsement of the program variation to 4758 - Doctor of Medicine (MD) and 4759 - Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine) (Exit Only) consisting of name change to 4758 - Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine) / Doctor of Medicine and the addition of 4803 - Doctor of Medicine for administrative purposes to commence retrospectively from 1H, 2019. *TRIM reference: D23/3996691*

#### **4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE**

The Report and unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 5 October 2023 (meeting 23/07) and the report for the meeting held on 28 November 2023 (meeting 23/08) and relevant annexures were appended.

**It was resolved (AS 23/06:09):**

*Academic Senate noted the report and corresponding annexures of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meetings held on 5 October 2023 (meeting 23/07) and the meeting held on 28 November 2023 (meeting 23/08) and approves the recommendations contained therein.*

#### **4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The confirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 21 September 2023 (Meeting 23/04) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 19 October 2023 (Meeting 23/05) were appended for noting by the Senate.

#### **4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

The confirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 26 September 2023 (Meeting 23/05) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 7 November (Meeting 23/07) were appended for noting. The Chair of the Senate Assessment Committee, Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, provided a brief update on the November meeting, and informed Senate that the Assessment Committee had reviewed the Spring Assessment Reports and had made commendations, and that one of the findings to be explored in 2024 were FNS rates. The new Assessment Framework had also been presented to the Assessment Committee and at the Badugulang Showcase. Associate Professor Chuck joined a meeting of the Student Representatives Council, and spoke in relation to invigilated formal exams, noting that there has been a downward trend in these forms of assessment. The Committee had also been working on assessment declaration statements for non-text-based assessments in collaboration with the Office of Governance Services.

#### **4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

The confirmed minutes from the Research Committee held on 7 September 2023 (Meeting 23/04) were appended for noting. The Chair of the Research Committee, Professor Deborah Sweeney, noted that the Committee would be focusing on the alignment of the Committee's work with its Terms of Reference. This includes the planning work for the Research Quality Forum, led by Associate Professor Ann Dadich.

Professor Sweeney clarified Item 3.1 in the Research Studies Committee Unconfirmed Minutes, Meeting 23/10 held on 10 October 2023, under the heading Scholarships: "Due to the University's projected budgetary situation, as communicated by the Vice-Chancellor, there will likely be significantly less HDR scholarships available in 2024 with the final number to be determined." Professor Sweeney and Professor Baldock advised that this should not be taken to mean that there would be less scholarship funding in 2024.

Professor Sweeney also provided a brief overview of research funding at Western. She noted that the University receives two tranches of funding under the Research Support Program (RSP) and the Research Training Program (RTP) under the Commonwealth's Research Block Grant funding. The first is for research training and other for research in general. The University also receives research funding through research grants in various categories. Professor Sweeney pointed out that the university invested close to \$60 million in research with \$12 million in scholarships and commits \$7 million in candidature support. She said that irrespective of constraints, the University would continue to invest the same amount of money in scholarships, and that the level of research funding would remain stable.

A Committee member stated that this explanation was clear, however questioned why the recent scholarship round was cancelled, and was advised that changes in forecasting and planning led to the cancellation.

Another Committee member noted that extra funding would be helpful especially for MRes students to maintain a pipeline of research students. It would be helpful to have a report of the funding breakdown for Schools. Professor Sweeney advised that only five of the 12 schools had spent all the research money that they had been allocated.

#### **4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

The confirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee held on 10 October 2023 (Meeting 23/10) were appended for noting by the Senate.

#### **4.7 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) held on 1 November 2023 (Meeting 23/05) were appended for noting by the Senate.

#### **4.8 THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee (TPPC) held on 28 September 2023 (Meeting 23/05) were appended for noting by the Senate.

#### **4.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for 6 December 2023. Summaries and minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings are available on the University website at:

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about\\_uws/leadership/board\\_of\\_trustees](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees)

### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

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The Chair thanked again all outgoing senate members and their contributions and acknowledged Professors Amir Mahmood (re-joining as PVC for the Surabaya Campus) Dunn, Kolt and Simoff for their contributions to Academic Senate.

### **6. NEXT MEETING**

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This was the final meeting of Academic Senate for 2023.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (24/01) will be 23 February 2024 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The meeting schedule for 2024 is as follows:

- 24/01 - 23 February 2024
- 24/02 - 12 April 2024
- 24/03 - 14 June 2024
- 24/04 - 9 August 2024
- 24/05 - 11 October 2024
- 24/06 - 6 December 2024

The meeting was formally closed at 12.32pm.