

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Confirmed minutes of meeting 20/06 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on **Friday, 4 December 2020 at 9:30AM**, at **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)** and **via Zoom**.

MINUTES

Present:

Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair)
Associate Professor Ana Hol
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman
Associate Professor Kate Huppatz
(Deputy Chair)
Associate Professor Linda Taylor
Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu
Associate Professor Mary Hardie (arrived
10.00am)
Associate Professor Michael Tyler
Associate Professor Simon Green
Dr Annette Sartor
Dr Caterina Tannous
Dr Christopher Peterson
Dr Kenan Matawie (arrived 9.47am)
Dr Ludmilla (Lucy) Robinson
Dr Maggie Davidson (departed 11.10am)
Dr Margarite Poulos
Dr Martin Daly
Dr Nicolene Murdoch (arrived 9.50am)
Dr Peter Humphreys
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana
Dr Samantha Liyanapathirana
Dr Steven Trankle
Elif Sakiz (Postgraduate student)
Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate student)
Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR student)
Khulan Khurelbaatar (International
student)
Leanne Hunt
Lizette DeLacy

Apologies:

Associate Professor Simon Bedford
Pete Maggs
Dr Robert Osei-Kyei

Absent

Michael Burgess

Professor Amir Mahmood
Professor Andrew Page
Professor Anna Cody
Professor Annemarie Hennessy (departed
11.55am)
Professor Barney Glover (*Vice-Chancellor*)
Professor Brian Stout
Professor Caroline Smith
Professor Catherine Renshaw
Professor Christopher Peterson
Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Deborah Sweeney
Professor Eileen McLaughlin (arrived
9.50am)
Professor Gregory Kolt
Professor Heather Horst
Professor Kevin Dunn
Professor Matthias Boer
Professor Michele Simons
Professor Michelle Trudgett
Professor Peter Hutchings
Professor Simeon Simoff
Professor Simon Barrie
Professor Suzan Burton
Professor Tanya Meade
Professor Yenna Salamonson
Professor Zhong Tao
Professor Mike Kagioglou
Rosina Armstrong-Mensah (undergraduate
student)

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright
Jessie Robinson (Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander student)

Professor Kate Stevens

In attendance

Desiree Mulley (*Secretary*)
Shubha Devadasen
(*Associate Director, Office of Governance Services*)
Associate Professor Robert Mailhammer
Dr Jen McPherson
Gillian Brown
(*Program Manager 21C*)

Professor Paul Wormell
Don Wright
Sophie Buck (*Director, Office of Governance Services*)
Griffen Burgess (*student observer*)
Allyson McDonald
(*Executive Governance Officer*)

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

★1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Chaired the meeting. The Chair invited Professor Michelle Trudgett, Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation to open the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Land Owners.

The Chair welcomed all members and attendees, with a specific mention to:

- Don Wright, Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship who answered questions in relation to item 3.5 - Launch Pad Presentation.
- Associate Professor Robert Mailhammer from the Professoriate group who answered questions in relation to item 3.6 – Professoriate Group Presentation.
- Dr. Jen McPherson, Senior Lecturer Learning Futures who attended in relation to item 3.9 – Academic Integrity.
- Professor Paul Wormell, who attended to speak to item 3.12.2 – Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy and Procedures.
- Griffen Burgess, Vice President of Education (Undergraduate) on the SRC who is attending as an observer.

★1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were reported.

★1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda were:

- 2.2 – Elected Members Feedback
- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.4 - Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026
- 3.5 - Launch Pad Presentation
- 3.6 - Professoriate Group Presentation
- 3.7 - Researcher Development Framework Presentation
- 3.8 - Academic Senate 2020 Evaluation
- 3.9 – Academic Integrity
- 3.10.1 - Hot Topic - Fitness to Practice Working Party

- 3.12.2 – Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy and Procedures
- 3.12.3 – Disruption to Studies Policy and Disruption to Studies Procedures
- 3.12.4 – Course Transfer Policy
- 3.12.5 – Supervision of Research Candidates Policy and Supervision of Research Candidates Procedures
- 3.12.6 – Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Graduation Policy
- 3.12.7 – Policy Variations in Response to COVID- 19 – Examinations Policy
- 3.12.8 - Policy Variations in Response to COVID- 19 – Unit Outline and Learning Guides Policy.

No additional items were starred.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:01)

That the documents for all unstarred agenda items be noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items be approved.

☆1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was not amended.

☆1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised at this meeting.

☆1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 16 October 2020 (Meeting 20/05) were confirmed without amendment.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:02)

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 16 October 2020 (Meeting 20/05), as an accurate record.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

☆2.1 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

The action sheet from the previous meeting was reviewed and updated accordingly.

☆2.2 ELECTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK

The purpose of this item was to update Senate regarding any feedback that Elected members had from their Schools in relation to the following items from the 16 October meeting:

- International Recovery Plan
- Annual Research Report 2021 Template
- HyFlex Proposal for Teaching and Learning.

The Chair thanked the Senate Elected members for the feedback that had been received, and for their interaction with the School Academic Committees (SAC). The level of engagement and feedback received reinforces the position of Senate as a place for discussion and debate.

HyFlex Proposal for Teaching and Learning

Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) thanked Elected members for their feedback in relation to HyFlex. The HyFlex model is one aspect of the stage 5 return to campus strategy. There will be significant support to Schools throughout the development of HyFlex teaching material. It is up to the discretion of Schools to consider how and which of their content engagement activities may be suitable for HyFlex. The sector feedback received from the *Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency* (TEQSA) reflects that students want to return to on campus learning. As a result of the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026* there will be further planning, consultation and discussion regarding the implementation of HyFlex in February 2021. The feedback provided at Senate will be progressed to the Associate Deans (Learning and Teaching) to assist with incorporating and/or addressing feedback appropriately.

Annual Research Report 2021 Template

Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research thanked the Schools for their feedback on the Annual Research Report 2021 template. The baseline information, time series, targets and tracking against those targets will be reviewed. Ranking of publishing houses will be undertaken internally. All feedback that related to difficulty accessing material through the portal should now be resolved.

International Recovery Plan

Associate Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) thanked the Schools for their feedback and stated that the road to international recovery is unashamedly focused on financial recovery. The international recovery plan is connected with *Global Futures* and will emphasise sustainability, global curriculum and international experiences and partnerships in addition to revenue renewal. A transnational education strategy will be developed and there will be increased opportunities for research and developing relationships with third party providers. The International Office will work closely with the Associate Deans (International) and with Schools during early curriculum renewal and in relation to curriculum development opportunities.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 16 October had been circulated. The Chair's report to the 2 December meeting of the Board of Trustees, was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair raised the following:

- Senate is continuing to engage with the needs of students in response to COVID-19 and extending policy variations or suspensions where required.
- The Chair attended the 2020 *Australian Chairs and Secretaries of Academic Boards and Senate Conference* (CoSABSC) which focussed on the significant regulatory and statutory changes that the higher education sector has been dealing with in addition to COVID-19. There is a need for Universities to act collectively to address the common challenges that are faced within the sector. Professor Possamai-Inesedy Chaired a session at CoSABSC on academic integrity and contract cheating. The Chair met Alistair Maclean, CEO of

TEQSA who is formally the Chair of the Independent Broad-based Corruption Commission, which may reflect changes to the powers and/or climate of TEQSA. Associate Professor Cath Ellis, Integrity Officer from the University of New South Wales discussed the need for Universities to work in partnership with each other and the regulator to address contract cheating.

- The University of Queensland is the first University in the southern hemisphere to join the *Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities* that is dedicated to addressing the needs of older people and the challenges that are faced by an older generation. Western's commitment to inclusivity and diversity make our University well placed to also join this network.

The Chair invited Chairs from the Standing Committees of Senate to provide an oral update:

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Education, Strategy and Consultation)

Professor Trudgett shared the following highlights from the Indigenous Portfolio;

- The launch in April of the *Indigenous Strategy 2020 – 2025*.
- The launch of the Indigenous Engagement website, that represents all components of the Indigenous portfolio in one place.
- The success of the Indigenous network that enables all Indigenous staff and HDR students to meet within their respective cohorts once every 2 months.
- Care packages have been mailed to all 740 Indigenous students of the University. Food parcels were also sent to students during the height of the pandemic and all Indigenous students have been called every 3 weeks.
- All Executive staff members undertook a full day Indigenous Culture workshop.
- An Associate Dean (Indigenous Education) position has been introduced into two Schools.
- Funding has been secured for a Director of Indigenous Research and a Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching.
- At the commencement of 2020, 2 Indigenous staff members had doctorates and now there are 6 Indigenous staff members with doctorates.
- The *Yarning Circle* newsletter has been released.

Professor Trudgett thanked all colleagues for their engagement and involvement in the Indigenous initiatives at the University.

Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Vice-President (Academic)

Professor Barrie advised that the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) has been focussing on improving the quality of course and unit documentation, to review and address problems prior to the meeting. APCAC has been addressing more strategic concerns, such as how to improve the governance around double degrees and discussing the implications of changes to the *Higher Education Provider Category Standards*.

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Research, Enterprise and International

Professor Deborah Sweeney, advised that the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020* (Foreign Relations Bill) is being considered in Senate this week and it is unknown how it might be implemented. The *Foreign*

Relations Task Force is mapping the University processes that are currently in place to assist with classifying the level of risk (low, medium or high) of a partnership, and how risks will be engaged with and mitigated. The University currently has 400 agreements that would fall within the scope of the *Foreign Relations Bill*, the University would be required to update the Government regarding the nature of those relationships within 6 months. If the *Foreign Relations Bill* is passed agreements that are in process would require to be notified to the Government within 14 days of entering into a contractual relationship with a foreign partner. Professor Sweeney is working with Professor Jing Han, Director of the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture to develop training activities that address what should be known when travelling in China.

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean, Graduate Studies

Professor Smith acknowledged the work of the Research Studies Committee (RSC) members. The RSC has been focussing on the quality of publications, with reference to predatory journals (particularly in circumstances where students are undertaking a PhD by publication).

The Graduate Research School (GRS) have been working with Pete Maggs, Director of Library Services to develop a series of resources to assist with the identification of predatory journals. Masters of Research (MRes) scholarships are currently being reviewed with the view of introducing merits based scholarships for 2021, for high performing students progressing into the 2nd year of the MRes. A working group will be established to consider how to support part time students on a scholarship. MRes elective units may be consolidated and Clusters are currently being worked with to explore this.

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Chief Operating Officer, The College

Dr Murdoch advised that The College is currently preparing for the transition into Semester 1. The Undergraduate Certificates (UG) concluded with an overall 87% pass rate. Of the students who undertook an UG, 31 students are continuing with 1 or 2 outstanding units and there were high levels of articulation from The College to the University.

Action: Expressions of interest are sought for members of Senate to join a working party to explore what the University is doing to address the needs of older people and the challenges that are faced by an older generation.

☆3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor's report had been circulated to the Committee.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked all Senate members for their contribution to Academic Senate and expressed that Senate and the broader University community have managed the unique circumstances of 2020 extraordinarily well from an academic governance perspective. The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Possamai-Inesedy for her contributions this year, including to the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026*. The impact on the health and wellbeing of colleagues and students of 2020 will be felt for a long and the University needs to be prepared to respond to that.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following from his report:

- The final meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, 2 December. At this meeting the Board of Trustees approved the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026*. The Board of Trustees considered arrangements for Western Growth at Caddens Gardens.
- The University will be entering stage 5 of the Return to Campus plan in Autumn of 2021. There will be an intensification of activity on campus during Summer session 2020. There will be an opportunity to respond to questions from staff in relation to some of the anxieties and concerns associated with returning to campus.
- The discussions between the University and the Commonwealth Government in relation to the *Jobs Ready Graduate Package (JRGP)* will be finalised during the week commencing Monday, 7 December. This will allow clarity regarding the full financial implications of the JRGP for the University.
- The change proposals are progressing and many will still be in consultation in early 2021. The change process is complex and a number of proposals have required significant review of position descriptions. The University is seeking to finalise these quickly to minimise the impact as much as possible.
- International safe corridors will be piloted in NSW when State and Federal Government support is received. Currently flights into Sydney for new and returning international students are not possible due to the ongoing repatriation of Australian citizens. The University is anticipating roughly 20% of the 2019 international student load in 2021. An international safe corridor is being piloted in the Northern Territory, in acknowledgement of their very low rates of community transmission and having a high quality migrant camp that is suitable for quarantine. Despite the fact that International students cannot travel to NSW there continues to be a significant amount of international outreach and engagement.

☆3.3 STUDENT REPORT

A report compiled by the student representatives of Senate was circulated to Senate for noting. The Chair of Senate thanked the student members for their engagement with Senate, with particular mention to Farid for his engagement with the Dean, Graduate Research Studies and to Jessie Robinson for the information regarding the support offered to Indigenous students.

☆3.4 SUSTAINING SUCCESS STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2026

The purpose of this item was to update Senate on the final iteration of the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026*.

Professor Scott Bowman, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor spoke to this item and thanked Senate for their feedback during the consultation process. The upcoming 6 years are a crucial period for the University as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial implications of the JRGP. The Strategic Plan has been drafted at a high level and will be widely socialised and its implementation monitored throughout the University.

The Chair of Senate thanked the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor for their consultation and engagement with Senate during the development of the Strategic Plan.

☆3.5 LAUNCH PAD PRESENTATION

Don Wright, Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship had pre-recorded a presentation addressing *Launch Pad* and *Venture Makers*. Don Wright attended the meeting to answer questions in relation to his presentation.

Venture Makers is an entrepreneurship training and development program that can take the form of a micro credential, unit(s) or a sub major developed in partnership with Schools to provide a unique approach to how entrepreneurship training is delivered. *Venture Makers* is seeking to change the labour market in Western Sydney by ensuring that Western graduates are equipped to drive innovation in small to medium enterprises (SME). This is a strategically significant program that supports the International and Engagement portfolio. *Launch Pad* commenced in 2015 to create a SME start up support capability in Western Sydney. The focus of *Launch Pad* is to support staff development and support the development of SME.

Academics (not just from Senate) who are interested in being involved in *Venture Makers* are invited to contact Don Wright.

The Chair thanked Don Wright for the work that is being done to support *Launch Pad* and *Venture Makers* as they are both empowering resources for students, staff and the University.

☆3.6 PROFESSORIATE GROUP PRESENTATION

Associate Professor Robert Mailhammer on behalf of the Professoriate group had prepared a pre-recorded presentation on the work being undertaken by the Professoriate group in academic governance. Associate Professor Robert Mailhammer attended the meeting to answer questions in relation to his presentation.

The presentation addressed the governance principles developed by the Professoriate group that can be used in decision making. Associate Professor Mailhammer acknowledged his colleagues in the Professoriate group. The Professoriate group have also hosted events to mentor colleagues and to address the role that the Professoriate can play regarding advocacy for researchers

The Chair thanked Associate Professor Mailhammer for his presentation and for the work that is being undertaken by the Professoriate group. A second presentation will be scheduled for 2021.

☆3.7 RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION

Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman had prepared a pre-recorded presentation regarding the Researcher Development Framework.

The Chair and Deputy Chair thanked Associate Professor Ullman for her presentation and expressed that the gender equity initiative provides excellent support for all researchers. It is positive that Early Career Researchers (ECR) are being invited to co-create the Research Development Framework.

☆3.8 ACADEMIC SENATE 2020 EVALUATION

The purpose of this item was for Academic Senate members to evaluate the work of Senate in 2020, with reference to the Academic Senate Terms of Reference and the

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015. Senate were also invited to forward plan for 2021. The Chair sought the insight, reflections and feedback of Senate.

The following feedback was received:

- The wellbeing and pressures on academics could be discussed at Senate in addition to discussion that is already occurring regarding curriculum and the wellbeing of students.
- To facilitate discussion nominated 'discussion starters' could be assigned to specific items if discussion is not happening organically.
- The progression of information from Senate to School committees has been improving and should be encouraged and expanded in 2021.
- It could be helpful for Elected Senate members to participate in Schools Research and HDR Committees as well School Academic Committees.

The Associate Director, Office of Governance Services advised that redacted papers for all standing committees of Senate will be made available on SharePoint in 2021 to increase transparency and to facilitate information sharing.

Feedback relating to the Terms of Reference of any standing committees of Senate will be reviewed and considered at the February meeting of Senate as part of the Senate review.

☆3.9 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The purpose of this paper was to provide Senate with an update on academic integrity at the University. Dr. Jen Mcpherson, Senior Lecturer Learning Futures attended the meeting to speak to this item.

A proactive and coordinated whole of University approach is recommended to address contract cheating. The *Student Misconduct Rule* may require review to incorporate research integrity. Academic Senate will be a leader in the space of Academic Integrity.

3.10 HOT TOPICS

In response to the Senate Review Report recommendations, Senate members have the opportunity to submit a 'Hot Topic' for discussion prior to each meeting of Senate.

☆3.10.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group

Dr. Martin Daly provided Senate with a verbal update on the draft *Fitness to Practice Policy*. The Fitness to Practice Working Group have been progressing with the draft policy, which will now also incorporate inherent requirements. Examples of fitness to practice matters that could arise in Schools are being tested against the policy.

3.11 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice are a tool that academics from across the University can use to engage with Senate. Questions must be sent to the Chair and the Secretary at least two weeks prior to Senate and must fit within the scope of the [Terms of Reference](#) of Senate. All questions that fit this criterion will be answered, it is up to the discretion of the Chair if questions will be tabled at Senate. No questions on notice had been received.

3.12 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.12.1 Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)

The purpose of this paper was to update Senate on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress to date by the *Academic Policy Advisory Group* (APAG). APAG met on Wednesday, 21 October 2020.

APAG has been dissolved and the *Academic Senate Policy Committee* will commence in 2021.

☆3.12.2 Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy and Procedures

The purpose of this item was to seek the approval of Academic Senate for the new *Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy* (CDA Policy), additional definitions and the three main procedural documents: *Curriculum Structure Procedures*, *Curriculum Approval Procedures* and *Curriculum Advice to Students Procedures*.

Professor Simon Barrie advised that the CDA Policy provides a set of overarching principles that academics can use to guide them during curriculum design. A suite of complex procedures sits alongside the CDA policy to assist with operationalising the CDA Policy. Professor Barrie thanked Professor Wormell for his contribution to the development of the CDA Policy.

Professor Paul Wormell thanked Professor Simon Barrie, Associate Professor Simon Bedford, APAG, the Curriculum Design and Approvals Working Group and Gillian Brown, Program Manager 21C for their contributions to the CDA Policy and Procedures. The final document also builds on the ground work of Professor Sara Denize and Professor Felicity Blackstock.

The CDA Policy will replace a suite of policies that contained gaps and inconsistencies, outdated elements and/or too much procedural detail. The Procedures allow flexibility to accommodate accreditation requirements, and to ensure that all courses allow space for the disciplinary depth that our graduates need. The development and approval processes aim to balance the rigour that is expected and required by regulators and the University community with appropriate speed and flexibility.

The Chair expressed that this is significant work that should be celebrated and is representative of the distinctive approach and commitment to teaching and learning at Western.

Action: The *Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy* and the associated procedures are approved subject to *Section 4 – Procedures Clause 10(b)* being updated to reflect that curriculum structure procedures variations are approved by Academic Senate.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:03)

That Academic Senate:

- I. *approves the new Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy (CDA), definitions and associated procedures: Curriculum Structure Procedures; Curriculum Approval Procedures; and Curriculum Advice to Students Procedures.*

II. *That Academic Senate approves the expiration of the following documents on implementation of the CDA Policy and its associated procedures and guidelines:*

- a. *Associate Degree Policy*
- b. *Course Advice to Students Policy*
- c. *Postgraduate Coursework Policy*
- d. *Courses and Units Approvals Policy*
- e. *Honours in Bachelor Awards Policy*
- f. *Structure and Nomenclature of Bachelor Awards Policy*
- g. *Graduate Attributes.*

☆3.12.3 **Disruption to Studies Policy and Disruption to Studies Procedures**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Disruption to Studies Policy* (renamed *Special Consideration Policy*) and new *Disruption to Studies Procedures*.

Lizette Delacy, Director, Student Administrations and Operations advised that this policy provides the principles for students to demonstrate they have satisfied the unit learning outcomes when they have been affected by serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a session has commenced.

Students with a pre-existing disability or chronic health condition, or prolonged adverse circumstances, are referred to the *Medical Assistance Policy* and the *Disability Policy*. The new policy also does not cover events that occur during a final exam as they are covered by the *Deferred Exam Procedures*. Where a student has a minor disruption, they can request an extension for submission of an assignment.

Action: Expressions of Interest are sought for a working group to explore the implementation of the *Disruption to Studies Policy and Disruption to Studies Procedures* with the new *Student Management System* (SMS).

It was resolved (AS 20/06:04)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Disruption to Studies Policy and new Disruption to Studies Procedures from the date of approval, noting that the policy and procedures will be published on 10 May 2021 to coincide with the launch of the new Student Management System.

☆3.12.4 **Course Transfer Policy**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval from Senate for the revised *Course Transfer Policy*.

Lizette Delacy spoke to this item and advised that the revised version of the policy incorporates feedback from Deans and Deputy Deans, and the Policy DDS Bulletin Board suggested amendments. The policy has been updated to explicitly permit students to study concurrent degrees and to require students who have been sanctioned for outstanding fees to resolve the matter before they will be eligible for an offer through the course transfer process.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:05)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Course Transfer Policy from the date of approval.

☆3.12.5 Supervision of Research Candidates Policy and Supervision of Research Candidates Procedures

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Supervision of Research Candidates Policy* and draft *Supervision of Research Candidates Procedures*.

Professor Caroline Smith advised that the revised *Supervision of Research Candidates Policy* is an update to the existing document completed in 2012. There has been clarification of the role of the principal and co-supervisor to reflect the changing nature of the PhD and the candidature research. Clauses have been included addressing the supervision of Indigenous candidates and ensuring indigenous supervisors are on the supervisory panel. Comprehensive conflict of interest clauses has been included.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:06)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Supervision of Research Candidates Policy and draft Supervision of Research Candidates Procedures from the date of approval.

☆3.12.6 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Graduation Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for an extended policy suspension to clause 9 of the *Graduation Policy*, for an additional six months.

The Chair addressed items 3.12.6, 3.12.7 and 3.12.8 together and advised that extensions of policy variations and/or suspensions are required to address the ongoing needs of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:07)

That Academic Senate ratifies the extension of the temporary suspension to clause 9 of the Graduation Policy, for an additional six months.

☆3.12.7 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Examinations Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for a policy variation extension to clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13(c) of the *Examinations Policy*, an amendment to clause 21 of the *Examinations Policy* and clause 5 of the *Examinations Procedures*, for an additional six months.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:08)

That Academic Senate ratifies the extension of the temporary variation to clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13(c) of the Examinations Policy, an amendment to clause 21 of the Examinations Policy and clause 5 of the Examinations Procedures in response to COVID-19, for an additional six months.

☆3.12.8 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Unit Outline and Learning Guides Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for an extension to the variation to clauses 15, 16, and 21 of the *Unit Outline and Learning Guides Policy*, for an additional 3 months.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:09)

That Academic Senate ratifies the variation extension to clauses 15, 16, and 21 of the Unit Outline and Learning Guides Policy, for an additional 3 months.

3.13 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

The *Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy* states that Academic Senate and Senate Assessment Committee should be notified of the rationale and decision to approve a Posthumous award. There were no Posthumous awards to be noted at this meeting.

3.14 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

3.14.1 University Funded Scholarships (Group A)

Academic Senate were requested to consider the following proposal for the *Dean's Indigenous Master of Professional Psychology Scholarship*, prepared by the Student Experience Office.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:10)

That Academic Senate approves the Dean's Indigenous Master of Professional Psychology Scholarship as a new University Funded Scholarship (Group A).

3.14.2 Donor Funded Scholarships (Group B)

Academic Senate were requested to consider the following proposal for four new Donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement:

- Global Renewables Engineering Scholarship
- Matt & Nicole Graham Scholarship
- Bathurst Regional Council School of Medicine Rural Scholarship
- Piccolo Me Scholarship.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:11)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Donor funded scholarships:

- *Global Renewables Engineering Scholarship*
- *Matt & Nicole Graham Scholarship*
- *Bathurst Regional Council School of Medicine Rural Scholarship*
- *Piccolo Me Scholarship.*

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Items 4.1 – 4.7 provide an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate Executive Committee have not met since the last meeting of Academic Senate.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on Friday, 9 October, the minutes had been circulated. Noted.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 13 October and Tuesday, 10 November. The minutes had been circulated. Noted.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee met on Friday, 20 November 2020. The minutes had been circulated. Noted.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on 3 November 2020 (meeting 20/11), 1 December (meeting 20/12) and conducted a circular resolution on 13 November 2020. The report was circulated as a late paper.

It was resolved (AS 20/06:12)

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 3 November 2020 (meeting 20/11), 1 December (meeting 20/12) and the circular resolution of 13 November and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 20 October 2020 (meeting 20/04). The minutes had been circulated. Noted.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Monday, 28 September 2020 (meeting 20/08). The minutes had been circulated. Noted.

4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 24 February 2021. 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/board_meetings

5 FOR INFORMATION

There were no items for information.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, 19 February 2021. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

- 19 February
- 16 April
- 18 June
- 13 August
- 15 October

- 3 December.

Meetings commence at 9:30AM and conclude by 12:30PM.