

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Unconfirmed minutes of meeting 21/01 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University was held on **Friday, 26 February 2021** at **9:30AM**, at **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)** and **via Zoom**.

Present:

Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair)

Associate Professor Ana Hol

Associate Professor Kate Huppatz
(Deputy Chair)

Associate Professor Linda Taylor

Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu

Associate Professor Mary Hardie

Associate Professor Michael Tyler

Associate Professor Simon Bedford

Associate Professor Simon Green

Dr Ana Rodas

Dr Annette Sartor

Dr Caterina Tannous

Dr Christopher Peterson

Dr Kenan Matawie

Dr Ludmilla (Lucy) Robinson

Dr Maggie Davidson

Dr Margarite Poulos

Dr Martin Daly

Dr Nicolene Murdoch

Dr Peter Humphreys

Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana

Dr Samantha Liyanapathirana

Dr Steven Trankle

Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate student)

Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR student)

Jessie Robinson (Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander student)

Leanne Hunt

Lizette DeLacy

Pete Maggs

Professor Barney Glover (*Vice-Chancellor*)
(Departed 10.00am)

Professor Brian Stout

Professor Caroline Smith

Professor Christopher Peterson

Professor Deborah Hatcher

Professor Deborah Sweeney (Departed
11.47am)

Professor Eileen McLaughlin (arrived
10.25am)

Professor Gregory Kolt

Professor Heather Horst

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright

Professor Kevin Dunn (Departed 10.30am)

Professor Michelle Trudgett

Professor Peter Hutchings

Professor Simeon Simoff

Professor Simon Barrie

Professor Suzan Burton (departed
10.00am)

Professor Tanya Meade (departed 11.45am)

Professor Yenna Salamonson

Professor Zhong Tao

Professor Mike Kagioglou

Rosina Armstrong-Mensah (undergraduate
student) (departed 11.10am)

Apologies:

Professor Scott Bowman

Professor Annemarie Hennessy

Professor Andrew Page

Professor Amir Mahmood

Professor Catherine Renshaw

Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman

Professor Anna Cody

Professor Michele Simons

Associate Professor Karen Soldatic

Professor Matthias Boer

Elif Sakiz (Postgraduate student)

Absent

Michael Burgess

Professor Kate Stevens

Dr Robert Osei-Kyei

Khulan Khurelbaatar (International student)

In attendance

Desiree Mulley (*Secretary*)
Shubha Devadasen
(*Associate Director, Office of Governance Services*)
Sophie Buck (*Director, Office of Governance Services*)

Allyson McDonald
(*Executive Governance Officer*)
Dr Shantala Mohan
Professor James Arvanitakis
Naomi Hastings (student observer)

MINUTES

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 Custodians.

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

- Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement) who presented in relation to item 3.5 Big Picture Education Australia.
- Dr. Shantala Mohan, Director, Research Impact and Integrity who presented in relation to item 3.6 Countering Foreign Interference.
- The outgoing Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Scott Bowman who has been appointed Vice-Chancellor and President at Charles Darwin University.
- Professor Caroline Smith, Dean, Graduate Research School who is leaving the University. The Chair thanked Professor Smith for her contribution to Academic Senate and to the University.
- The outgoing undergraduate student member Rosina Armstrong-Mensah who had recently graduated from the Bachelor of Social Science.
- Welcome to Naomi Hastings the postgraduate student member on the Board of Trustees who attended 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:

- 2.1 - Animal Ethics Training
- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.5 – Big Picture Education Australia

- 3.6 – Countering Foreign Interference
- 3.7 – Academic Senate 2021 Work Plan
- 3.8 – Third Party Provider Committee
- 3.13.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group
- 3.14.2 - Master of Research Policy
- 3.14.3 – Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Special Consideration Policy
- 3.14.4 - Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 –Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

The following items were additionally starred:

- 3.4 – Academic Senate Review and Terms of Reference Variations
- 3.11 – Academic Promotions Report 2020
- 3.12 – Questions on Notice
- 4.9 – School Academic Committee Annual Reports.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:01)

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 amended to address item 3.2 – Report from the Vice-Chancellor immediately after the procedural items.

☆1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair raised the following items of other business:

- Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Course and Units Approvals Policy (addressed at item 3.14.5); and
- Question on Notice – Online Teaching Evaluations (addressed at item 3.12.1).

☆1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 4 December 2020 (Meeting 20/06) were confirmed without amendment.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:02)

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 4 December 2020 (Meeting 20/06), as an accurate record.

☆1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

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

2 BUSINESS ARISING

☆2.1 ANIMAL ETHICS TRAINING

The purpose of this item was to inform Academic Senate of the current animal ethics training requirements for staff and students.

The Chair expressed the appreciation of Elif Sakiz, the postgraduate student member for the paper that accompanied this item, as Elif had initially raised this action.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 4 December had been circulated. The Chair's report to the 24 February meeting of the Board of Trustees, was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair highlighted the following:

- The *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021-2026* (Strategic Plan) was approved at the Wednesday, 24 February meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Chair highlighted the values of Boldness, Fairness, Integrity and Excellence that underpin the Strategic Plan and expressed that those values exemplify what we expect of ourselves, and each other at this University.
- In acknowledgement of the value of fairness and the principle of equity, this year Academic Senate will be given an Aboriginal name, this is an important initiative and will require significant consultation.
- In acknowledgment of the principle of connectedness, from the April meeting onwards Zoom hubs will be introduced at multiple campuses. This will facilitate more robust discussion and debate at Senate while still allowing flexibility for members.
- The *Age Friendly University Working Group* (AFUWG) Terms of Reference were circulated and the aims of the group reflect the values that are enshrined in the Strategic Plan. Members are invited to send any feedback they have in relation to the AFUWG.

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

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean, Graduate Studies and Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research

Professor Dunn advised that recruitment is underway for a permanent replacement for Professor Smith. The role will be varied to incorporate Early Career Research (ECR) development, and will sit within Professor Dunn's portfolio. An interim Dean, Graduate Research School will be announced while recruitment for the permanent position is underway.

Post meeting note: Professor Adam Possamai has been appointed as the interim Dean, Graduate Research School.

Professor Smith thanked Associate Professor Kate Huppatz, Deputy Chair of the Research Studies Committee for her work and collegiality over the past 12 months. The Research Studies Committee is still working to address some equity issues surrounding the Master of Research scholarships, and this will be a continuing piece of work.

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

Professor Barrie advised that the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) processed a high volume of curriculum items in 2020, and are operating more strategically. The implementation of the Student Management System (SMS) is an opportunity for the University to implement a more streamlined workload process that will increase the sustainability of the large workload of APCAC.

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

Professor Deborah Sweeney acknowledged the excellent contribution of the outgoing Dean, Graduate Research Studies Professor Caroline Smith. Professor Sweeney advised that Research Committee are currently considering how to embed the core values of the Strategic Plan into research and enterprise, and how those values will guide discussion and thinking. In relation to the *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020* (Foreign Relations Bill) Professor Sweeney advised that it is not intended to be a barrier to stop collaboration. The focus will be on supporting and educating colleagues to recognise foreign interference and provide clarity regarding processes. There will also be consideration of the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on women, and what can be done to combat this.

Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures)

Professor Bedford advised that Senate Education Committee is yet to meet in 2021, however a number of its advisory groups have met. Senate Assessment Committee will be discussing the Strategic Plan heavily, in addition to reviewing teaching data and dashboards. The digital transformation strategy for teaching, learning, and digital literacy for staff and students will continue to be developed.

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Chief Executive Officer, The College

Dr Murdoch advised that The College is aiming for the next intake of Undergraduate Certificates (UG) on 17 April. There are currently 17 UG and four additional pathways to University degrees. A pipeline is being developed for the development of additional pathways. Senate members were invited to reach out to Dr Murdoch if they have ideas for additional UG.

Action: The Senate Secretary is to circulate the finalised version of the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026* with the Academic Senate Outcomes.

☆3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following from his report:

- The University is currently in stage 5 of the phased return to campus strategy and we are seeing increased activity on campus. Roughly 600 staff have negotiated a hybrid model of work from home and on campus.
- The Senior Executive Committee are currently in discussion regarding the COVID-19 vaccination rollout, and the role that the University may play in this.
- Additional resources will be required for the University to satisfy the obligations imposed by the Foreign Relations Bill.

- Universities in NSW are actively working on the complexities required to secure a safe corridor for international students to return to Australia. The Commonwealth Government is currently not willing to approve a safe corridor program as they are prioritising the repatriation of Australian citizens. It is critically important for all Australian universities to be able to accept international students as a drop in international enrolments is anticipated if universities cannot give students an indication of when they can travel to Australia. The United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand have started to allow international students back onshore. This will become an acute problem for Australian universities by second semester, if there is no change.
- The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the increased enrolment of Aboriginal students, and general increase in domestic load. The University remains cautious regarding its overall financial position until there is more clarity on overall load after census date.
- The University joined the NUW alliance in late 2020 and the primary focus is on the multiversity at the aerotropolis, which has attracted 17 million dollars of funding from the Commonwealth Government.
- The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the philanthropic gift of the *Lang Walker Family Foundation* who have donated a 2-million-dollar seed fund for students across the University from the Western Sydney region.
- The independent review of the adoption of the *Model Code on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom* (Model Code) conducted by Professor Sally Walker AM who reviewed the University's Charter of Academic Freedom, Code of Conduct and Freedom of Speech Policy in addition to a range of other governance instruments. Professor Walker's assessment was that the University is mostly in line with the Model Code, however when all governance instruments are taken together they may constrain academic freedom to an extent. This is not the University's view, however the University has to respond to this and Academic Senate will be involved in the formulation of a response.

Action: The documentation addressing Professor Sally Walker's review of the adoption of the *Model Code on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom* that was progressed to the Board of Trustees is to be progressed to Academic Senate for discussion regarding how the University should respond to the findings.

☆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.

The Undergraduate student member raised the following:

- Lecture recordings should be re-recorded at least every two years if it is not feasible to update recordings annually;
- Clarification was sought regarding setting lecture and class times as tutorials scheduled outside of business hours can be challenging for students to attend; and
- There should be greater accountability for students who do not contribute equally to group assignments.

Professor Barrie advised that this year the University is focussing on increasing the quality of online content particularly at a granular level. A suite of new resources has been developed such as templates for lecture recordings to make content more engaging.

Professor Bedford advised in relation to the lecture/tutorial times that a large percentage of students work full time and are unable to attend lectures/tutorials during business hours. There are still space constraints for on-campus activities due to COVID-19 which can have an ongoing impact on timetabling. Students now have the flexibility to opt out of attending on campus to assist students who have work and/or carer responsibilities. Allocate+ also allows students to join a waiting list for lectures/tutorials scheduled at times that are more suitable for them.

The high price of textbooks was addressed by the Director of Library Services, Pete Maggs, who advised that the Digital Text Book initiative (DTI) to some degree perpetuated the expensive physical text book model. The ending of the DTI provides the opportunity to identify alternative materials from within the Library's large (and growing) collection of high quality e-resources, digitised copyright cleared materials and to examine the potential for increased use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) to provide resources tailored to courses. The majority of texts previously identified under the DTI are now available to students, in perpetuity, under multi-user licences, so they are better served by having access to this content throughout their period of study, rather than just in level 1 units (as was the case with the DTI).

Action: Senate Elected members are to raise the Undergraduate student member's feedback at SAC regarding group assignments:

- There should be increased accountability in group work assignments for students who do not contribute equally; and
- there should be peer review after group assignments to understand the level of contribution that each group member had.

☆3.4 ACADEMIC SENATE REVIEW AND TERMS OF REFERENCE VARIATIONS

The purpose of this item was to discuss the outcomes of the Academic Senate review survey and recommendations, and to evaluate the Academic Senate standing committee's Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

- a) Multi-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee;
- b) Research Committee;
- c) Research Studies Committee and RSC Executive Committee;
- d) School Academic Committee and SAC Executive Committee; and
- e) School / Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee.

Following the 2018 external review of Academic Senate and its resulting changes to academic governance committees which took effect in January 2020, it was agreed that Academic Senate would review those changes after they were in operation for a one-year period. The Chair of Senate in conjunction with The Office of Governance Services surveyed members of Senate and Senate Standing Committees in relation to the changes.

The Chair will be holding refresher inductions for those who missed the induction in 2019, or are looking for a refresher on the Governance structure at the University.

Action: Clause 5 of the membership section of the School Academic Committee Terms of Reference are to be amended to read as follows:

- *Academic Course Advisors of the School as nominated by the Chair.*

Action: The membership of the School/Institute Research and Higher Degrees Committee Terms of Reference are to be amended to include one of the two Senate Elected members as a member.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:03)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and Membership to the following Standing Committees of Senate:

- a) *Multi-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee;*
- b) *Research Committee;*
- c) *Research Studies Committee and RSC Executive Committee;*
- d) *School Academic Committee and SAC Executive Committee; and*
- e) *School / Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee.*

☆**3.5 BIG PICTURE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA**

The purpose of this briefing paper was to showcase the University's partnership with Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA). Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement) presented in relation to this item.

The BPEA program is an alternative admission pathway for year 12 students who are not working towards an *Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR)*. Students are matched with an academic mentor from a participating University at the start of year 12. The student is actively mentored and they produce a comprehensive portfolio at the end of year 12. The benefit of this program is that it considers the learning preferences of students and disrupts the standard admission pathways. In 2020, 6 students articulated to the University through the BPEA program. It was reported that the quality of the portfolio work was high, and these students were deemed to be prepared for the academic expectations of University. There are challenges with scalability as each participant is interviewed by the University. Students are not obliged to attend the University where the academic mentor is employed. Active engagement with the academic mentor is a fundamental aspect of this program and BPEA have not fully substantiated/clarified the amount of work that is required of the academic mentor.

☆**3.6 COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**

Dr Shantala Mohan, Director, Research Impact and Integrity presented in relation to the *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020 (Foreign Relations Bill)*, and the obligations imposed by the Foreign Relations Bill.

This legislation is not a barrier to international collaboration, nor is it a signal to stop or slow down any activities. It is anticipated that this will be administratively burdensome for a period of time. As Universities engage globally the Foreign Relations Bill is an important legislative instrument to combat foreign interference and influence, while still facilitating cutting edge research and the recruitment of global experts. The key aims of the Foreign Interference Taskforce are to enhance existing safeguards against foreign interference in a world of complex risks while preserving openness and collaboration.

Colleagues working in sensitive areas, are asked to please advise the Foreign Interference Task Force so that the University can notify the Minister prior to arrangements being finalised. Members were also urged to complete the foreign interference training module.

Action: Dr Shantala Mohan's presentation on Countering Foreign Interference is to be circulated to Senate members.

Action: The *Foreign Interference Policy* is to be progressed to Senate for information, when available.

☆3.7 ACADEMIC SENATE 2021 WORK PLAN

The purpose of this item was to discuss and review the Academic Senate 2021 work plan document. The Work Plan is a culmination of the goals of Academic Senate framed by the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015* (HESF) and the Terms of Reference of Academic Senate. It provides clear insight into Senate's responsibilities.

The Chair advised that the priorities of Senate have shifted slightly to emphasise the values of the Strategic Plan and the student experience. The Work Plan will require update in mid-2021 as the various portfolio strategy plans are finalised. The Chair acknowledged the work of all standing committees of Academic Senate.

☆3.8 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

The purpose of this item was to present Academic Senate with the Third Party Provider Committee (TPPC) for discussion and approval.

The Third Party Provider Advisory Group (TPPAG) currently reports to Senate Education Committee and is responsible for reviewing regulatory frameworks, identifying risk and ensuring compliance with the (HESF). TPPAG have indicated a need to revise its Terms of Reference and Senior Executive Group accepted the proposed change. The work undertaken by TPPAG will continue as appropriate, but on a broader scope.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:04)

That Academic Senate approves the formation of the Third Party Provider Committee, and the associated Terms of Reference.

3.9 CONFERRAL OF GRADUANDS

The purpose of this paper was for Academic Senate to note the conferral of awards to graduands who have had their graduation conferred by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Academic Senate.

Noted.

3.10 2020 ACADEMIC SENATE ATTENDANCE RECORD

The purpose of this item was for Senate to note the attendance record at the 2020 meetings of Academic Senate.

Noted.

☆3.11 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS REPORT 2020

The purpose of this report was to notify Academic Senate of academic promotions in accordance with the *Western Sydney University Promotions Policies (Promotion – Academic Promotion Procedures)*.

The University experienced a significant drop in promotion applications from women in 2020. The University is acutely aware of the gendered impact of COVID-19 on women in terms of promotion and the broader career impact. Organisational change has also had an impact on the gender profile of the University. The University is considering a wider strategy to address this issue.

Action: The University's strategy to address the gendered impact of COVID-19 on women and the broader gender equity strategy is to be discussed at a future meeting of Senate as a Hot Topic.

☆3.12 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.

3.12.1 – Online Teaching Evaluations

At the August 2020 meeting of Senate a Question on Notice was raised to discuss the practice that currently prevents Unit Coordinators (UC) from receiving Student Feedback on Teaching (SFT) and Student Feedback on Unit (SFU), for classes that have fewer than five students. This matter was referred to the Course and Unit Standards Working Party and a status update was provided.

The Course and Unit Standards Working Party recommend that the minimum number of students remain at 5. Senate Education Committee endorsed a recommendation that feedback be sought from students regarding this practice and that other methods of evaluating learning and teaching performance are required. This matter is currently at the stage of being consulted with students. The Chair expressed that this matter will be resolved by the April meeting of Senate, if not prior to that.

3.13 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.

☆3.13.1 – 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 has finalised the structure of the draft Fitness to Practice Policy, and an Inherent Requirements Compliance Policy. Final feedback is currently being sought and the draft policies will be available for review by Senate in the coming weeks.

3.14 POLICY REVIEW

3.14.1 Policy Review Update

The purpose of this item was to notify Senate of the proposed policies to be prioritised for 2021 for consideration and progress by the Academic Senate Policy Committee.

☆3.14.2 Master of Research Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the draft *Master of Research Policy*.

Professor Caroline Smith advised that this Policy is the outcome of significant feedback from the Research Studies Committee. The Policy aligns significantly with undergraduate and higher degree research policies. The most recent feedback on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board has also been incorporated.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:05)

It is recommended that the Academic Senate approves the proposed Master of Research Policy from the date of approval.

☆3.14.3 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Special Consideration Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for an extension to the variation to clauses 25 – 32 of the *Special Consideration Policy*.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:06)

That Academic Senate ratifies the variation extension to clauses 25-32 of the Special Consideration Policy, for an additional three months.

☆3.14.4 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification of the following addition to the policy variation to the *Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy*:

Students who are identified for exclusion for poor performance in future sessions (not including Quarter 1, 2021) will continue to be referred to the WesternSuccess program. In addition, their details will be provided to the relevant Director of Academic Program (DAP). If they cannot be contacted by WesternSuccess or the DAP, the exclusion will be applied to their record. These students will be eligible to Appeal an exclusion decision.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:07)

That Academic Senate ratifies the variation to the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy (GPA Neutral Scheme) as reflected in attachment 1 of item 3.14.4.

☆3.14.5 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-10 – Courses and Units Approvals Policy

This item was raised as an item of other business, and the paper was circulated with the late papers.

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for an extended variation to the delegation for variations to units as outlined in clause 42 - *Unit Approval Authorities and Delegations document*.

The following variations to units would ordinarily be approved by the School Academic Committees (SAC) as part of its delegated authority:

- a) delivery mode,
- b) assessment,
- c) unit content,
- d) unit coordinator,
- e) changes in grading scheme

This policy variation extends the temporary variation to the delegation of the above listed matters to the Deputy Dean of the School. For programs being taught through The College, any changes will be endorsed by the Executive Director, Academic Studies, The College, before being approved by the relevant School Deputy Dean.

This policy variation was originally approved on 24 April 2020, and this request was a second extension of this variation. As clause 16(b) of the *Delegations of Authority Policy* does not permit temporary variations to remain for longer than 12 months, the expiry date on this variation is 22 April 2021. It is anticipated that the new *Curriculum Design and Approval Policy* will be in place by this stage, and if required, any ongoing change to course and unit approvals will be made to that policy.

It was resolved (AS 21/01:08)

That Academic Senate approves the variation to delegations outlined in clause 42 of the Courses and Units Approvals Policy until 22 April 2021.

3.15 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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Noted.

3.16 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

There were no University or Donor funded scholarships for approval at this meeting.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Items 4.1 – 4.9 provide an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate Executive Committee conducted the following meetings:

- Friday, 11 December 2020 (Meeting 20/08) by electronic circulation;
- Friday, 15 January 2021 (Meeting 21/01);
- Friday, 21 January 2021 (Meeting 21/02); and
- Wednesday, 27 January (Meeting 21/03).

The minutes of these meetings had been circulated for noting.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on Friday, 12 February 2021, the minutes will be reported to the next meeting of Senate.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 8 December 2020, Tuesday, 12 January 2021 and Tuesday, 9 February 2021. The minutes had been circulated.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee had not met since the last meeting of Senate.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on:

- Tuesday, 19 January 2021 (meeting 21/01);
- Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (meeting 21/02).; and
- Conducted a circular resolution between 16 -19 February 2021 (Circular 21/01).

It was resolved (AS 21/01:09)

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 19 January 2021 (meeting 21/01), Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (meeting 21/02) and the circular resolution 21/01 and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 (meeting 21/01). The minutes will be available at the next meeting of Academic Senate.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on the following dates:

- 5 November 2020 (meeting 20/10);
- Thursday, 10 December 2020 via electronic circulation (meeting 20/11); and
- Monday, 4 January 2021 via electronic circulation (meeting 21/01).

The minutes of these meetings had been circulated for noting.

4.8 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday, 20 January 2021. The minutes had been circulated for noting.

☆4.9 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

The purpose of this item was for Senate to ensure that all Standing Committees of Academic Senate are carrying out their functions in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

The Chair and Deputy Chair highlighted the important work of SAC that was undertaken in 2020. The School of Health Sciences and the School of Business were commended for outlining important continuous work and planning for 2021 in their reports.

The School of Law 2020 Annual Report was not provided at this meeting. This will be reported to the April meeting of Academic Senate.

4.9.1	School of Built Environment
4.9.2	School of Business
4.9.3	School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences
4.9.4	School of Education
4.9.5	School of Engineering
4.9.6	School of Health Sciences
4.9.7	School of Humanities and Communication Arts
4.9.8	School of Law
4.9.9	School of Medicine
4.9.10	School of Nursing and Midwifery
4.9.11	School of Psychology
4.9.12	School of Science
4.9.13	School of Social Sciences
4.9.14	Graduate Research School
4.9.15	Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee
4.9.16	Research Committee
4.9.17	Research Studies Committee
4.9.18	Senate Assessment Committee
4.9.19	Senate Education Committee
4.9.20	Senate Executive Committee
4.9.21	Senate Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee
4.9.22	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Health and Medicine Cluster

4.9.23	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) Cluster
4.9.24	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Cluster

4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 14 April 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_9d_meetings

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, 16 April 2021. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

- 16 April
- 18 June
- 13 August
- 15 October
- 10 December.

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