



## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 22/01 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on Friday 25 February 2022 at 9.30AM at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1(PS-EB.2.01) and via Zoom.

### **Present:**

Professor Robert Mailhammer (Chair)  
Professor Sarah Zhang (**Deputy Chair**)  
Dr David Arness  
Dr Evan Atlantis  
Professor Clive Baldock  
Professor Simon Barrie  
Professor Simon Bedford  
Dr Maria Bhatti  
Professor Dennis Chang  
Professor Anna Cody  
Dr Evan Crawford  
Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu  
Associate Professor Ann Dadich  
Dr Maggie Davidson  
Professor Kevin Dunn  
Ms Jess Gleeson  
Professor Barney Glover AO  
Dr Erika Gyengesi  
Ms Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate Student Representative)  
Professor Deborah Hatcher  
Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy  
Associate Professor Ana Hol  
Ms Leanne Hunt  
Professor Mike Kagioglou  
Professor Gregory Kolt  
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana  
Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana  
Dr Erin Mackenzie  
Professor Matt McGuire (*In at 11.05am*)  
Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch  
Professor Neil Merrett  
Mr Bakar Mohamad (Undergraduate Student Representative)  
Dr Nicolene Murdoch  
Mr Samudaya Nanayakkara (Postgraduate Student Representative)  
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy  
Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou  
Professor Clare Pollock  
Dr Margarite Poulos  
Dr Ana Rodas  
Professor Yenna Salamonson  
Ms Vidushi Sethi (International Student Representative) (*In at 10.55am*)  
Ms Tiffany Sharpe (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Representative) (*Out at 11.35am*)

Ms Ayda Succarie  
Professor Simeon Simoff  
Professor Michele Simons (*Out at 10.45am*)  
Professor Brian Stout  
Professor Corrinne Sullivan  
Professor Deborah Sweeney  
Professor Linda Taylor  
Professor Michelle Trudgett  
Associate Professor Michael Tyler  
Ms Lisa Tyson  
Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR Student Representative)  
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman

**Apologies:**

Associate Professor Amit Arora  
Matija Burrett (Student Representative for Disability Matters)  
Mr Michael Burgess  
Professor Gary Dennis  
Professor Amir Mahmood  
Professor Andy Marks  
Professor Tanya Meade  
Professor Catherine Renshaw  
Professor Kate Stevens

**In attendance**

Ms Maret Brennan, Senior Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services (**Secretary**)  
Ms Jane Hutchison, University Secretary  
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services  
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services  
Ms Jo Maguire, Manager, Policy & Governance and Privacy Officer, Office of Governance Services  
Professor Susan Page, Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching  
Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director Indigenous Research  
Mr Kerry Holling, Chief Digital Officer (Item 2.1)  
Ms Karen Davies, Program Manager, SMS Portfolio (Item 2.1)  
Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager Student Systems (Item 2.1)  
Ms Aizza Biason, Stream Lead Enrolments & Studentship (Item 2.1)

## **UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

### **1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

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#### **1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer, chaired the meeting and opened the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners.

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

- Newly elected or re-elected Academic Senate Members:

Professor Sarah Zhang (Deputy Chair), Ms Ayda Succarie, Associate Professor Ann Dadich, Dr Evan Crawford, Associate Professor Ana Hol, Dr Erin Mackenzie, Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana, Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana, Dr Evan Atlantis, Associate Professor Amit Arora, Dr Margarite Poulos, Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch, Dr Maria Bhatti, Professor Catherine Renshaw, Dr Erika Gyengesi, Professor Neil Merrett, Ms Leeanne Hunt, Professor Yenna Salamonson, Dr David Arness, Associate Professor Michael Tyler, Dr Maggie Davidson, Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu, Dr Ana Rodas, Associate Professor Corrine Sullivan, and Dr Alexie Papanicolaou.

- New ex-officio member: Professor Dennis Chang, the representative of the University Research Institutes
- New student representatives: Mr Samudaya Nanayakkara (Postgraduate Student Representative), Ms Tiffany Sharpe (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Student Representative) and Ms Vidushi Sethi (International Student Representative).
- Welcome to Mr Kerry Holling, the Chief Digital Officer who is in attendance to present item 2.1 SMS Project Update

## **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 S MS Project Update
- 3.1 Report from the Chair
- 3.2 Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 Student Report
- 3.4 Academic Senate Work Plan for 2022
- 3.5 School of Medicine Review 2021
- 3.8 Policy Review (all items)

The Chair noted the following items will also be starred.

- 4.10 2021 Annual Reports
- 4.12 2021 Academic Promotions Report

### **It was resolved (AS 22/01:01):**

*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**

Agenda Item 3.1 Report from the Chair and Agenda Item 3.2 Report from the Vice Chancellor were discussed prior to Agenda Item 2.1 SMS Project Update.

## **1.5 OTHER BUSINESS**

Members were invited to nominate other relevant matters noting that such items will normally be included on the agenda for a future meeting

Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou proposed a resolution regarding the situation in Ukraine be considered by the Committee. The Chair agreed to address this as Other Business.

## **1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday; 10 December 2021 (Meeting 21/06) were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting by those who had been present at the meeting.

### **It was resolved (AS 22/01:02):**

*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 10 December (Meeting 21/06), as an accurate record.*

## **1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING**

### **Action Item AS21/06:1.5.**

Deputy Dean of Business advised that the letter from the School of Business was provided to the SMS Team on 31 January and to other Deans for feedback on common issues and resolution.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor (SDVC) advised that SMS Team and the Deans are meeting regularly and that if there are issues arising in between meetings with the SMS Team the Deans should advise the CDO.

### **Action Complete**

### **Action Item AS21/05:3.7**

**Lecture (and Tutorial) Recordings** Professor Simon Bedford advised the papers have been to Academic Senate but require additional consultation with student representatives on SACs. The Senate Education Committee has not met yet but is unlikely to consider Lecture Recordings before April and will be able to provide an update to the next Meeting of the Academic Senate.

### **Action Item AS21/04:3.3**

**Student Report** All aspects of this report are still ongoing

## **2 BUSINESS ARISING**

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### **2.1 SMS Project Update**

Mr Kerry Holling, Chief Digital Officer, Ms Karen Davies, Program Manager, SMS Portfolio Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager Student Systems and Aizza Bason, Stream Lead Enrolments & Studentship attended the meeting to present this item to Academic Senate.

The Chief Digital Officer advised that he took the paper as read and would discuss areas of concern. He emphasized that consultation was ongoing and that he welcomed feedback. A post implementation review is to be run on 7 March and all Schools would be consulted about their experience.

The SMS Team have been working with Schools on resolving resulting issues as they have arisen. Some issues were as a result of the schools not being aware of the order in which things were to be done.

The following points were discussed:

- there have been issues regarding enrolment in composite courses, some of which have been resolved;
- a number of members raised significant communication issues, as Student Central seemed to be insufficiently resourced to cope with student enquires about problems with the Banner system. This was especially serious in relation to international students, as Professor Linda Taylor (PVC International) advised. Senate expressed the view that these issues of responsiveness and communication need to be resolved as a matter of priority. The Chief Digital Officer advised that additional phone lines have been put in place; the SMS Team acknowledged resourcing issues.

The Chair thanked Mr Holling and his team for the presentation and for the discussion.

### **3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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#### **3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 1 January 2022 had been circulated, the Chair's report to the 23 February 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees was appended to the Chair's report. The Chair provided an update on recent developments.

The Chair took the report as read.

**Noted.**

#### **3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

The Chair invited the Vice Chancellor to present his report.

The Vice Chancellor welcomed the Chair to his first meeting.

The Vice Chancellor noted the discussion prior to the meeting and agreed that it was appropriate to prepare a statement in support of the Ukrainian people on behalf of Academic Senate.

Vice Chancellor advised he would take the report as read and noted the following items:

- The Board of Trustees met on 23 February. A summary is available on Yammer.
- An all-staff webinar about Autumn Semester planning and vaccinations update had been held last week. Students are enthusiastically engaging with campus life. The University is committed to Autumn Semester being as active as possible, consistent with public health orders.
- Continue with our flexible work arrangements for professional staff and expectations of academic staff being on campus, reinforcing the importance of individual responsibility as well as the collective responsibility and need to be tolerant and compassionate to one another.

- Campuses must be open to students, within public health advice. NSW universities are on different timelines with respect to commencement and thus may behave differently.
- Overview of implications of impending federal election and research commercialisation pack announced by Commonwealth.
- The Report of the Quality Initial Teacher Education Review (QITER) by Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM was released on 24 February. The Government has not decided how to progress this report. Professor Mark Scott, Vice Chancellor of Sydney University, and former Secretary of Education and Training in NSW will lead an expert advisory panel to consider the recommendations.
- In the recent University ranking's announcement WSU reached 31 in top 100 Universities in the world under 50 years of age and thanked Professor Kevin Dunn (Pro Vice-Chancellor Research) for his work in the ranking space.
- There is major infrastructure investment underway in the Greater Western Sydney region: announcement of *West Invest* focusing on infrastructure, arts and culture, school modernisation and is spread across 15 Local Government Areas. There is also increased collaboration among NSW universities (RNA pilot facility) and between universities and the NSW government (innovation and partnership agreements).

Western faces challenging year even with a somewhat decreased impact of the pandemic. Vaccinations still remain the most important strategy.

Following a question regarding the recent Vice Chancellors meeting and the discussion on the vetoing of ARC grants, the Vice Chancellor advised that the general intent is to write to Universities Australia and the Chancellors Council and to engage at a local level with parliamentarians for the adoption of Haldane Principles that protect grant processes from political interference.

**Noted.**

### **3.3 STUDENT REPORT**

#### **3.3.1 Student Report**

The HDR Student Representative, Mr Khandakar Farid Uddin, spoke to the HDR Student Report and highlighted issues in the light of the ongoing review of the Graduate Research School (GRS), which pertained in particular to the responsiveness of the GRS.

In response, the Dean of GRS, Professor Clive Baldock, highlighted the ongoing opportunity to make a submission to the review process.

The Postgraduate Student Representative, Mr Samudaya Nanayakkara, spoke of the difficulty of finding out about IT services support for students and what services are available to them. All students but particularly new students need more information.

**Noted.**

The Chair thanked the Student Representatives for their reports

The Chair invited Chairs of Senate Standing Committees to provide an update to Senate.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clare Pollock, Chair of the Academic Senate Policy Committee, advised that one focus for the Committee is to keep up with the timely review of policies and to establish clear differences between policies and guidelines. There is also a plan to put together a glossary of terms for policies.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Professor Simon Barrie, Chair of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC), noted the topics for the next year would include:

- Education Services for Oversea Students (ESOS) management plan;
- 21C Project;
- Transformation of postgraduate programs;
- Modes of study to record and feed into timetable;
- What it is like too study at Western;
- Planning this year to prepare for the next Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) renewal in 2025.

The Pro Vice Chancellor, Learning Futures, Professor Simon Bedford, Chair of the Education Committee, advised that the Committee has not met yet and will be focussing on:

- Review of student performance 2021;
- Process improvement of student feedback;
- Reward and recognition strategy for teaching and learning;
- Students have raised flexible learning.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership, Professor Michelle Trudgett, provided an update on indigenous matters:

- Strategic Planning – Indigenous Futures Decadal Strategy – three key themes are People, Place and Partnerships;
- Indigenous Research Strategy;
- Opening First Peoples Walk at Kingswood Campus in a few months.

### **3.4 ACADEMIC SENATE WORK PLAN 2022**

The Chair presented this item to the Committee and thanked Professor Possamai-Inesedy for her input and the Senate Executive Committee for their feedback. The Chair noted that some metrics still need updating and that assistance has been requested from the appropriate units within the University.

**Noted.**

**Break 10.50am to 11.00am**

### **3.5 School of Medicine Review 2021**

The review was appended. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Professor Simon Barrie, directed members' attention to the following items:

- School reviews are an important part of our preparation for TEQSA. They are useful reflective exercises for schools, to establish where strengths and expertise are.

The Dean of the School of Medicine, Professor Annemarie Hennessy, advised that it was a robust process and hard work recommendations consistent with expectations. The support of international HDR students was an outcome of the School review in a

way that would not have become so clear from course-based professional accreditation process.

Professor Hennessy also advised of the launch of the joint program with Charles Sturt University, which was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister. Western has struggled to meet rural background student entry numbers. This program allows students to live and learn in rural areas. There were 700 applications for 37 places.

The Committee noted the commendations and affirmation in the report.

The Chair asked the Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Professor Gregory Kolt, if he would like to comment on the upcoming review of the School. Professor Kolt drew attention to the fact that information captured through external accreditation processes needs to be held against how much detail is obtained from each program.

### **3.6 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Questions on Notice are a tool 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 were tabled at this meeting.

### **3.7 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.

The Chair encouraged anyone to get any hot topics to the Chair so there is sufficient time to prepare papers for the Committee.

No Hot Topics were submitted for discussion.

### **3.8 POLICY REVIEW**

#### **3.8.1 Academic Senate Policy Committee Update**

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Pollock presented this paper to the Committee and advised members of the Academic Senate to review the lists of Policies that are being reviewed, or are to be reviewed, and understand the process that is underway.

**Noted.**

#### **3.8.2 Revised Academic Governance Policy**

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Pollock advised the Committee that this Policy had been reviewed as part of a regular review and while there were changes to be made, they were not significant, but important.

**It was resolved (AS 22/01:03):**



*The Academic Senate endorses the revised Academic Governance Policy and recommends it for approval to the Board of Trustees.*

### **3.8.3 Revised Admissions Policy**

The Director Data Integrity, Quality and Operations, Ms Jess Gleeson presented the revised policy to the Committee and advised the changes that have been made are:

- Aligning with the processes where an offer is withdrawn from a student
- How English language assessment is managed

There was feedback that the Policy does not cover alternative credentials. The Policy is not intended to cover alternative credentials.

**It was resolved (AS 22/01:04)** *The Academic Senate approves the revised Admissions Policy from the date of approval.*

### **1.8.4 Revised Assessment Policy**

The Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning Futures, Professor Simon Bedford, presented the revised policy to the Committee and advised that an amendment had been made to differentiate between College Preparatory subjects and Diploma and Bachelor subjects. This will avoid students who have completed preparatory subjects at the College receiving very high admission rankings through UAC.

Dr Murdoch, CEO, The College, spoke in support of the revisions as it was necessary to differentiate between the subjects.

**It was resolved (AS 22/01:05):**  
*That the Academic Senate approves the revised Assessment Policy from the date of approval.*

### **1.8.5 Revised Student Fees Policy**

The Director Data Integrity, Quality and Operations, Ms Jess Gleeson presented the revised policy to the Committee and advised of the change that has been made:

The change is in reference to International Students being discontinued for the non-payment of fees after “the census date”. This has now been changed to “the payment due date”.

**It was resolved (AS 22/01:06):**  
*The Academic Senate approves the Revised Student Fees Policy from the date of approval.*

## **3.9 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Academic Senate approved the five proposed new Donor Funded Scholarships

**It was resolved (AS 22/01:05):**  
*That Academic Senate approves the following proposed new Donor Funded Scholarships:*

- Anne and Bill Mackarell Scholarship
- John Holland Building Scholarship for Women in Construction Management
- John Holland Group Equity Scholarship in Construction Management
- Protected Cropping Australia – Next Gen Scholarships

- Orro Scholarship in Engineering and IT

## **4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

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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:

- Wednesday 15 December 2021 (eMeeting 21/12) an electronic meeting; and
- Friday 11 February 2022 via Zoom (Meeting 22/01).

The report for meeting 21/12 were appended.

**Noted**

### **4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Research Committee met on Wednesday 17 November 2021 (Meeting 21/05). The minutes of this meeting were appended.

**Noted**

### **4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 (meeting 21/12). The de-identified minutes were appended. The Committee also met on Tuesday 8 February 2022 (meeting 22/01). The minutes for this meeting will be available at the next meeting of Academic Senate.

**Noted**

### **4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, 25 November 2021 (meeting 21/12). The minutes were appended.

**Noted**

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

The Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on Thursday 9 December (meeting 21/12) and Wednesday 9 February 2022 (meeting 22/01).

The reports for these meetings were appended.

***It was resolved (AS 22/01:05):***

*That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee meeting held on Thursday, 9 December 2021 and on Wednesday 9 February 2022 and approves the recommendations contained therein.*

#### **4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 (meeting 22/01) The minutes will be available at the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

**Noted**

#### **4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Thursday 25 November 2021 WSTC 21/10). The minutes were appended.

**Noted**

#### **4.8 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 (22/01). The minutes were appended.

**Noted**

#### **4.9 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE**

The Third-Party Provider Committee met on Thursday, 27 January 2022 (meeting 22/01). The minutes will be available at the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

**Noted**

#### **4.10 2021 ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Chair asked the Dean of each School to comment briefly on their School Academic Committee (SAC) Annual Report

##### **4.10.1 School of Business SAC**

Associate Professor Meg Smith, Chair of the SAC presented the report and advised the Committee is routinely busy with the number of teaching sessions administered through the school, the Third-Party Providers (TPP) and the quality assurance requirements that are important to the University, TEQSA and the School's accreditation.

Through APCAC the SAC was able to be involved in discussion on the Curriculum Design and Approval Policy, the consequences for School postgraduate courses and 80-point postgraduate degrees.

The main focus for attention in 2022 will be curriculum renewal and academic integrity.

Professor Simon Bedford asked if the SAC was involved in the Schools AASB Accreditation in 2021 and was advised the SAC had been involved– particularly through the self-evaluation report and quality assurance.

It was agreed that a review Terms of Reference (TOR) for SAC to make sure they include explicit value-adding tasks such as accreditation.

#### **4.10.2 School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (CDMS) SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Simeon Simoff commended the members on the work they have done including having an urgent meeting this morning at 8am meeting to finalise matters, and he thanked the Chair Professor Andy Francis and professional support of the Committee.

#### **4.10.3 School of Education SAC**

The Dean of the School of Education had left the meeting. The report was taken as read.

#### **4.10.4 School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (EDBE) SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Mike Kagioglou, highlighted the merging of two schools and had the membership of both schools SACs on the Committee so nothing was left out and would like to commend colleagues and Associate Professor Swapan Saha, the Chair, for the work they have done over the year to bring the Schools together

The highlights for the year have been new programs, new majors, collaboration with the School of Law for the Master of Construction Law also a collaborative program with UNSW.

Priorities for 2022 are the approval of new programs, for example. the Graduate Certificate of Vertical Transportation (Lift Engineering) and international collaboration around Trans-National Education (TNE) possibilities in Indonesia and expanding our Vietnam campus.

#### **4.10.5 School of Health Sciences SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Gregory Kolt acknowledged the work of the SAC members. A School with many disciplines means the quantity of work going through the SAC is enormous.

Last year the SAC focused on the curriculum update and for 2022 the SAC will be looking forward to next decade. There will be more curriculum revisions and reviewing assessments for better alignment, making sure there is not too much assessment or assessment is not aligned to the subject.

#### **4.10.6 School of Humanities and Communication Arts (HCA) SAC**

The Acting Dean of the School, Professor Matt McGuire acknowledged the volume of work handled by the SAC throughout the year and highlighted:

- A new minor in gender studies has been developed, at the suggestion of a student representative on the SAC;
- Design of new National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF) units and collaborations with STEM Colleagues;
- Realigning with new Curriculum Design and Approval (CDA) Policy.

When asked about bringing STEM skills into his School, Professor McGuire replied: "In the 21<sup>st</sup> century people should know how to read a spreadsheet and a novel."

Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous Learning, Professor Michelle Trudgett, advised that Indigenous Studies sits within this School and commended the indigenous priorities identified.

#### **4.10.7 School of Law SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Anna Cody, thanked the Deputy Dean and the members of the SAC for the large a quantity of work they do and highlighted the following points:

- Master of Construction Law, a collaboration with the School of EDBE;
- Juris Doctor (JD) new postgraduate offering;
- 2021 clinical growth, 2 new subjects;
- Revising the Honours program;
- Quality of teaching and learning has seen an overall improvement, each subject provided in a quality and interactive way;
- LLB reaccreditation will be substantial work;
- Invigoration of HDR and research around research seminars and Law and Human Rights.

Black Lives Matter working group came out of a network for Law and Human Rights seminar in collaboration with SoSS and work done by Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan. Since then, the School has been looking for ways to integrate some of these issues into its curriculum (ongoing working group).

#### **4.10.8 School of Medicine SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Annemarie Hennessy, acknowledged the large body of work including in postgraduate areas that the team deals with.

In the last few weeks, the Diploma of Child Health has been approved. This will bring 1000 new students into the School and double its size overnight. In addition, an alternative credentials strategy is being developed.

#### **4.10.9 School of Nursing and Midwifery SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Deborah Hatcher highlighted the size and complexity of work on accreditation requirements, a lot of work for SAC to do. Thanked the Chair and all the members of the SAC. The main activities over the last year were:

- Covid challenges to clinical placements on campus simulation labs;
- Successfully reaccredited Bachelor of Nursing with Western Online;
- New Master of Nursing practice was accredited.

In 2022 the challenges are:

- How to maintain standards and quality and support our students;
- Review of postgraduate programs transformation (PGx) projects. Looking forward to being innovative in an area that is very restrictive.

Without the Curriculum Data and Systems Management and Education Advisors the School wouldn't have been able to get all the documentation ready.

#### **4.10.10 School of Psychology SAC**

The Dean of the School of Psychology sent her apologies for this meeting. The report was taken as read.

#### **4.10.11 School of Science SAC**

The Acting Dean of the School of Science sent his apologies for this meeting. The report was taken as read.

#### **4.10.12 School of Social Sciences SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Brian Stout, acknowledged the two Chairs throughout the year who got through a phenomenal amount of work in a multidisciplinary school including:

- being able to manage during Covid;
- changes in assessment and delivery.

For 2022 the focus will be on:

- delivery and student support;
- Program developments are regenerating programs already in place;
- PGx as very exciting opportunity for the School, not only developing programs but publicizing and marketing them as well internally and externally.

Professor Bedford noted if assistance is required to market minors and majors internally, the 21C project has developed ten new minors and the students who helped develop them have been creating videos and films and digital marketing graphics that are to be used in Welcome Week but can be made available to schools.

#### **4.10.13 Graduate Research School SAC**

The Dean of the School, Professor Clive Baldock thanked Professor Adam Possamai for his work as Acting Dean in 2021. The SAC is unusual in that people from all over the University make up the Committee.

Professor Baldock thanked Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou, who made a significant contribution to the Master of Research, which replaced Honours as our key program and pathway to PhD.

The review of GRS commissioned by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International is underway, and noted there is an overlap with GRS SAC and Research Studies Committee (RSC) that needs to be addressed.

The Chair thanked for Deans for their reports.

The Chair asked that the Chairs of the Academic Senate Standing Committees to provide two main areas of focus for their Committees in 2022.

#### **4.10.14 Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) Annual Report**

Professor Simon Barrie spoke about APCAC in Section 3.

#### **4.10.15 Research Committee Annual Report**

This report will be provided to the next meeting of the Academic Senate

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Deborah Sweeney, spoke to the item and highlighted:

- There will be five Research Quality forums around general topics, run by Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research;
- Monitoring changes across the sector and seizing opportunities;
- New members have been appointed to the Committee;
- Discussion around ARC grants veto and deplorable action government has taken in response to legislation;
- Committee has Hot Topics, generally around gender issues.

#### **4.10.16 Research Studies Committee Annual Report**

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Clive Baldock, welcome new members to committee a particularly the Academic Senate Chair and Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullmann.

Professor Gawain Bodkin-Andrews has a standing item for Indigenous Research Strategy and is working on increasing the number of indigenous HDR students and the number of scholarships available.

A new item on agenda is reports from Schools and Institutes to create a community of practice to support candidates and supervisors.

#### **4.10.17 Academic Assessment Committee Annual Report**

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Simon Bedford, spoke to the Senate Assessment Report and noted:

Key achievements were transferring Academic Integrity Working Party (AIWP) from Senate Education Committee to the Senate Assessment Committee and establishing Alternate Assessment Working Party (AAWP).

Business as Usual (BAU) feedback to schools on assessments, quality assurance processes and academic integrity processes, including

- Focus on TPP assessments and reporting;
- Implementation of new Assessment Policy;
- Facilitating SMS results processing practices including early formative assessments;
- Developing Misconduct Reporting Dashboard in collaboration with Office of Governance Services (OGS) and Competitive Intelligence and Analytics (CIA).

An extra meeting was required last year to handle the volume of work.

Thanked Dr Jen McPherson for the outstanding work she has been doing on Academic Integrity with the AIWP.

#### **4.10.18 Academic Senate Education Committee Annual Report**

The Chair, Professor Simon Bedford, spoke about Senate Education Committee in Section 3.

#### **4.10.19 Academic Senate Executive Committee Annual Report**

This report was not available and will be provided to the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

#### **4.10.20 Senate Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee Annual Report**

Professor Alpha Possamai Inesedy noted the impact of Policy variations as a result of Covid. It will be interesting to see how this process progresses throughout the year.

The Chair noted that since he has been involved with the Committee, he has realized the importance of supporting the students through the process.

The SDVC Professor Pollock asked if there was a sense of key areas of concern – trends or analysis on what's going right or wrong and any commentary on the types of decisions being made. The Chair agreed a report could be prepared for the information of the Senate.

#### **4.10.21 Third Party Provider Committee Annual Report**

Professor Possamai-Inesedy advised that since early last year TPPC has been a standing committee of the Academic Senate. It is only a small committee.

In the past year attention has been on the development of the Risk Register and it is now being tested in relation to TPP Committees.

For 2022 the emphasis will be on Communications with TPPs and closing the loop with reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic.

#### **4.10.22 Academic Senate Policy Committee Annual Report**

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Pollock advised in addition to information provided in Section 3, that all Research Institutes are represented on the Academic Senate Policy Committee and at the next meeting the Committee could start the process of reviewing its membership.

#### **4.10.23 Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee – Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) Cluster**

This report was not available and will be provided to the next meeting of the Academic Senate

#### **4.10.24 Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Cluster**

The Chair of the MTALC for the STEM Cluster was not at the meeting. This report will be held over to the next meeting of the Academic Senate

#### **4.10.25 Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee – Health and Medicine (H&M) Cluster**

This report was not available and will be provided to the next meeting of the Academic Senate

### **4.11 2021 ACADEMIC SENATE ATTENDANCE RECORD**



The Committee noted the 2021 Academic Senate Attendance Record

#### **4.12 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS REPORT 2021**

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

Professor Anna Cody asked two questions

1. What is rate of differentiation for male and female success rates? And how can WSU make sure women are being encouraged to apply when they are ready
2. Success rate in promotions in Institutes is 100% and schools had a lower success rate

The Chair of the Academic Promotions Committee, Professor Sweeney, responded to question 2 and noted that the overall number of applications coming from Institutes is lower. It is important to note Institute had low numbers applying compared to schools and their success rate is not always this high

In response to question 1, Professor Sweeney noted more women were successful than men in this round, but of greater concern is the percentage of women at the different academic levels

Level A = 58%, Level B= 59%, Level C =51%, Level D = 50% and Level E = 39%

Women will wait to feel confident before proceeding to apply for positions. There needs to be more support for applicants, supervisors and Deans to make inroads into these numbers in the next year or so. This is the subject of a SAGE working group.

The Committee noted some Institutes have separated work plan negotiations from professional development and look back at achievements over past year as well as what they are planning to do in the next year.

Professor Sweeney advised that a Project, sponsored under Vice Chancellors Gender Equity Committee and funded by it, is in the Health and Medicine Cluster where an enthusiastic group of early and mid-career female academics are putting together an executive and peer mentoring program, not only for promotion, but career progression as well. They are looking at their plans for the next 3-5 years and when appropriate will help with promotion.

#### **4.13 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 13 April 2022. 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](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees/board_meetings)

### **5 OTHER BUSINESS**

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The Academic Senate adopted a recommendation from Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou to make a statement regarding the situation in the Ukraine on behalf of the Academic Senate.

The statement is as follow:

The unfolding situation is affecting many members of our community and our colleagues overseas in a number of ways. The situation is fluid, but long-term consequences-especially around mental health are certain.

Western's community, one of the most diverse in Australia, may have a plurality of opinions regarding the current situation in Eastern Europe. These opinions ought to be seen in the appropriate context, be respected and, in turn, be tolerant and compassionate towards all of our community's members.

Academic Senate of Western Sydney University supports all peoples' rights to self-determination.

Academic Senate of Western Sydney University is condemning all acts of violence, physical and online, worldwide

Academic Senate of Western Sydney University supports and believes that all individuals have the right to access education without fear.

The Academic Senate endorses and supports the Statement.

## **6 NEXT MEETING**

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The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for **Friday 29 April 2022**.

For information, meeting dates for 2022 are as follows:

- 17 June
- 12 August
- 14 October
- 9 December

Meetings commence at 9.30AM and conclude by 12.30PM.

The meeting formally closed at **12.35PM**.