

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Confirmed minutes of meeting 20/04 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University was held on **Friday 14 August 2020** at **9:30AM**, 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
Associate Professor Michael Tyler
Associate Professor Simon Bedford
Associate Professor Simon Green
Dr Annette Sartor
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 (departed 11.35am)
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)
Lizette DeLacy
Pete Maggs

Apologies:

Dr Caterina Tannous
Dr Robert Osei-Kyei
Leanne Hunt
Professor Andrew Page

In attendance

Desiree Mulley (Secretary)
Dr Roger Attwater

Professor Amir Mahmood
Professor Anna Cody
Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor)
Professor Brian Stout
Professor Caroline Smith
Professor Catherine Renshaw
Professor Christopher Peterson
Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Deborah Sweeney
(departed 10.15am)
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick
Professor Eileen McLaughlin
Professor Gregory Kolt
Professor Heather Horst
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright
Professor Kerry London
Professor Kevin Dunn
Professor Matthias Boer
Professor Michele Simons
Professor Peter Hutchings
Professor Simeon Simoff
Professor Simon Barrie
Professor Suzan Burton
Professor Tanya Meade
Professor Yenna Salamonson
Rosina Armstrong-Mensah (undergraduate
student)

Professor Michelle Trudgett
Professor Zhong Tao

Shubha Devadasen
Sophie Buck

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

☆1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, chaired the meeting. The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Land Owners and their Elders, past, present and emerging. The Chair welcomed all members and attendees, with a specific mention to:

- Dr. Roger Attwater, Senior Manager, Environmental Sustainability who presented in relation to item 3.4 – Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.
- Elif Sakiz, the newly elected Postgraduate student member.

The Chair acknowledged the contributions of Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Professor Kerry London, Dean, School of the Built Environment to the University and to Academic Senate, as this was their final meeting.

☆ 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:

- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.4 – Environmental Sustainability Action Plan
- 3.5 – Strategic Plan Consultation
- 3.6 - Contract Cheating
- 3.7 - Senate Executive Committee Expressions of Interest
- 3.11.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Party
- 3.12.1 – Question on Notice - Online Teaching Evaluations
- 3.13.2 - Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy
- 3.13.3 – Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 Deferred Exam
- 3.13.4 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 GPA Neutral Scheme
- 3.13.5 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty and Repeat at No Cost.

The following items were additionally starred:

- 3.9 – School of Business Review 2019 Panel Report
- 3.10 – Higher Degree Research Scholarship Extensions.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:01)

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 3.6 Contract Cheating immediately after the Student Report.

☆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, 19 June 2020 (Meeting 20/03) had been circulated, and were confirmed without amendment.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:02)

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 19 June 2020 (Meeting 20/03), 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 BRAND HEALTH RESULTS

The purpose of this paper was to provide Senate with a summary of the results from the brand health research that was conducted to assess reputational changes for Western since 2017. This paper had been provided in response to an action item.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:03)

That Academic Senate notes the brand health results research that was undertaken to assess reputational changes for the University since 2017.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 19 June had been circulated. The Chair's report to the 5 August meeting of the Board of Trustees, was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair advised that increased attention is being placed on academic freedom, and freedom of speech. The Minister for Education Dan Tehan has appointed Professor Sally Walker AM to undertake an independent review of adoption of the *Model Code of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom* (model code) recommended by the Hon Robert French AC in 2019, across the Australian higher education sector. In response to the Model Code the University developed a *Charter of Academic Freedom, Freedom of Speech Policy* and reviewed the *Code of Conduct*. These are important resources for the University community to refer to.

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

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

Professor Simon Barrie advised that the University is carefully planning for a partial return to campus in late 2020. All Schools have been working with the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) to consider high value activities that should be prioritised for return to campus. Michael Burgess, Chief Student Experience Officer has been working to identify safe spaces for these activities on campus.

The 'Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment Experience –Autumn 2020' report outlines the positive lessons from the Autumn session. The report records a slight increase in passing grades and high distinctions, and a slight increase in fail grades. The report reflects that students have learned despite the disruption caused by COVID-19. The outcomes of this report are a strong reflection of the hard work and resilience of academics.

Student Feedback on Unit (SFU) results have reflected a slight increase in overall satisfaction, with group work being reported as presenting more challenges than in 2019. The University is moving to further reduce reliance on invigilated exams, with a goal of only ten percent of assessments being invigilated exams. The qualitative section of the SFU reports acknowledged the work of academics engaging students during the rapid transition to online learning.

A review of ProctorU is currently being undertaken. ProctorU has been involved in a data hacking scandal, along with a number of other notable companies. The University is currently reviewing how that happened, and the outcome of this review will influence the University's decision to engage with ProctorU in the future.

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

Associate Professor Simon Bedford advised that an Alternative Assessment Working Party (AAWP) of Senate Assessment Committee, has been established. This Working Party is co-chaired by Associate Professor Bedford and Lizette Delacy, Co-Director Student Administration. The AAWP reviews the development of assessment criteria, assessment design and teaching and learning reflections. The AAWP will make recommendations to ensure that appropriate support is in place for staff and students in upcoming sessions.

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Chief Executive Officer, The College

Dr Nicolene Murdoch reported that The College Academic Pathways Program Committee have reported high levels of student engagement during Trimester One, through the use of progressive assessments and no invigilated exams. A four percent reduction in fail rates has been recorded and five hundred and sixty students articulated to the University at the end of Trimester One. The Foundation Studies students reported that studying online has suited their lifestyle.

The Undergraduate Certificates (UC) have attracted seventy-six percent mature aged students, with forty percent of those from outside of New South Wales (NSW). Sixty-three percent of students who undertook the UC had not attended University previously, and thirty-six percent indicated that they are currently unemployed. Overall eighty-six percent of UC students indicated they are interested in transition opportunities to University. The UC may be offered next year and further options for delivery are being explored.

The Chair noted that the UC has been discussed over various media outlets and that the nature of these courses being shorter and available online creates accessibility for a wider range of students.

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

Professor Deborah Sweeney reported that work on research quality is currently being undertaken by Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research. This work is exploring what the appropriate indicators are and how we drive increased research through social media. Trials will be undertaken pre *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) submissions to review the quality of output in the next twelve months. Schools will be involved in this review to ensure good research linkage throughout the institution.

Action: Elected School members are to socialise the Contract Cheating report within their Schools and provide feedback to the October meeting.

Action: Professor Simon Barrie is to provide the '*Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment Experience –Autumn 2020*' report for circulation 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 reported that the new Chancellery Boardroom is starting to be used and that Senate will be held there in the future as we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis. The new Chancellery Boardroom has a wonderful collection of artwork curated by Monica McMahon, that Senate members are invited to view when on campus.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the work and resilience of the University's academic staff from March onwards as all teaching and learning was rapidly moved online and work completed from home. The Vice-Chancellor attributes the success of this period to the wonderful work of academic staff who were committed to supporting the teaching effort through Autumn session. The University has adopted a cautious approach to returning to campus and perceives this is an appropriate response given the increasing rates of community transmission of COVID-19 in NSW. The COVID-19 Task Force meet on a weekly basis and receive up to date information regarding how other Universities and local health districts are responding to the pandemic.

In relation to the independent review of adoption of the *Model Code of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom* the Vice-Chancellor reported that the University is well placed to demonstrate that we have appropriate governance instruments in place to protect and emphasise freedom of speech. A freedom of speech matter has not arisen at the University; however, the University is well positioned should a matter arise in the future.

Job-ready Graduates Package draft legislation

The Minister for Education Dan Tehan has announced draft legislation as part of the *Job-ready Graduates Package* (the package) for public consultation. As a result of the University's involvement with the *Innovative Research Universities* (IRU) the Vice-Chancellor is involved in reviewing the draft legislation.

One of the proposed changes provides that students who have previously failed more than fifty percent of units undertaken in one year may not be able to access further Commonwealth Government Support (CGS). The IRU are undertaking research on the potential impact of this change, and the challenges this may pose for meeting demand on the higher education sector.

The draft legislation provides that campuses will be classified as either regional, high-growth metropolitan or low growth metropolitan areas, and growth funding will be allocated on the basis of this classification. The rationale is to encourage growth in regional and high growth metropolitan areas. The formula that is being used by the Commonwealth Government has resulted in Penrith (Kingswood), Parramatta and Bankstown campus being classified as low-growth metropolitan areas, and the impact of this is a thirty percent drop in *Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program* (HEPPP) funding over the next three years. Currently the University is the largest receiver of HEPPP funding and this funds the Office of Widening Participation. The University is strongly advocating for the Western Sydney region that we so deeply serve. Fortunately, there is transition funding so some of the realities of the package will not be fully implemented until 2024. This is money that was already available however it has been repackaged and administered in a competitive format. Universities will be required to demonstrate that they are stimulating the industry and supporting science, teaching, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students. The Vice Chancellor and the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor are meeting with the Minister for Education during the week commencing 17 August.

If the nature of the package does not change the University will have to alter its course profile, and target students who study courses that attract higher levels of Higher Education Commonwealth Support (HECS). This is an unacceptable change and this point is being made strongly to the Commonwealth Government.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following from his report:

- The University has provided a written submission for the NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into the future development of the NSW tertiary education sector. This is being chaired by the Hon Mark Latham MLC.
- Over nine thousand students have graduated this year. The University is unlikely to be able to hold normal ceremonies this year, online and hybrid graduation ceremonies are being explored.
- The joint Doctor of Medicine with Charles Sturt University has reached a milestone as the agreement has been finalised. This is an important partnership for regional NSW. The first thirty-seven students to come through the first stage of this program will commence in 2021.
- A small but important cohort of international students will commence online study offshore this semester.
- Professor Kevin Dunn has been confirmed in the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Professor Brian Stout has been confirmed as Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

The Vice-Chancellor echoed the comments of the Chair in farewelling and acknowledging the contribution of Professor Denise Kirkpatrick and Professor Kerry London.

☆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 Vice-Chancellor reported that he has met with the Student Representative Council (SRC) Executive and is looking forward to meeting with them on a regular basis.

☆3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Dr Roger Attwater, Senior Manager, Environmental Stability presented to Senate regarding the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP).

The purpose of the ESAP is to align environmental sustainability initiatives with the University's broader sustainability commitments and strategic plans, and to outline a clear framework of business improvement. The *Environmental Sustainability Policy* and ESAP respond to, and inform, broader sustainability strategic and decadal plans. The ESAP also encompasses operational strategies to inform targets and management actions. Caring for country has been reflected in projects in areas of significant cultural and ecological importance. The success to date of the ESAP demonstrates a level of maturity across the whole institution.

The Vice-Chancellor, Chair and Professor Barrie commended Dr Attwater on the ESAP, and the visibility of sustainability targets. Having a sustainability strategy constitutes one fifth of a University's assessment for the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

Action: The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) is to be progressed by elected members to Schools for comment, in acknowledgment that the ESAP has strong intersections for teaching and learning.

☆3.5 STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

Professor Brian Stout introduced the 'vision' and 'mission' of the *Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Strategic Plan*. The University is currently working in a significantly changed context with the bushfire crisis of late 2019 and early 2020, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The University is currently in a recovery and renewal phase. The intention of the next iteration of the Strategic Plan is to articulate who we are clearly as an institution, and the values that we identify with. The central focus of this plan is 'Sustainability,' which is centred around ensuring equality for all.

Senate members were allocated to breakout rooms where they discussed preliminary feedback on the *Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Strategic Plan*.

The following feedback was received:

- The term 'connectedness' is overused and members were unsure what the term 'connected communities' is trying to convey.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander element should be highlighted throughout the whole document.
- Fast paced technological development should be included
- The 'sustainability' focus should be linked to research metrics that emphasise the contribution of research globally, and our place in the world. Clarity is

required regarding how 'sustainability' is defined, and what it means in this context.

- The notion of 'social sustainability' may need to be communicated to students through a communications strategy, to ensure they have an understanding of the aims.
- A strong emphasis should be placed on compassion, inclusivity and adaptability.
- Feedback from the *Securing Success 2018 -2020 Strategic Plan* should be incorporated into the document, and clarity about how this iteration differs from the previous plan should be included.
- The language of document was considered to be more accessible than previous Strategic Plans.
- New campuses and infrastructure development initiatives should be showcased in the plan.
- The future of work and the overall changing nature of society should be emphasised.
- Research, innovation and learning and teaching should be stated more explicitly in the plan.

The final version of the *Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Strategic Plan* will be tabled at the Board of Trustees at the end of the year, and progressed to Academic Senate in a more final state.

☆3.6 CONTRACT CHEATING

The purpose of this paper was to advise Senate of the proposed steps for a University wide approach to address contract cheating. Associate Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) advised that the national picture, legislative framework and research have informed the University's recommended approach.

The paper that has been co-authored by the Office of the University Librarian and the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) has been widely socialised through the standing committees of Academic Senate, and feedback has been sought from students.

An educative student video has been produced that outlines the possible implications of engaging in contract cheating. Further work will be done to educate the student community about the consequences, and potential impacts of contract cheating.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:04)

That Academic Senate notes the report on Contract Cheating from the Transition and Retention Working Party Academic Integrity Sub Group.

☆3.7 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

As per the Terms of Reference for Academic Senate Executive Committee two elected members of Academic Senate are appointed by the Chair of Senate, to achieve gender balance and/or appropriate expertise. Expressions of Interest are sought from the elected members of Senate to be members on Senate Executive Committee.

Elected members of Senate are invited to email the Committee Secretary, or Chair to express their interest on being a member of Senate Executive Committee, or to seek further information about this role.

3.8 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of this paper was to request the review and approval of Academic Senate for the Executive Committee of the Research Studies Committee Terms of Reference.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:05)

That Academic Senate approve the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee of the Research Studies Committee.

☆3.9 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS REVIEW 2019 PANEL REPORT

The purpose of this paper was to update Senate regarding the School of Business Review 2019 Panel Report.

Professor Amir Mahmood, Dean, School of Business, thanked Professor Peter Hutchings who was the chair of the Review Panel and Professor Denise Kirkpatrick for her guidance and advice during this process.

Professor Mahmood reported that the School of Business has improved in areas where they were already performing well, and that the review has provided guidance for bridging the gap where required. The School of Business is making a concerted effort to implement the recommendations.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:06)

That Academic Senate notes the School of Business Review 2019 Panel Report, and the School of Business Review Action Plan.

☆3.10 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP EXTENSIONS

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean Graduate Research School had prepared a report outlining the scholarship extension provisions for Higher Degree Research students that have been introduced in response to COVID-19. Professor Smith advised that the Graduate Research School (GRS) recognises the genuine and continued disruption that has been caused as a result of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Relief scheme enables PhD scholarship holders to temporarily reduce their study load to part time for an initial period of three months while maintaining their scholarship payments at a full-time rate. Higher Degree Research (HDR) students who are seeking to utilise the COVID-19 Relief scheme are advised to apply for an extension three to six months prior to the end of their candidature.

The international PhD/Master of Philosophy bursary award is available to support international students in recognition of the financial hardship, and diminished opportunities for employment. In addition, a diverse range of training support is being offered to the HDR Cohort.

In response to a student question it was reported that training for new laboratory users is currently on hold due to physical distancing requirements. During the next phase of the return to campus plan, it is anticipated that non-expert laboratory users who require induction from a laboratory technician will be allowed on campus.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:07)

That Academic Senate notes the report on Higher Degree Research Scholarship Extensions.

3.11 HOT TOPICS

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

☆3.11.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group

The purpose of this paper was to provide Senate with an update on progress in work carried out by the Fitness to Practice Working Group (FTPWG).

Dr. Martin Daly, Chair of the FTPWG reported that the FTPWG have recommended a Fitness to Practice framework that outlines how inappropriate and/or high risk behaviors should be managed and a *Fitness to Practice Policy*. The Fitness to Practice framework has been progressed to Schools for review and feedback.

Action: Elected School members are to socialise the draft Fitness to Practice framework within their Schools for feedback and review. Feedback will be discussed at the October meeting of Senate.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:08)

That Academic Senates notes the progress of the Fitness to Practice Working Group.

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

The purpose of this Question on Notice was 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. The rationale behind this practice is to protect the anonymity of students in small classes, and to achieve proportional representation.

Senate were asked whether this practice should be reconsidered for postgraduate units as the enrolment numbers are consistently small, the number required to secure anonymity appears arbitrary; and there a high number of impacted stakeholders.

The following feedback was received:

- Anonymity is not necessarily achieved in larger classes as students typically raise matters during class, prior to judiciously submitting their SFU/SFU feedback.
- In units with smaller cohorts there are a range of other options available to capture student feedback
- This matter has merit and the *Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy* should be reviewed within the current context and proportional factor in mind.

In relation to potential disadvantage for colleagues when gathering evidence for promotion, academics were encouraged to think more broadly about the data they present to the Promotions Committee, including increasing reliance on peer review. The Promotions Committee will review student feedback data, however are primarily interested with actions taken to address feedback, in conjunction with other pieces of evidence.

Action: Senate's feedback regarding Student Feedback on Teaching (SFT) and Student Feedback on Unit (SFU) data in classes with fewer than five students is to be progressed to the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG), and reported back to Senate.

3.13 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.13.1 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 Friday, 26 June 2020.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:09)

That Academic Senate notes the update on academic policies and progress to date by the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG).

☆3.13.2 Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy

The purpose of this paper was to amend the references to the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery clauses in the of the *Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress policy* as a result of the introduction of the Doctor of Medicine from 2020.

Lizette DeLacy, Co-Director, Student Administration & Operations advised that the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) has been replaced by the Doctor of Medicine (MD), and that this change is required to ensure the current policy reflects that change.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:10)

That Academic Senate approves the variation to the Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress policy to incorporate the Doctor of Medicine into the scope of this policy.

☆3.13.3 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 Deferred Exam

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification of the temporary suspension to clause 13(c) of the *Examinations Policy* and clause 5 of the *Examinations Procedures*, to allow students who experienced technical or other difficulties during an online examination to sit a deferred exam.

Lizette DeLacy, Co-Director, Student Administration & Operations advised that this suspension arose as students who experienced technical difficulties while sitting an online exam were precluded from sitting a deferred exam as they were considered to have viewed the exam as if they had entered the exam room. These students were expected to complete a supplementary exam in August, which would have delayed the finalisation of their results and completion of their unit/s. This temporary suspension

has enabled students who experienced a verifiable technical difficulty during an online exam to submit a deferred exam application.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:11)

That Academic Senate ratifies the temporary suspension to clause 13(c) of the Examinations Policy and clause 5 of the Examination Procedures in response to COVID-19.

☆3.13.4 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 - GPA Neutral Scheme

The purpose of this paper was to seek the ratification of Senate to extend the GPA Neutral Scheme to encompass Spring, 2H and Quarter 4 (including Sydney City Campus Quarter 4), Block 4 and Trimester 3.

The Chair advised that the ongoing disruption of COVID-19 will continue into Spring session, and that has necessitated an extension of the GPA Neutral Scheme.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:12)

That Academic Senate ratifies an extended variation to clause 14 of the Graduation Policy and clauses 34 and 35 of the Assessment Policy: Criteria and Standards Based Assessment, for an additional six months.

☆3.13.5 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty and Repeat at No Cost

The purpose of this paper was to seek the ratification of Senate to extend the policy variation of the *Enrolment Policy* and the *Student Fees Policy* to continue to enable students to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty (WWAP) (with financial liability), and to repeat a failed unit at no cost (international students only), for an additional 6 months.

The Chair advised that the ability to repeat a failed unit at no cost will only be available for commencing international students, and is limited to one unit only.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:13)

That Academic Senate ratifies an extended variation to clauses 8, 51, 52 and 126 of the Enrolment Policy and clause 42 and 113 of the Student Fees Policy, for an additional six months.

3.14 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL

The purpose of this paper was to advise Academic Senate of students who have been awarded a University Medal, as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Senate.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:14)

That Academic Senate notes the awarding of the University Medal to students listed in attachment 1 of item 3.14 Awards of the University Medal.

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.

The [REDACTED] approved the awarding of course [REDACTED] posthumously to [REDACTED] at School Academic Committee meeting 20/07. Senate Assessment Committee noted this Posthumous award at its 28 July meeting (meeting 20/03).

It was resolved (AS 20/04:15)

That Academic Senate notes the award of [REDACTED] posthumously to [REDACTED] in accordance with clause 7 of the Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy.

3.16 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Donor Funded Scholarships

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

- Flavorite Scholarship in Protected Cropping
- Perfection Fresh Scholarship in Protected Cropping
- Costa Group Scholarship in Protected Cropping
- Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs Scholarship in Protected Cropping
- ICI Industries Scholarship in Protected Cropping.

These newly confirmed scholarships are for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipients must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

It was resolved (AS 20/04:16)

That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Donor funded scholarship:

- *Flavorite Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Perfection Fresh Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Costa Group Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *ICI Industries Scholarship in Protected Cropping.*

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

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

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Senate Executive Committee conducted a meeting (meeting 20/07) on Friday, 10 July. The minutes had been circulated.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:17)

That Academic Senate notes the report of the meeting held on Friday, 10 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) of the Senate Executive Committee.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on Monday, 15 June, appended. The minutes of Friday, 7 August will be provided at the next meeting.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:17)

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 June of the Research Committee.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 16 June and Tuesday, 14 July. The minutes were appended. The minutes of the Tuesday, 11 August meeting will be available at the next meeting of Senate.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:18)

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16 June and Tuesday, 14 July of the Research Studies Committee.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee met on 23 June 2020, the minutes had been circulated.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:19)

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020 of Senate Education Committee.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on 7 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and 4 August 2020 (meeting 20/08), the combined report had been circulated.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:20)

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 7 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and 4 August 2020 (meeting 20/08) and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 28 July 2020. The minutes were circulated.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:21)

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held Tuesday, 28 July 2020.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Thursday, 2 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and conducted an electronic meeting between Wednesday, 20 May and Monday, 25 May (20/06). The minutes had been circulated.

It was resolved (AS 20/04:22)

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the College Academic Pathway Program Committee meeting held on Thursday, 2 July 2020 and the electronic meeting held between Wednesday, 20 May and Monday, 25 May.

4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 7 October 2020. 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

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 October 2020. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

- 16 October
- 4 December

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