

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## ACADEMIC SENATE

Confirmed minutes of meeting 20/05 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University was held on **Friday, 16 October 2020** at **9:30AM**, via Zoom.

## MINUTES

### Present:

Professor Alphia 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 Simon Bedford  
Associate Professor Simon Green  
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 Robert Osei-Kyei  
Dr Samantha Liyanapathirana  
Dr Steven Trankle  
Elif Sakiz (Postgraduate student)  
Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate student)  
Jessie Robinson (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student)  
Khulan Khurelbaatar (International student)  
Leanne Hunt  
Lizette DeLacy

Pete Maggs  
Professor Amir Mahmood  
Professor Andrew Page (departed 11.30am)  
Professor Anna Cody  
Professor Barney Glover (*Vice-Chancellor*) (departed 11.00am)  
Professor Brian Stout  
Professor Caroline Smith  
Professor Catherine Renshaw  
Professor Christopher Peterson  
Professor Deborah Hatcher  
Professor Deborah Sweeney  
Professor Eileen McLaughlin  
Professor Gregory Kolt  
Professor Heather Horst  
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright  
Professor Kevin Dunn  
Professor Matthias Boer  
Professor Michele Simons  
Professor Michelle Trudgett  
Professor Peter Hutchings  
Professor Simeon Simoff  
Professor Simon Barrie  
Professor Suzan Burton  
Professor Tanya Meade (entered 9.40am)  
Professor Tony Rossi  
(*on behalf of Professor Gregory Kolt*)  
Professor Yenna Salamonson  
Rosina Armstrong-Mensah (undergraduate student)

### Apologies:

Associate Professor Michael Tyler  
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana  
Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR student)  
Professor Gregory Kolt  
Professor Kate Stevens

Professor Zhong Tao  
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright  
Dr Steven Trankle

**Absent**

Michael Burgess

Professor Annemarie Hennessy

**In attendance**

Desiree Mulley (*Secretary*)

Shubha Devadasen

(*Associate Director, Office of Governance Services*)

Sophie Buck (*Director, Office of Governance Services*)

Michelle Hayter-Falconer

(*Senior Manager, Office of Equity and Diversity*)

Naomi Hastings (*student observer*)

Griffen Burgess (*student observer*)  
(departed 10.00am)

Allyson McDonald

(*Executive Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services*)

Jo Maguire

(*Manager, Policy and Governance and Privacy Officer, Office of Governance Services*)

## **1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

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

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

Professor Trudgett paid her respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the lands where this meeting was held. Professor Trudgett celebrated the significant increase in the last 18 months of Aboriginal people who hold doctoral qualifications at the University. Professor Trudgett acknowledged the work of colleagues who were involved in building this successful story.

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

- Professor Scott Bowman the recently appointed Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor.
- Michelle Falconer, Senior Manager, Office of Equity and Diversity who attended to answer questions in relation to item 3.4 – Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity Fund presentation.
- Congratulations to Professor Gregory Kolt, Dean of the School of Health Sciences for the re-appointment to his current role for a further three years.
- Congratulations to Professor Simeon Simoff, Dean of the School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences for the re-appointment to his current role for a further three years.
- Congratulations to Professor Brian Stout, Dean School of Social Sciences for the re-appointment to his current role for a further five years.
- Professor Tony Rossi who attended on behalf of Professor Gregory Kolt.
- Naomi Hastings the Postgraduate student representative 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:

- 2.2 – Elected Members Feedback
- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.4 – Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity Fund Presentation
- 3.5 – International Presentation
- 3.6 - Annual Research Reports to Senate
- 3.7 - HyFlex Proposal for Learning and Teaching
- 3.8.1 – Hot Topic - Fitness to Practice Working Party
- 3.8.2 – Hot Topic - Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA)
- 3.10.2 - Academic Senate Policy Committee
- 3.10.3 - Progression Policy
- 3.10.4 - Assessment Policy and Assessment Guide
- 3.10.5 - Student Code of Conduct
- 3.10.6 - Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines
- 3.10.7 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to Covid-19 - International Admissions
- 3.10.8 - Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Policy and Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Procedures.

There were no additional items starred for discussion.

#### **It was resolved (AS 20/05:01)**

*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 consider Item 3.2 the Vice-Chancellor's report immediately after the procedural matters to accommodate for the Vice-Chancellor leaving the meeting at 11.00am.

### ☆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, 14 August 2020 (Meeting 20/04) had been circulated, and were confirmed without amendment.

#### **It was resolved (AS 20/05:02)**

*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 14 August 2020 (Meeting 20/04), as an accurate record.*

## **2 BUSINESS ARISING**

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### **☆ 2.1 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING**

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

### **☆ 2.2 ELECTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK-**

The purpose of this item was to update Senate regarding any feedback that Elected members had from their Schools in relation to the following items from the 14 August meeting:

- Contract cheating
- Environmental Sustainability Action Plan
- Fitness to Practice Framework.

Associate Professor Simon Bedford thanked Elected members for providing their responses to contract cheating and commented on the feedback received. Any additional feedback received can still be used to inform the basis of the contract cheating project.

Dr Martin Daly, Chair of Senate Hot Topics Working Group (Fitness to Practice) thanked members for the feedback provided on the *Fitness to Practice Framework*. Fitness to practice sits alongside a number of pre-existing processes (*Medical Assistance Policy* and the *Student Misconduct Rule*). The Working Group are currently exploring implications for other policies of the *Fitness to Practice Policy* and are considering how to address matters pre-emptively. There is also consideration of how Inherent requirements are advertised

The Chair thanked all elected Senate members for their feedback and advised that if written feedback is requested it should be progressed to the Senate Chair and/or Secretary two weeks prior to the next meeting to facilitate being circulated with the agenda and items.

## **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 14 August had been circulated. The Chair's report to the 7 October meeting of the Board of Trustees, was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair attended the *NSW/Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates* where the NSW curriculum review and the *Senior Secondary Pathways Webinar* hosted by the Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold were discussed. The need to better prepare year 11 students for work and study was highlighted. High school students need to develop a 'learner profile' that incorporates their *Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank* (ATAR), learner results and capabilities as they progress into further education.

The *Jobs Ready Graduate Package* (JRGP) is progressing through Senate. One of the impacts of the JRGP is that students who pass 50% of 8 units will no longer have access to Commonwealth Government funding. The *Progression Policy* will be reviewed in light of this legislative change to ensure students are supported.

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 Barrie advised that the *Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee* (APCAC) have reviewed and improved roughly 60 pieces of curriculum since the last meeting of Senate. A peer review model of curriculum items has been introduced, whereby members review and provide feedback on curriculum items prior to the meeting, this has enabled the Committee to adopt a more strategic focus during meetings. Curriculum delegations work has been undertaken, including the review of curriculum forms. The alternative credential strategy has been reviewed to leverage pre-existing curriculum items into alternative credentials.

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

Associate Professor Bedford reported on the Standing Committees of Senate Education Committee and Senate Assessment Committee:

- The *Alternative Assessments Working Party* (AAWP) are working to identify alternative assessment methods, and to internally and externally review assessment practices to raise/improve standards.
- The *Academic Policy Advisory Group* (APAG) have been working on the Course Design and Approvals policy suite comprising of 9 policies.
- The *Course and Unit Standards Working Party* have been looking at new forms of data and exploring transdisciplinary approaches.
- The *Transition and Retention Pedagogy Working Party* have been driving the development of retention strategy for teaching and learning, including contract cheating. The last meeting saw the launch of the Academic Integrity Module (AIM).
- The *Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group* (LaTTe) have been working to improve the accessibility of all digital content, creating a 'smart assessment design' tool kit, exploring online/virtual laboratories and commencing a concept trial of the HyFlex model.

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

Professor Sweeney reported that Research Committee is continuing to invite research theme champions to meetings. Discussions are currently underway regarding how the theme champions can assist the University to further engage industry partners. Professor Sweeney acknowledged the work of Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman who recently led a discussion regarding the Research Development Framework (RDF). The discussion surrounding the RDF focussed on building a village of support including the Professoriate group supporting early career researchers (ECR) and mid-career researchers (MCR)

**Action:** The work being undertaken on the Research Development Framework is to be brought to a future meeting of Senate, for information.

**Action:** Review and consideration of the work undertaken by Academic Senate in 2020 in relation to Senate's Terms of Reference and the *Higher Education Standards Framework 2015*, will be on the agenda for the December meeting of Senate to assist with planning for 2021.

### ☆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 Board of Trustees are being updated regularly regarding the implications of the 2021 Federal Budget announcement and how this corresponds with the University's recovery plan.
- The *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 -2026* was discussed at the last Board of Trustees meeting and there will be further consultation across the University and it will be tabled at the final Senate of 2020. The Board of Trustees will approve this prior to Senate.
- The University is operating on the assumption that the JRGP will be incorporated into the 2021 Federal Budget with a 3-year transition period until 2024. The JRGP presents opportunities and challenges for the University, and extensive modelling has been undertaken of the impact on the University's funding.
- The Commonwealth Government have announced 50 000 new places for the Undergraduate Certificate programs to continue in 2021.
- In response to the release of the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector*, the University has established the *Foreign Interference Working Group (FIWG)*. The FIWG will work to ensure appropriate policies and processes are in place to safeguard the security of individuals and data without undermining academic freedom, values and research collaboration.
- The *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020* was discussed at Senate and will enable the Australian Government to terminate Australian University relationships with foreign partners that are not deemed to be in Australia's national interest. This is considered to be overreaching legislation and the FIWG are reviewing the potential implications of this.
- Student presence on campus during Autumn session 2021 is still being modelled and considered. The return of international students is critical to the University and the sector. Some international students are currently studying remotely, and in some cases have been finding this rewarding. The Australian Government are currently considering an inbound international student trial.
- The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that it is unfortunate that the full scope of *MyVoice* Survey results are not available due to a mistake made in the algorithm. The results reflected relatively high levels of dissatisfaction amongst level A, B and C academic staff (predominately female). Strategies are being considered to address this. The Professoriate will be engaged to assist colleagues who are not feeling as positively about their lived experience at the University. The *MyVoice* survey will now occur on a 2, rather than 3-year cycle. This will be reported back to Senate as appropriate.

Professor Barrie advised that the University is considering how to reactivate campuses for Autumn session 2021. Content engagement activities will be transitioned back to face to face, with strategies to de-intensify those activities. There are significant constraints to using laboratory spaces. The University is moving away from over reliance on examinations, and moving increasingly to alternative assessments.

In response to a question the Vice-Chancellor affirmed that the JRGP does not diminish the Universities commitment to female colleagues and students. The *HSC True Reward* and *Universities Admissions Centre (UAC)* data will be reviewed, when

available to determine if the increased cost of Humanities courses has had an impact on student application decisions. The University will continue to support and advocate for the Humanities and believes there are good vocational outcomes from Humanities courses.

**Action:** The potential impacts, including what members must be aware of regarding the *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020* as identified by the *Foreign Interference Working Group* are to come to a future meeting of Senate, for discussion.

**Action:** Analysis of the impact on admission behaviour in the Humanities due to increased fees as a result of the *Jobs Ready Graduate Package* is to be reported to Senate when available.

### ☆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.

In response to a student question Professor Caroline Smith advised that central academic literacy support is available for all students through the Graduate Research School (GRS). Dr Susan Mowbray, Academic Literacy Advisor runs a suite of online academic literacy support programs multiple times per week, and can accommodate small groups or individuals. In addition, the Library develops and offers academic literacy programs through *Study Smart* services.

In response to student feedback Professor Deborah Sweeney reported that the University is currently reviewing if there is a need for an animal ethics course at the University. Currently the University partners with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and students and staff undertake their course, as the demand for animal ethics has historically been low at Western.

The Undergraduate student member reported that she met with Dr Nicole Church, Manager, Counselling Services to discuss mechanisms to increase awareness of Counselling services.

**Action:** Professor Deborah Sweeney is to report back to Senate regarding whether an animal ethics course will be introduced at the University.

### ☆3.4 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GENDER EQUITY FUND PRESENTATION

Michelle Falconer, Senior Manager in the Office of Equity and Diversity had prepared a pre-recorded presentation addressing the allocation of the Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity Funding (VCGEF).

The VCGEF offers staff the opportunity to apply for small grants to support the facilitation of gender equality initiatives and promotion of workplace inclusion at Western Sydney University. The underpinning aims of the VCGEF are supported by the *Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity Committee*.

Michelle Falconer attended the meeting to answer any questions in relation to her presentation. The following was discussed:

- The VCGEF is now available for casual and Professional staff and this has had a positive impact on how gender equity issues are approached, including the

*Western Panel Pledge* that a number of colleagues have replicated at other organisations.

- If VCGEF funding is awarded it will be available for the life of the project that is being undertaken.
- Applications for VCGEF close on 23 October 2020 and all interested staff are encouraged to apply.

The Chair thanked Michelle Falconer for her presentation and commended the VCGEF initiative.

### ☆3.5 INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION

Associate Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) had prepared a pre-recorded international presentation addressing partnerships, articulation agreements, and the international recovery plan. The Chair thanked Professor Taylor for providing a comprehensive presentation that gave great insight into the international recovery plan.

Professor Taylor advised that a long term strategy is essential to facilitate international recovery. Diversification of our product, courses and how we engage offshore are being considered. HyFlex, artificial intelligence and virtual reality are being explored in the context of curriculum development and delivery. Consideration is occurring of how we can position ourselves at a price point that creates scale and can reach a broader target market, to create opportunities for students we may not have otherwise reached. International will be involved in discussions regarding the future of work, curriculum review and the global skills gap. The *Sustaining Success 2021 – 2026 Strategic Plan* highlights the importance of thriving communities, our communities go beyond Western Sydney and extend to offering higher education to those that need them irrespective of geographical location.

**Action:** Elected members of Senate are to socialise the international recovery plan presentation within their Schools, and bring any feedback to the December meeting of Senate.

### ☆3.6 ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORTS TO SENATE

Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research presented to Senate in relation to this item. The purpose of this paper was to satisfy the reporting requirement imposed by clause G of the Research Committee Terms of Reference that requires an annual report from each School and Institute outlining research plans and monitoring of performance and progress. In addition, the paper outlined more nuanced reports that may be introduced in 2021.

The aim of this program is to:

- Assist Schools and Institutes to prepare and submit their annual Research Reports to the Senate through the Research Committee of Senate.
- To continue to develop enterprise-wide standardisation of the data, process and reports.
- To centrally retain additional data on goals and outcomes, to enable and share assessments of progress.

Senate members provided the following feedback.

- It may be beneficial to present normalised data such as the number of publications, and publications per staff member to make the data easier to interpret.



- Qualitative types of reporting could be assessed against the Research Development Framework
- Additional metrics may be useful to incorporate collaborative outputs in non-traditional channels.
- Examples of non-traditional indicators that could be incorporated were Google Scholar and proportions of articles that include a non-University co-author.

**Action:** Elected School members are to socialise the Annual Research Reports template within their Schools for feedback. Written feedback is to be provided two weeks prior to the next meeting of Senate.

### ☆3.7 HYFLEX PROPOSAL FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING

Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Vice-President (Academic) and Associate Professor Si Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) presented in relation to the HyFlex proposal for Learning and Teaching.

COVID-19 has disrupted and accelerated progress on the flipped curriculum model, prior to COVID-19 we were a highly blended University. When we reactivate our campuses, we are conscious that there is still an ongoing public health concern and that students may not be able to access campuses for a range of reasons. This time has highlighted the importance of flexibility of teaching to cover all potential challenges, and as our students are all over the world. The University is transitioning to HyFlex synchronous and asynchronous delivery of all learning content. Feedback from students reflects that students are seeking flexibility of delivery options.

**Action:** Elected School members are to socialise the HyFlex proposal for learning and teaching within their Schools for feedback. Written feedback is to be provided two weeks prior to the next meeting of Senate.

## 3.8 HOT TOPICS

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

### ☆3.8.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group

The purpose of this paper was to provide Senate with an update on the progress of the Fitness to Practice Working Group.

Dr Martin Daly, Chair of the Fitness to Practice Working Group advised that the draft *Fitness to Practice Policy* is anticipated to be ready for initial review at the end of 2020. The Fitness to Practice Framework document that was previously socialised provides a basic overview of management issues in placement based courses. Further updates will be provided to Senate as this work progresses.

### ☆3.8.2 – Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA)

The purpose of this briefing paper was to showcase the University's partnership with *Big Picture Education Australia* (BPEA).

Dr Margarite Poulos spoke to this item and advised that BPEA is a non-profit company whose core business is the transformation of education in response to a rapidly-changing world. This program allows senior high school students to pursue alternate pathways to tertiary education - namely independent research projects supported by school-based and academic mentors as an alternative to completing the *Higher School Certificate*. Awareness and investment was encouraged for this initiative as many of these students aspire to study at Western upon the successful completion of their projects

Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies) will present in relation to this item at the February 2021 meeting of Academic Senate.

### **3.9 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

### **3.10 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW**

#### **3.10.1 Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)**

The purpose of this paper was to update Senate on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress to date by the *Academic Policy Advisory Group* (APAG). APAG met on Wednesday, 12 August 2020.

#### **It was resolved (AS 20/05:03)**

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

#### **☆3.10.2 Academic Senate Policy Committee**

The purpose of this paper was to seek approval for a new Standing Committee of Senate the *Academic Senate Policy Committee* (ASPC) that is responsible for policy development and renewal for all policies of Academic Senate.

The *Academic Policy Advisory Group* (APAG) has been a successful model, however the ASPC will broaden the model to incorporate all policies that fall within the purview of Academic Senate. The pre-existing policy approval framework is comprehensive and consultative however it is not flexible and agile.

The proposed new policy approval and review process for Academic Senate policies will be simplified to the following four steps:

1. ASPC
2. Executive Committee (for noting)
3. Public consultation on the Policy DDS (minimum 2 weeks)
4. Academic Senate (for approval).

The ASPC will be Chaired by the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and aimed at wider representation than the APAG.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:04)**

*That Academic Senate approves:*

1. *The establishment of the Academic Senate Policy Committee as a standing committee of Senate, and*
2. *The disestablishment of the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG) as an advisory group to Senate Education Committee.*

**☆3.10.3 Progression Policy**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Progression Policy* (renamed *Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress*).

Lizette Delacy, Director, Student Administration and Operations advised that the Progression Policy has been significantly re-written to incorporate changes required as part of the new Student Management System (SMS). Progression checks have been removed based on students passing 50% of their units and this has been replaced with checks based on a satisfactory Grade Point Average (GPA). The revised policy will assist with capturing 'at risk' students earlier and will facilitate a more proactive and supportive approach for students.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:05)**

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

**☆3.10.4 Assessment Policy and Assessment Guide**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Assessment Policy* (renamed *Assessment Policy – Criteria and Standards-Based Assessment*) and the revised *Assessment Guide*.

Associate Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) spoke to this item and advised that the updated *Assessment Policy* and *Assessment Guide* is the result of four years of consultation. The updated policy will deliver a better understanding of the purpose and standards of assessment and allow for better student outcomes. There is a strong emphasis on facilitating student success, learning and formative assessment. There is a transition clause in the policy to accommodate for the SMS implementation in 2021.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:06)**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Assessment Policy and revised Assessment Guide from the date of approval.*

**☆3.10.5 Student Code of Conduct**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the endorsement of Senate for the revised *Student Code of Conduct*.

Sophie Buck, Director, Governance Services advised that the *Student Code of Conduct* has been updated to bring it into alignment with the *Staff Code of Conduct*. The underpinning values have been drawn from the draft *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026*. As the *Student Code of Conduct* relates to behaviour, the approval delegation rests with the Board of Trustees.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:07)**

*That Academic Senate endorses the proposed revised Student Code of Conduct for approval by the Board of Trustees.*

**☆3.10.6 – Student Misconduct Rule - Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval from Senate of the revised *Student Misconduct Rule – Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines*.

Sophie Buck, Director, Governance Services advised that the *Student Misconduct Rule – Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines* have had minor changes applied to bring them into alignment with the *Student Misconduct Rule*, which was reviewed last year.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:08)**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Student Misconduct Rule – Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines from the date of approval.*

**☆3.10.7 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – International Admissions**

The purpose of this paper was to seek Senate's ratification for a policy variation extension for temporary admission processes and practices to accommodate international student applicants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

All changes will apply to HY1 2021: Quarter One, Quarter Two, Autumn Session, Research R1, 1H, SCC Quarter One, SCC Quarter Two, SCC Session One.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:09)**

*That Academic Senate ratifies an extended variation to clauses 24 and 25 of the Admissions Policy, clause 14b of the Enrolment Policy and clause 9(a) of the International Student Fees and Refunds Agreement for an additional six months.*

**☆3.10.8 - Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Policy and Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Procedures**

The purpose of this item was to seek Academic Senate's endorsement of the revised *Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Policy* and new *Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Procedures*.

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean, Graduate Studies (Policy and Innovation) advised that consultation commenced on this policy at the start of 2020 and that it has been socialised across a number of Committees. The revised policy has a strong emphasis on research culture, research spaces for candidates and allows for increased flexibility of expenditure of candidature support funds.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:10)**

*That Academic Senate endorses the proposed revised Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Policy and new Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Procedures.*

### **3.11 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL**

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

#### **It was resolved (AS 20/05:11)**

*That Academic Senate notes the awarding of the University Medal to students listed in attachment 1 of item 3.11 Awards of the University Medal.*

### **3.12 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] Academic Committee Executive approved the awarding of [REDACTED] posthumously to [REDACTED]. This was noted at the Tuesday, 20 October meeting of Senate Assessment Committee.

#### **It was resolved (AS 20/05:12)**

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

### **3.13 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **3.13.1 Donor Funded Scholarships**

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

##### **Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Scholarship**

This newly confirmed scholarship is for students enrolled in the first year of any undergraduate degree or the Master of Teaching (Secondary). Applicants must be of South Sudanese heritage. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course and maintain a Pass average GPA (4.0 or greater) for the duration of the scholarship.

##### **Dr Mushtaq A Khan Scholarship**

This newly confirmed scholarship is for new or continuing students who are enrolled in any undergraduate degree. Applicants must be of Pakistani heritage, with either themselves or a parent being born in Pakistan. Applicants must demonstrate financial or other hardship based on the Opportunity and Equity criteria. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course, pass all subject attempts and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

##### **John Holland Building Scholarship for Women in Construction Management**

This newly confirmed scholarship is for female applicants who are commencing study or currently enrolled in their third year of the Bachelor of Construction Management or Bachelor of Building Design Management at Western Sydney University. Applicants must demonstrate academic potential through a minimum GPA of 5.0.

The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course and maintain a Credit average (GPA 5.0 or greater).

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:13)**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Donor funded scholarships:*

- *Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Scholarship*
- *Dr Mushtaq A Khan Scholarship*
- *John Holland Building Scholarship for Women in Construction Management.*

**3.13.2 Commonwealth Funded Scholarships**

Academic Senate were requested to consider the following proposal for a new Commonwealth funded scholarship, prepared by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation:

**WSU Indigenous Success Scholarship**

This scholarship is for two undergraduate and two postgraduate continuing indigenous students with appropriate confirmation. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of Grade Point Average (GPA).

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:14)**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Commonwealth funded scholarship, the WSU Indigenous Success Scholarship.*

**3.14 CONFERRAL OF GRADUANDS**

The purpose of this paper was to notify Academic Senate of students who had had their graduation conferred by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Academic Senate.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:15)**

*That Academic Senate notes the conferral of awards to graduands as listed in Attachment 1 of item 3.14 as graduating in absentia and that these students have been duly and lawfully graduated.*

**4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

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

**4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

**4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Research Committee met on Friday, 7 August, and the minutes had been circulated. The minutes of Friday, 9 October will be provided at the next meeting.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:16)**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 7 August of the Research Committee.*

**4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 11 August and Tuesday, 15 September. The minutes were appended. The minutes of the Tuesday, 13 October meeting will be available at the next meeting of Senate.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:17)**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 August and Tuesday, 15 September of the Research Studies Committee.*

**4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Senate Education Committee met on 10 September 2020, the minutes had been circulated.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:18)**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2020 of Senate Education Committee.*

**4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE**

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on 8 September 2020 (meeting 20/09) and 8 October 2020 (meeting 20/10), the combined report had been circulated.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:19)**

*That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020 (meeting 20/09) and 8 October 2020 (meeting 20/10) and approves the recommendations contained therein.*

**4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

The Senate Assessment Committee had not met since the last meeting of Senate.

**4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Monday, 31 August 2020 (meeting 20/08). Minutes appended.

**It was resolved (AS 20/05:20)**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the College Academic Pathway Program Committee meeting held on Monday, 31 August 2020.*

**4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 2 December 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](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees/board_meetings)

## **5 FOR INFORMATION**

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No items.

## **6 NEXT MEETING**

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The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, 4 December 2020. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

- 4 December

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