



## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 21/05 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on Friday 15 October 2021 at 9.30AM via Zoom.

### **Present:**

Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (**Chair**)  
Associate Professor Kate Huppatz (**Deputy Chair**)  
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright  
Professor Clive Baldock  
Professor Simon Barrie  
Professor Simon Bedford  
Professor Matthias Boer (*Departed 11.00AM*)  
Matija Burrett (Student representing disability matters)  
Professor Suzan Burton  
Professor Anna Cody (*Departed 11.00AM*)  
Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu  
Dr Martin Daly  
Dr Maggie Davidson  
Professor Kevin Dunn  
Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor) (*Arrived 10.30AM*) (*Departed 11.45AM*)  
Associate Professor Simon Green  
Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate student)  
Associate Professor Mary Hardie  
Professor Deborah Hatcher  
Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy (*Departed 11.45AM*)  
Associate Professor Ana Hol  
Professor Heather Horst (*Departed 11.20AM*)  
Dr Peter Humphreys  
Leanne Hunt  
Professor Mike Kagioglou (*Arrived 9.40AM*) (*Departed 11.45AM*)  
Professor Gregory Kolt (*Departed 11.45AM*)  
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana (*Arrived 11.45AM*)  
Dr Samanthika Liyanapathirana (*Arrived 11.45AM*)  
Professor Amir Mahmood (*Departed 10.00AM*)  
Dr Kenan Matawie  
Professor Matt McGuire  
Professor Tanya Meade  
Bakar Mohamad (Undergraduate student)  
Dr Robert Osei-Kyei  
Professor Andrew Page (*Departed 11.00AM*)  
Professor Clare Pollock  
Dr Margarite Poulos (*Departed 12.05PM*)  
Professor Catherine Renshaw  
Dr Ludmilla (Lucy) Robinson  
Dr Ana Rodas  
Professor Yenna Salamonson  
Dr Annette Sartor  
Professor Simeon Simoff

Professor Kate Stevens  
Professor Brian Stout  
Professor Deborah Sweeney  
Dr Caterina Tannous  
Professor Zhong Tao  
Dr Steven Trankle  
Ms Lisa Tyson  
Professor Michelle Trudgett  
Associate Professor Michael Tyler  
Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR student) (*Departed 11.05AM*)  
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman

**Apologies:**

Professor Gary Dennis  
Dr Nicolene Murdoch  
Professor Christopher Petersen  
Associate Professor Karen Soldatic  
Professor Michele Simons  
Professor Linda Taylor PVC international

**Absent:**

Jessie Robinson (ATSI student)

**In attendance**

Maret Brennan, Senior Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services (**Secretary**)  
Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services  
Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services  
Jo Maguire, Manager, Policy & Governance and Privacy Officer, Office of Governance Services  
Allyson McDonald, Executive Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services  
Professor Susan Page, Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching  
Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director Indigenous Research  
Natalia Vukulova, Graduate Member, Board of Trustees

## **CONFIRMED MINUTES**

### **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, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership to open the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians. Professor Trudgett noted that in 2021 the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at WSU had risen to 816, which is an increase of 10%, and expressed a wish that it would increase again by a similar amount next year.

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

- Dr Kell Tremayne, Academic Course Advisor, Undergraduate Psychology – in attendance to speak to item 3.4 Study of Contract Cheating across Australian Higher Education.
- Dr Kiernyn McKay, SAGE Project Officer and Dr Chloe Taylor, Director of Academic Program, Sport and Exercise Science, – in attendance to present item 3.5 Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE);
- Professor Clive Baldock, Dean, Graduate Research School.
- Professor Susan Page, Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching
- Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director Indigenous Research
- Ms. Natalia Vukulova, Graduate Member, Board of Trustees.

Farewell to Senate members:

The Chair thanked Professor Adam Possamai who had been acting Dean, Graduate Research School, while the position was being held, for supporting the HDR students through a very difficult time.

There are no changes to Academic Senate student representation.

## ☆ 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 Academic Integrity and Contract Cheating
- 3.7 Lecture Recordings
- 3.13 Academic Senate Committees Terms of Reference

The following item was additionally starred:

- 3.10.1 Donor Funded Scholarships

### **It was resolved (AS 21/05:01):**

*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.*

*(Professor Mike Kagioglou arrived at 9.40AM)*

## ☆ 1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that the Vice Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover would not join the meeting until 10.30 am and **Agenda Item 3.2 the Vice Chancellor's report** would follow the **Students Report** at **Agenda Item 3.3.**

The Chair noted that Professor Anna Cody was due to leave the meeting at 11.00am and agreed to discuss **Agenda Item 3.3 the Students Report** and **Agenda Item 3.7 Lecture Topics** together due to a number of overlapping issues.

☆ **1.5 OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

☆ **1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 13 August 2021 (Meeting 21/04) were confirmed without amendment.

**It was resolved (AS 21/05:02):**

*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 13 August 2021 (Meeting 21/03), as an accurate record.*

☆ **1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING**

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

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**2 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising for consideration.

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**3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

☆ **3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 13 August had been circulated, the Chair's report to the 6 October meeting of the Board of Trustees was appended to the Chair's report. The Chair provided an update on recent developments.

The Chair advised the Senate Executive Committee had approved:

- a variation to the Doctorate Policy in response to COVID-19
- a variation to the eligibility criteria for the Pathways to Dreaming Scholarship and for the Pasifika Achievement to Higher Education (PATHE) Scholarship.

The Chair advised changes to the Department of Education and NESAs and the impact of several reports that have been released including:

- Masters Review from Kindergarten to Year 12
- Shergold Report
- Categories A and B for the Higher School Certificate

The Committee noted TEQSA has obtained a Federal Court order that requires carriage service providers to block access to a cheating website.

The Chair invited the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor Kevin Dunn to provide an update on Research.

The Committee noted The Research Quality Forum that was held yesterday with more than 65 people attending.

Professor Dunn provided information on WSU's reputation scores and the difficulty in improving these scores compared to the other institutions.

Professor Dunn advised Research Week will be held from 25-29 October 2021 with over 23 events to be held.

Professor Dunn's slides will be made available to the Committee.

The Chair invited the Chair of APCAC to provide a quick update to the Committee

Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC)

Chair of APCAC, Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), provided the following highlights from recent APCAC meetings:

- The APCAP documentation for this meeting demonstrates an ongoing high volume of work being undertaken.
- Still doing important, quality work and being compliant
- Due to experience within the schools small things are being resolved before they get to the Committee
- 21C Project updates are being provided to the APCAC

The Chair invited the Professor Clive Baldock, Dean of Graduate Research School and Researcher Development to introduce himself to the Committee.

Professor Baldock advised:

- This is his second week in the role.
- Attended his first Research Studies Committee (RSC) meeting this week;
- Is reviewing WSU postgraduate and research programs to make sure they are fit for purpose;
- Underscored the importance of PhD candidates not being called 'students'.
- He would like to thank Professor Adam Possamai and Professor Caroline Smith for the work they did to get the GRS through the most difficult time.

The Chair invited Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Futures to provide a quick update to the Committee

Professor Bedford advised:

The School Teaching and Learning Reports allowed us to undertake a detailed review and discussion with the Schools of 2021 IH/Autumn teaching sessions which were of course effected by lockdown towards the end.

The Chair thanked the respective Chairs of the Standing Committees of Academic Senate for their updates.

**Noted.**

*(Professor Amir Mahmood departed at 10.00AM)*

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

*(Professor Barney Glover arrived at 10.30AM)*

This item was discussed after Agenda Item 3.3 as previously noted in the Order of Business.

The Vice Chancellor indicated the report should be taken as read and provided updates from recent events.

The Vice Chancellor advised:

- we will face many challenges as we go through a problematic period of change. There will be anxieties and concerns as we come out of lockdown. We are currently in a transition period and we are working to being open for the first semester.
- He currently convenes the NSW Vice Chancellors Committee and that all institutions are struggling and will welcome a return to normality. We need to appreciate the circumstances we are currently in.
- Premier has just announced hotel quarantine will not be required from 1 November 2021 for double vaccinated returning travellers. WSU currently has 1000 students offshore. There are currently 55,000 overseas students Australia-wide.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the update provided.

The Chair advised that Associate Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana has recently been made a Fellow of the American College of Engineers and extended her congratulations to her.

**Noted.**

### ☆ 3.3 **STUDENT REPORT**

#### **3.3.1 Report from HDR Student**

The Report was prepared by Khandakar Farid Uddin who addressed the impact of COVID-19 on students and the steps taken by the University to keep students connected.

In response to his enquiry regarding the return of HDR students to campus the Dean of the Graduate Research School indicated that information was being sent out to PhD candidates shortly.

**Noted.**

#### **3.3.2 Report from Undergraduate Student**

The Report was prepared by Bakar Mohamad who addressed two main issues:

- Feedback in relation to poor lecture quality and lack of transcripts
- Additional support for failing students

**Noted.**

### **3.3.3 Report from Undergraduate Student – Disability Representative**

The Report was prepared by Matija Burrett. The issues raised in this report related to:

- Online coursework and options for students university wide.
- Provision of recordings of tutorials and lectures beyond Covid-19 lockdowns.

The Chair noted that the issues raised in this report related to the **Agenda Item 3.7** Lecture Recordings and the issues raised in this report be included in that item.

**Noted.**

The Chair thanked the Student Representatives for their reports.

*(Professor Martin Boer departed at 11.00AM)*

*(Professor Anna Cody departed at 11.00AM)*

*(Professor Andrew Page departed at 11.00AM)*

### **☆ 3.4 STUDY OF CONTRACT CHEATING ACROSS AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr Kell Tremayne Academic Course Advisor, Undergraduate Psychology provided a presentation titled *Using Incentivised Truth-telling to Estimate the Prevalence of Commercial Contract Cheating in Australia*.

Dr Tremayne's presentation

- Outlined the study of six universities and six independent higher education providers around Australia.
- The study was to more accurately determine the prevalence of commercial contract cheating across the Sector.
- Currently self-reporting is the main source of information regarding the prevalence of commercial contract cheating.
- Problems with self-reporting include that people under report sensitive or embarrassing behaviours even when anonymous.
- A possible solution is Bayesian Truth Serum (BTS) and truth telling incentives.

Dr Tremayne explained BTS as a complex mathematical method of determining the informativeness of answers and explained how incentivised truth telling was used in the surveys that were conducted.

The conclusions drawn were that self-reports were similar to other surveys. However, incentivised truth telling suggests that results from self-report surveys are below the real figure which is estimated to be 2-4 times higher than previous self-report estimates.

Dr Tremayne suggests a number of ways to reduce the prevalence of commercial contract cheating across higher education institutions including:

- Blocking commercial contract cheating sites
- Ensuring English standards on admission
- Supporting ESL/LOTE/EAL students
- Educating staff and student

- Following the information provided on the TEQSA site.

The Committee discussed the highlighting of English as a second language in the surveys and noted this was part of the demographic information.

The Academic Integrity Working Party has developed a compulsory module regarding academic integrity.

The Chair thanked Dr Tremayne for his presentation and noted that his presentation will be distributed to the Committee members.

### **Noted.**

*(Professor Heather Horst departed at 11.20am)*

Academic Senate members were allocated to breakout rooms where they discussed actions being taken in Schools to combat Contract Cheating.

*(Professor Barney Glover departed at 11.45AM)*

*(Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy departed at 11.45AM)*

*(Professor Mike Kagioglou departed at 11.45AM)*

*(Professor Gregory Kolt departed at 11.45AM)*

*(Professor Ranjith Liyanapathirana arrived at 11.45AM)*

*(Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana arrived at 11.45AM)*

## **☆ 3.5 SCIENCE IN AUSTRALIA GENDER EQUITY (SAGE)**

Dr Kiernyn McKay, SAGE Project Officer and Dr Chloe Taylor, Director of Academic Program, Sport and Exercise Science were to make a presentation to the Committee but due to time restraints this item was deferred.

Dr McKay and Dr Taylor have recorded their presentation, and this will be distributed to all Academic Senate members with the papers for the December 2021 meeting. Dr McKay and Dr Taylor will attend the December meeting to answer any questions regarding the SAGE Project.

## **3.6 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 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.

### **☆ 3.7.1 LECTURE RECORDINGS**



This Agenda Item was discussed in conjunction with **Agenda Item 3.3 Student Report**

Professor Simon Bedford advised that Lecture Recordings had been raised at the August Meeting as a Hot Topic and thanked the following Schools who have provided Reports in response to the Slide that was issued with the Senate Outcomes Report from the Chair.

- A. School of Business
- B. School of Education
- C. School of Humanities and Communication Arts
- D. School of Health Services
- E. School of Medicine
- F. School of Nursing and Midwifery
- G. School of Science
- H. School of Social Sciences
- I. School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences
- J. School of Law

Professor Anna Cody reported on the findings from the School of Law. The Chair noted the themes that are common across the University including:

- Pedagogy
- Privacy
- Accessibility

As noted in **Agenda Item 3.3** Bakar Mohamad, the Undergraduate Student Representative and Matija Burrett, the Student Representative for disability matters, had both raised issues regarding the delivery of lectures electronically and expressed an interest in providing further information.

The Chair noted that Student Representatives from the Schools had also not had the opportunity to comment on this issue or the responses from the Schools.

**Action items:**

1. The reports from the Schools are to be referred back to the Schools Academic Committees (SACs) to seek feedback from their Student Representatives.
2. The Reports and the student feedback from the SACs to be referred to the Senate Education Committee to monitor the quality and standards of the Lecture Recordings and to coordinate the collection and analysis of further feedback from Schools and from the student representatives.

**Noted.**

*(Dr Margarite Poulos departed at 12.05PM)*

### **3.8 POLICY REVIEW**

#### **3.8.1 Policy Review Update**

The purpose of this paper is to provide Academic Senate with an update on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress in 2021 by the Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) (Attachment 1). Also included is a list of

new/draft policies (Attachment 2) and a list of existing policies that have been revised, which have been presented to ASPC for feedback and endorsement (Attachment 3).

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Clare Pollock, as Chair of the Senate Policy Committee, spoke to this paper.

The Committee noted this paper had not yet been to the Senate Policy Committee and came to this Committee first to advise the Senate of the list of policies scheduled to be reviewed throughout 2022. There will not be sufficient resources to review all these policies and members of the Senate should provide feedback on priorities.

**Action items:**

Members of the Senate to provide feedback to Professor Pollock or the Senate Policy Committee Secretariat regarding priorities for the review of policies.

**Noted.**

**☆ 3.8.2 Draft Fitness to Practice Policy and Inherent Requirements Compliance Procedures**

The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of Senate for the draft Fitness to Practice Policy and Inherent Requirements Compliance Procedures.

Dr Martin Daly spoke to this paper. He advised he had been involved with the original working party that had gathered feedback and reported to the Senate Policy Committee.

The Policy has now been through all the consultative processes and Dr Daly was pleased to note that the recommendations from the working party were still relevant.

The Committee discussed the ethical obligations around not being able to complete a degree that WSU had allowed a student to commence. Dr Daly advised that the Policy supports schools to develop processes to address such situations as the arose.

**It was resolved (AS 21/05:03):**

*The Academic Senate approves the draft Fitness to Practice Policy and the draft Inherent Requirements Compliance Procedures.*

**☆ 3.8.3 COVID-19 International Admissions Review**

The purpose of this paper was to seek approval for an extension to the existing COVID-19 Policy Response 2021 Policy Suspension or Variation Instrument. To seek approval of a policy variation extension for temporary admission processes and practices to accommodate international applicants impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Chair spoke briefly to this paper advising the Committee that COVID-19 is still impacting on the ability of overseas students to complete qualifications or tests in order to meet the WSU academic and English requirements.

**It was resolved (AS 21/05:04):**

*That the Academic Senate approves an extension to the existing COVID-19 Policy Response 2021 Policy Suspension or Variation Instrument in relation to the*

### **3.9 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.

#### **3.9.1 [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**Noted.**

### **3.10 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **3.10.1 Donor Funded Scholarships**

Academic Senate was requested to consider the proposal for five new donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement.

The Committee discussed the information provided and agreed further information would be required on the following points:

- Process for reviewing the paper, the first time the paper is reviewed is at the Academic Senate where it is for approval.
- Information/schedule of credit points equating to periods
- eligibility or ongoing eligibility for students undertaking or changing to combined degrees.
- or where majors are prescribed, the implications of changing majors.

The Chair noted that if these Scholarships require urgent approval the amended papers could be resubmitted to the Senate Executive Committee scheduled for 12 November 2021.

**Noted.**

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

The purpose of this paper is to advise Academic senate of students who will be awarded the University Medal as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Academic Senate.

**Noted.**

### **3.12 CONFERRAL OF GRADUANDS**

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

**Noted.**

### **3.13 ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The purpose of this paper was to advise the Academic Senate of changes to the Terms of Reference for the Academic Senate Standing Committees and to request their approval to the changes that have been made.

The Committee noted the changes that had been made and approved the changes to the Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

1. Senate Executive Committee
2. Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
3. Senate Assessment Committee
4. Senate Education Committee
5. Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee
6. Research Committee
7. Research Studies Committee
8. Research Studies Executive Committee
9. Third Party Providers Committee

**Noted.**

## **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 electronic meetings commencing on Friday 17 September 2021 (eMeeting 21/10). The report had been circulated.

**Noted.**

### **4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Research Committee met on Friday, 3 September 2021 (Meeting 21/04). The minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

### **4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 10 August (meeting 21/08) and Tuesday 14 September 2021 (meeting 21/09). The de-identified minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

### **4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, 12 August 2021 (meeting 21/04). The minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

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

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on Thursday, 2 September (meeting 21/09) and Thursday 7 October 2021 (meeting 21/10). The reports had been circulated.

**It was resolved (AS 21/05:05):**

- 1. That Academic Senate notes the reports of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 2 September (meeting 21/09) and approves the recommendations contained therein.*
- 2. That Academic Senate notes the reports of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 7 October 2021 (meeting 21/10) and approves the recommendations contained therein.*

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

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday 27 July 2021 (meeting 21/04), the minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

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

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Thursday, 22 July 2021 (WSTC21/06), and Thursday 26 August 2021 (WSTC21/07). The minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

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

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday, 1 September 2021 (meeting 21/05). The minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

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

The Third-Party Provider Committee met on Thursday, 7 October 2021 (meeting 21/05), the minutes had been circulated.

**Noted.**

#### **4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 8 December 2021. Summaries and minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings are available on the University website at:

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aboutuws/leadership/boardoftrustees/boardmeetings>

## **5 FOR INFORMATION**

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The meeting formally closed at **12:20PM**.

## **6 NEXT MEETING**

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The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday 10 December 2021.  
Remaining meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

- 10 December.

For information, meeting dates for 2022 are as follows:

- 25 February
- 29 April
- 17 June
- 12 August
- 14 October
- 9 December.

Meetings commence at 9.30AM and conclude by 12.30PM.