

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

The meeting (Meeting 22/05) of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday, 14 October 2022 between 9:30AM to 12:25PM, at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) and via Zoom.

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Professor Sarah Zhang (Acting Chair)
Professor Barney Glover AO (exited 12:00pm)
Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Professor Alana Lentin (for Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch)
Professor Andrew Francis (for Professor Simeon Simoff)
Professor Anna Cody (entered 10:01am)
Professor Amir Mahmood
Professor Anna Williams
Professor Brian Stout (entered 10:30am)
Professor Catherine Renshaw
Professor Clare Pollock
Professor Clive Baldock
Professor Deborah Sweeney
Professor Graciela Metternicht
Professor Gregory Kolt
Professor Kevin Dunn
Professor Linda Taylor
Professor Neil Merrett
Professor Simon Barrie
Professor Simon Bedford
Professor Susan Page

Associate Professor Amit Amora
Associate Professor Ana Hol
Associate Professor Ann Dadich
Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan
Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu
Associate Professor Michael Tyler
Dr Alexie Papanicolaou
Dr Ana Rodas
Dr Evan Atlantis
Dr Evan Crawford
Dr Erika Gyengesi (exited 12:00pm)
Dr Erin Mackenzie
Dr David Arness
Dr Margarite Poulos
Dr Maria Bhatti (exited 11:20am)
Dr Nicolene Murdoch
Dr Rachel Bentley
Dr Ritesh Chimoriya (exited 12:08pm)
Mr Anthony Mitri
Ms Debra Farrelly
Ms Leanne Hunt (exited 11:55am)
Ms Nermeen Abraham (for Ms. Jess Gleeson)
Ms Tiffany Sharpe (exited 11:09am)
Ms Vidushi Sethi

Apologies:

Professor Alana Lentin
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy
Professor Kate Stevens
Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Matt McGuire
Professor Michele Simons
Professor Michelle Trudgett
Professor Mike Kagioglou
Professor Simeon Simoff
Professor Tanya Meade
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman

Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch, on ADP leave
Associate Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana
Dr Maggie Davidson
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana
Ms Ayda Succarie
Mr Bakar Mohamad
Ms Ebony O'Connor
Ms Fiona Salisbury
Ms Jess Gleeson

Absent:

Professor Andy Marks
 Professor Dennis Chang
 Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright

Associate Professor Arianne Reis
 Ms Matija Burrett

In Attendance:

Ms Allyson McDonald (*Senior Governance Officer*)
 Ms Jo Maguire (*Manager, Policy and Governance and Privacy Officer, Office of Governance Services*)
 Mr Joshua Roach (*Secretary*)
 Ms Libby Hughan (*Senior Manager, Student Systems*)

Mr Tim Horan (*Senior Manager Strategic Partnerships & Growth*)
 Mr Troy Brown, Manager (*Commercialisation and Intellectual Property*)
 Ms Shubha Devadasen (*Associate Director, Office of Governance Services*)
 Ms Sophie Buck (*Director, Office of Governance Services*)

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Acting Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Sarah Zhang, formally opened the meeting at 9.30am by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, and welcoming members and attendees.

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

- Professor Graciela Metternicht, The new Dean of the School of Science.
- Professor Andrew Francis, Acting Dean School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (for Professor Simeon Simoff)
- Ms Nermeen Guirguis, Acting Director of Data Integrity, Quality and Operations (for Ms Jess Gleeson)
- Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager, Student Systems
- Mr Tim Horan, Senior Manager Strategic Partnerships & Growth
- Mr Troy Brown, Manager, Commercialisation and Intellectual Property

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:

- Item 3.1 - Student Management System Update
- Item 3.2 - Commercialisation of Research
- Item 3.3 - Urban Transformation Research - Cancelled
- Item 3.4 - Chair's Report
- Item 3.5 - Vice Chancellor's Report
- Item 3.6 - Student Report
- Item 3.8 – Policy Review

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

That the documents for all unstarred agenda items are noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items are endorsed.

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was not amended.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reminded members of the core business of the Academic Senate under the Academic Governance Policy, being:

- a) monitoring academic standards, values and quality assurance.
- b) advising on the development of and performance against academic plans
- c) monitoring academic collaborations and partnerships;
- d) promoting and monitoring academic quality, standards and values of the University's academic activities;
- e) advising on the University's academic plans and academic risk management;
- f) advising the Board, and Vice-Chancellor and President, as appropriate;
- g) approving academic policy and approving related procedures;
- h) accrediting and approving programs and subjects;
- i) promoting the quality and development of research in the University.

The Chair mentioned any other items relevant to the core business of Academic Senate may be discussion next meeting or at the end of this meeting if time allows.

1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The unconfirmed minutes of the scheduled meeting held on Friday 12 August 2022, (meeting 22/04) were confirmed subject to the following amendment:

Item 3.2 Graduate Research School Review

Second paragraph updated to: "It was noted that there were a number of issues identified, including a lack of resourcing, which will be partially addressed with the appointment of key staff such as a Deputy Dean and DAP, and the introduction and implementation of the HDR components new ResearchMaster management system. In terms of governance, it was noted that it is proposed to split the Research Studies Committee (RSC) into a Thesis Examination Committee and a Graduate Research Committee with the connection between the two committees and the Graduate Research School Academic Committee (GRS SAC) to then be reviewed. There were also suggested improvements for the Master of Research (MRes) program, and suggested creation of an Industry PhD as well as the opportunity for micro-credentials to be introduced for researcher training and development".

It was resolved (AS 22/05:02):

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 12 August 2022 (Meeting 22/04), as an accurate record.

1.7 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To assist members with monitoring and controlling the work of the Senate, the current action sheet (incorporating items arising from previous meetings) was circulated and Members were requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

Item: 21/03: 3.1 – Report from the Chair (Commercialisation of Research)

Action: Presentation to be delivered in this meeting (item 3.2)

Status: Complete

Item: 21/04: 3.3 – Student Report

Action: This was briefly discussed, and consultation is needed to confirm the status of this item.

Status: Ongoing

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There was no business arising from previous meeting

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager, Student Systems acknowledged that as of Friday 7 October 2022, the Student Management System (SMS) has been live for 12 months and presented to the Senate the major milestones that have been traversed during that time. The SMS Team has done an evaluation of the year to seek improvements moving forward and noted that 37% of the overall implementation has been complete.

The SMS Team has reviewed the original proposal documentation and the current state of the implementation to ensure the system is doing what it was intended to do, what objectives have been met and what is still required.

The Senate viewed the roadmap which contains approximately 200 project activities, with priorities for 2023 focusing on reporting, providing a better student experience, removing manual interaction and general overall improvement. There will also be work on smoothing the information in transferred credit areas, finalising REPS issues, looking at third party resulting periods and rolling conferrals for graduations.

Currently work being undertaken to ensure the system is ready for Spring resulting data and the SMS Team are in daily contact with Schools to ensure all issues are resolved, including working with third party providers to resolve any issues during result processing.

It was noted that the Degreeworks solution to students will be open on the 23 October and it is expected that once students start using this system, there will be an influx of questions.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the difficulties during the implementation of Banner but commended the SMS Team on their efforts over the past 12 months that has seen the benefits of the system but acknowledged there is a lot of work to do over the coming year.

The Chair thanks the SMS team for their efforts and reinforced that Senate will continue to monitor the implementation progress.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Annexure A.

3.2 COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH – PRESENTATION

Mr. Tim Horan, Senior Manager Strategic Partnerships & Growth presented to the Senate on the topic of Commercialisation of Research.

Australia historically has poor rates of commercialisation of University research relative to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The recent change of Commonwealth government will see priorities evolve, for example the National Reconstruction Fund includes stronger recognition of climate change and related industry opportunities such as renewables and low emission technologies. It was also noted that a review and revitalization of the National Science and Research Priorities is underway.

Spoke about the Australian Research Commercialisation Funnel which sees each invention disclosure broadly costing \$17.5 million in research expenditure (5 year average). 14% of disclosures are generally licences or assigned with only 1.8% resulting in a start-up established by the university.

Western Sydney University offers a range of programs to boost innovation and entrepreneurship support, for example Western Ventures that will focus on the delivering of research commercialisation, partnering the University's researchers with entrepreneurs across the region. It will propel projects that elevate the region's innovation and excellence, achieving impact that reverberates beyond our regional boundaries.

The Innovation Futures Project will bolster Western's distinctive brand as an innovative, future focused and globally oriented institution renowned for the infusion of entrepreneurship throughout the University's teaching and research programs and commitment to our region.

The Senate were presented with several successful case studies, being:

- AnoFit Device: Home based defecation disorder treatment where investment via Western Ventures supported clinical trials, regulatory application and product development.
- MoodyTunes: Music Based Smartphone App for Mental Health, to help young people understand mood management.
- Chloramine Analysis Tool: Web-based prediction tool supporting utilities' resource management for cost savings, community safety and reputational impacts
- SCREEN Pregnancy App: used for assessing risks associated with pregnancy and recommendations for early intervention/treatment.

The Senate were presented with several projects in the pipeline, being:

- Bushfire Management: Fuel load modelling and bushfire behaviour prediction
- Carbon Sequestration: Data and models informing government policy and industry toolkits.
- Composite Materials: Composite materials and structures to enhance structural integrity and performance.
- CO2 Concrete: New process that injects carbon dioxide into recycled aggregate to improve its binding and performance of recycled concrete.

Although there has been a majority off projects come from a SEAM background, there is a strong desire to have a whole of university approach and improve. To aid in this we want to hear from all areas across the university about where their research can be supported. A strong focus on innovation culture as want to build and promote this as a broader aspect of the Universities strategy.

In response to a question regarding how academics can help, the Senate was informed that spreading word of the available support, lending experience to projects by undertaking research mentor and champion roles.

In response to a question regarding if there were any plans for the new HECS scheme, the Senate was informed that there are plans and they have already contributed to the UA position and would like to host one of the pilots through this scheme.

The humanities, social sciences, etc are under pressure and looking into research to benefit our communities, noting that this type of research usually requires a longer term proposition whereas an impact case is more immediate.

It was raised that things to be commercialised aren't just widgets and there would be benefit to share some case studies around licencing, to inform staff how they can broaden their thinking in terms of research commercialisation.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Annexure B.

3.3 URBAN TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH CENTRE – PRESENTATION

This item was postponed to the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

3.4 CHAIR'S REPORT

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 12 August 2022 has been circulated. The Chair provided an update on any recent developments. The Chair's report to the 5 October 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees, was appended to the Chair's report.

The Chair attended the recent Board of Trustees meeting held on 5 October 2022. The Chair noted the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) rankings of the University and it was reported that while the University performed well and maintained its ranking during the COVID-19 period, other Universities have now improved and increased their rankings. The Chair mentioned the hot discussions and interest to know more about this ranking and the strategies to improve from the Board of Trustees and would like to have more presentations regarding QILT results to better inform and advise the Board and monitoring the teaching quality, which is a core business of the Senate.

The Chair attended the NSW/Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates (CO-CAB) meeting that was held on 8 September 2022 at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. A key topic at the meeting was the teaching quality, benchmark and accreditation of non-traditional programs e.g. micro-credentials. A review will be conducted to look into the benchmarking issue on micro-credentials. There were also brief discussions regarding the principals of higher-education post COVID notably:

- For academics, balance of scholarship and every day routine managerial and academic work.

- For Research, the balance of applied research and pure fundamental research
- For teaching, balance of hybrid online teaching and physical face to face teaching, teaching technology and student experience
- Principals/guidelines will be draw up with more discussions.

The Chair announced that Western Sydney University will host the CO-CABs meeting in April 2023.

The Chair noted that since the last meeting of the Senate, the Progression Panel has completed 444 Show Cause applications submitted by students. The Chair thanked the Members who comprise the Progression Panel, being Professor Samanthinka Liyanapathirana, Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, Professor Catherine Renshaw Dr Evan Atlantis, and welcomed new Panel Members Associate Professor Michael Tyler and Dr Maggie Davidson.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (SDVC) reinforced the importance of the QILT Results and the need to have further discussions regarding balance of online to face-to-face learning and returning students onto campuses.

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

Professor Clare Pollock, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Clare Pollock will report on the Standing Committee of Senate Policy Committee to Item 3.8.1. There was no other matters to report.

Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

Professor Simon Barrie reported on the Standing Committee of Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee:

- The Terms of Reference for the WSU Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program Committee (PPC) were provided for noting and discussion at the Committee. It was noted that after consultation on the governance structure of the PPC it was determined that the PPC could provide an annual report to both APCAC and/or the Senate Education Committee and an annual report could be submitted in February or March 2023. It was noted that as the PPC focusses on admission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, APCAC is a suitable Committee to report to, as admissions sits under the APCAC Terms of Reference, and under the Higher Education Standards, this reporting is required.
- The Committee examined the identified requirements within the Higher Education Administrative Information for Providers regarding the setting of census dates for 'full-year units' (multi-term subjects) and it was noted that an academic discussion is required on the issue of multi-term subjects having only one census date, as this has implications for students in having only one result per year (with the grade remaining unfinalised until the subject is complete) and only one opportunity to submit a Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty application. Moving forward it was noted that this will be an ongoing conversation, which will include benchmarking, and it will be a joint solution from both an administrative and curriculum (re)design point of view, led by Ms. Jess Gleeson.

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

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

Senate Education Committee

- Discussions have occurred within the Committee regarding engagement with student surveys and how to improve student engagement. A report on the Autumn session surveys have shown improvements in student engagement.
- Results have shown an overall improvement in satisfaction over the past 5 years.
- QILT satisfaction has increased by two points but are still below the pre-COVID score.
- Western Sydney University is hosting the Inspire Conference
- The Committee is focusing on improving the student experience and academic literacy from the Library.

Senate Assessment Committee

- The Academic Integrity Strategy is going before the Committee at the next meeting for endorsement.
- The student representatives on the Committee are developing a report on group work.
- A workshop was held to go through the School/Institute Assessment Reports and Quality Assurance of Subject Assessment Tasks and Standards Reports, which have seen an overall improvement in quality.
- The Committee is working closely with the Student Management Services Team regarding the Spring results and reporting.
- The Committee discussed that during the pandemic the delivery and invigilation of assessments examination periods had been handled by the COVID-19 Teaching and Learning Continuity Group. Now with this group disestablished, this oversight had reverted to Senate Assessment Committee. It was discussed that the balance of requirements for assessments, such as practical examinations and skills competency assessments, to be in person to maintain authenticity. In addition, the careful monitoring for misconduct, accreditation requirements and TEQSA standards.

The Senate chair welcomed the work progress and activities done to address the teaching quality, student survey and experience including QULT to be presented from next Senate meeting. Other data will be presented in future meetings when available.

New Action (22/05:3.4): Professor Simon Bedford to present at future meetings of the Senate on the progress and activities done to address the teaching quality, student survey and experience including QULT.

Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Kevin Dunn reported on the Standing Committee of the Research Committee:

- The Committee has examined the 'open source' trend of publishing and how it is funded (essentially the University is paying twice), resulting in work being done to establish publishing agreements. The financial impacts of this are being examined.
- The Review of the Pipeline for Research Investment (PRI) was circulated and endorsed by the Committee.
- The Research Management System (RMS) has been live since 26 August 2022 and thanked all who have been involved in the project. Members were asked to encourage their staff to login to the workshop sessions and to review the learning objectives that have been developed. The latter include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) developed based on tickets being logged for RMS.

- Work on developing and implementing Ethics Module within the RMS is now commencing.

Professor Clive Baldock, Dean of the Graduate Research School (GRS)

Professor Clive Baldock reported on the Standing Committee of the Research Studies Committee:

- We are about to launch an EOI for funding of small projects that align with the Universities Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Policy work with an external consultant into reviewing the training and development offered by the Graduate Research School to determine the viability and suitability of programs and recommendations for an alternative approach to training and development for HDR candidates is finalising. The results will be circulated shortly.
- About to launch a candidature survey into all aspects of research but noted that the current candidate surveys have a 20% uptake. Many GRS schools incentivise survey uptake with prize draws but it doesn't appear to have a significant increase.
- The GRS has undergone numerous staffing changes and all staff have been asked for patience while the recruitment process is being finalised.

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Dr Nicolene Murdoch reported on the Standing Committee of the Third Party Provider Committee:

- Work is being undertaken regarding the third party resulting process within the Student Management System.
- A stocktake proceed is being undertaken of all third party arrangements and agreements.
- The Third Party Policy is undergoing its 12 month review.

3.5 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following from their report:

Policy Frame within the Commonwealth Government

The first term of incoming Governments tends to be more focussed on reviews, which sees changing in funding priorities. Western Sydney University wants to participate in this process through Universities Australia, Innovation Australia, etc.

It appears the minister will make announcements shortly after budget focused on the election promises, including providing the higher education sector with a one-off boost of 20,000 additional Commonwealth Supported Places. The program seeks to support areas of skills shortages, address future workforce needs and create more opportunities for students from underrepresented groups to access higher education, including those from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, people with a disability and First Nations people. This presents some challenges to the University undertaking this over the next two years.

Australian Universities Accord

Australian Universities Accord is currently finalising the Terms of Reference, which has seen an increase in scope from the Bradley Review and incorporated into the GRG review. It would consider funding and access, affordability, transparency, regulation, employment conditions as well as the ways in which governments, unions, universities, TAFEs, and other higher education and vocational education

providers and training institutions might work better together on higher education moving forward.

International Outreach

International outreach is beginning again as international travel is opening up. There are opportunities for Western Sydney University in a post Brexit United Kingdom and potentially a new campus in Indonesia. Our Vietnamese Campus has approximately 2,400 students and there is strong engagement with our partners in Singapore and India.

Regional Master Plan

Over the next nine months the University is developing regional master plan and taking into account the 2021 Census data, our position within and impacts on the region. The region has seen dramatic improvements in 18 to 49 year olds with tertiary education (higher than the national average) and this can help us change the narrative/perception of our region.

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)

Although we have seen positives within the QILT survey results, the Board of Trustees has raised concerns regarding the low ranking of WSU. We have agreed to do significant work on this and will develop a report that will come before Senate. We need to do a deep assessment of the QILT survey results, we need to understand response rates and alignment. It will be an important opportunity for Senate to review the opportunity.

The QILT Working Party is reviewing their student experience survey, and Western Sydney University is waiting to see what changes are made before changing any of our own surveys.

Early offer programs for year 12 students.

The early offers to Year 12 students was implemented due to difficulties experienced during COVID and were meant to relieve stress and mental health. This has resulted in this space has becoming cluttered and a difficult space to navigate with a proliferation of early offer programs relying on Year 11 results and the completion of Year 12. The media has reported negative side effects of this approach and high schools have seen students not trying in their studies once they receive an early offer.

High education standards state that if we admit a student, we believe that they should be able to succeed and the HSC is also very important to this issue and work is being undertaken to consider Western Sydney University's approach.

In response to a question by a Member regarding strategies and scholarships to support refugees from Ukraine, the Vice Chancellor acknowledged the comments and concerns regarding the war in Ukraine and stated that the University has released messaging in regard to this. The Vice Chancellor informed the Senate that The Universities number one (1) ranking has increased their outreach in Europe and there will soon be an announcement in our increase of refugee/asylum seekers scholarships.

3.6 STUDENT REPORT

Dr Ritesh Chimoriya (PG, HDR Student Rep) presented a report on the low stipend for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students.

The PhD degree requires substantial motivation and commitment from a candidate. Doctorates are completed within 3 years for a full-time candidate, with a maximum

enrolment of four years full time, or part-time equivalent. A PhD student is expected to work on a full-time basis (approximately 38 hours per week) on their research project with ongoing guidance from the supervisory panel.

In Australia, the standard scheme to fund the living costs of a PhD candidate is through a tax-free stipend from the university, where the university is allocated the funds through the Research Training Program (RTP). The lowest base rate for PhD stipend is \$28,854 a year, which is only two-thirds of the national minimum wage of \$42,246.88.¹ The PhD stipend is below the minimum wage, even after deducting tax (approximately \$4600) on the minimum wage, which leaves approximately \$37,646.88.

Members from the Senate raised that as supervisors of HDR students, they frequently receive questions regarding the issue of stipends and potential students have been lost to the higher stipends from European universities.

The Dean of GRS noted that this issue is being discussed at the Research Studies Committee and all scholarships are being reviewed with initial thoughts being that if the University offers higher stipends, then there would be less scholarships on offer.

The Dean of Health Sciences noted that a range of the University's HDR students don't operate on a stipend and that HDR students are encouraged to engage in casual teaching.

Further discussions amongst the Senate noted that HDR students coming to Australia may be traveling with their families which will incur extra costs. The University could also consider Capital Expenditure to provide subsidised housing, etc. It was also noted that the tax free threshold was raised in 2012 to \$18,200.

The Dean of GRS will conduct further work into this issue and the student representative will be engaged

The Chair requires the update of this issue to the Senate when the outcome is known.

3.7 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

There were no Questions on Notice/Hot Topics for this meeting.

3.8 POLICY REVIEW

3.8.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Professor Clare Pollock noted to the Senate that the four policies that are before the Senate for approval are all as a result of their 12 months reviews. Feedback on each policy was received, a comprehensive review completed and the amendments for each policy are listed in the attached papers.

3.8.2 CURRICULUM DESIGN AND APPROVALS (CDA) POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The purpose of the papers was to seek approval for minor changes in terminology and including reference to the honour's guidelines in the *Curriculum Design and Approvals (CDA) Policy* and associated procedures.

It was raised that clause 39 of procedures, the word “testamur” has been removed which may cause issues regarding flexibility due to the number of majors that exist. In response, it was noted that this change will not impact existing majors but only new ones.

It was resolved (AS 22/05:03):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy, revised Curriculum Structure Procedures and revised Curriculum Approval Procedures from the date of publication.

3.8.3 GRADUATION POLICY

The purpose of the papers was to seek approval for minor changes in terminology, alignment with the SMS system, awarding of AQF awards and changes to conferral prior to ceremonies in the *Graduation Policy*.

It was resolved (AS 22/05:04):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Graduation Policy from the date of publication and the revision of programs eligible to be awarded “with distinction”.

3.8.4 MASTER OF RESEARCH POLICY

The purpose of the papers was to seek approval for minor changes regarding the definition of ‘external examiner’ and clarification of actions to take when MRes thesis examination returns a discrepancy of 15% or less/more in the *Master of Research Policy*.

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

That Academic Senate approve the revised Master of Research Policy from the date of publication.

3.8.5 ASSESSMENT POLICY

The purpose of the papers was to seek approval for the following changes to the *Assessment Policy*:

- streamline, update and clarify the language in the policy
- updated for contemporary practice in supporting student learning success
- align learning outcomes, learning activities and assessment
- encourage quality feedback on assessments that is timely and actionable
- emphasise student support with early formative assessments
- encourage innovative and creative use of digital tools and communication
- authentic assessment that are relevant, engaging and applicable in the workplace
- support for supplementary assessments where students are engaged and narrowly miss targets
- review administrative processes and practices

The Senate discussed the definition of ‘Contract Cheating’, being a third party providing assistance for a substantial part of the assessment item, may need to be updated due to available artificial intelligence being able to alter and rewrite assignments. In response it was noted the issue will be taken onboard for future discussions regarding the policy and associated procedures.

It was resolved (AS 22/05:06):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Assessment Policy from the date of publication.

3.9 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Senate was requested to approve the below new university and donor funded scholarships, amendments to current scholarships and defined visa types accepted for refugee and asylum seeker scholarships.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that although unstarred and approved, some of the below scholarships will directly assist refugees from recent conflict areas, such as Ukraine.

3.9.1 NEW UNIVERSITY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Senate was requested to approve the following new university-funded scholarships, as noted in the appended paper:

- *Academy U Excellence Scholarship*
- *Academy U Engagement Scholarship*
- *Citizen Scholar Award Scholarship*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:07):

That the Academic Senate approves the following proposed new university-funded scholarships:

- *Academy U Excellence Scholarship*
- *Academy U Engagement Scholarship*
- *Citizen Scholar Award Scholarship*

3.9.2 NEW DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Senate was requested to approve the following new donor-funded scholarships, as noted in the appended paper:

- *William Orule Memorial Law Scholarship*
- *Young Academics Early Learning Centre Scholarship*
- *Weir Consulting Indigenous Grant*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:08):

That the Academic Senate approves the following proposed new donor-funded scholarships:

- *William Orule Memorial Law Scholarship*
- *Young Academics Early Learning Centre Scholarship*
- *Weir Consulting Indigenous Grant*

3.9.3 AMENDEMENTS TO CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Senate was requested to consider and approve amendments to current scholarships, as noted in the appended paper:

- *Asylum Seeker Scholarship*
- *Protected Cropping Postgraduate Scholarships*
- *Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:09):

That the Academic Senate approves the following proposed new university-funded scholarships:

- *Asylum Seeker Scholarship*
- *Protected Cropping Postgraduate Scholarships*
- *Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship*

3.10 APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE CHANGES

3.10.1 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Senate was requested to consider and approve terms of reference changes to the Academic Senate Policy Committee, as noted in the appended paper.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Update of meeting frequency to align with other Senate Committees - *“ASPC will meet between 4 to 6 times per year, as required. E-Meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair to consider urgent matters.”*
- Inclusion of standard quorum provisions - *“Quorum is one-half (or if one-half is not a whole number, the whole number next higher than one-half) of the total number of members for the time being of the Committee. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the stated commencement time, the meeting shall automatically lapse and the business on the agenda shall be included in the agenda for the next meeting.”*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:10):

That the Academic Senate approves the revisions to Academic Senate Policy Committee Terms of Reference.

3.10.2 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate was requested to consider and approve terms of reference changes to the Senate Assessment Committee, as noted in the appended paper.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Update of meeting frequency from “quarterly” to - *“Senate Assessment Committee will meet between 4 to 6 times per year, as required. E-meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair to consider urgent matters.”*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:11):

That the Academic Senate approves the revised Senate Assessment Committee Policy terms of reference.

3.10.3 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Senate was requested to consider and approve terms of reference changes to the Research Committee, as noted in the appended paper.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Update of quorum provision from *“be at least one representative from each School of the Cluster in attendance”* to *“at least one School representative from each Cluster in attendance.”*

It was resolved (AS 22/05:12):

That the Academic Senate approves the revised Research Committee terms of reference.

3.11 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

The Senate was notified of the decision to approve a Posthumous Award.

3.10.1 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH POSTHUMOUS AWARD – MS SUSAN BOYER (SID 91335500)

At the Research Studies Committee meeting (22/08), the Committee approved a Posthumous Award for Ms Susan Boyer (SID 91335500) from the School of Humanities and Communication Arts.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Reports from the below Senate Executive meetings were circulated for noting by Members:

- Meeting 22/05 consisting of the following items:
 - Approval of changes to the Senate Assessment Committee terms of reference.
 - Endorsement of a nominated elected member of Academic Senate to fill the Senior Research Academic Membership of the Research Committee.
- Meeting 22/06 consisting of the following item:
 - Approval of the criteria for donor-funded scholarships.

4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The *Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee* (APCAC) met on 6 September 2022 (meeting 22/06). The reports for the meeting were circulated for noting.

It was resolved (AS 22/05:13):

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022 (meeting 22/06) and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee met on 11 August 2022, (meeting 22/04). The unconfirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The *Senate Assessment Committee* met on 26 July 2022, (meeting 22/04). The confirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The *Research Committee* met on 7 September 2022 (meeting 22/04). The report of the meeting was circulated for noting.

4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The *Research Studies Committee* met on 9 August 2022 (meeting 22/07). The confirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.7 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

The *Academic Senate Policy Committee* (ASPC) met on 31 August 2022 (meeting 22/05). The unconfirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.8 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

The *Third-Party Provider Committee* (TPPC) met on 28 July 2022 (Meeting 22/04). The unconfirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.9 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The *College Academic Pathway Program Committee* met on 23 June 2022 (WSTC 22/04). The confirmed minutes were circulated for noting.

4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the *Board of Trustees* meeting on 8 June 2022, it was agreed to provide Academic Senate with a copy of the in-depth analysis of performance against the Measures of the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026* papers, which are regularly presented to the Board. The following papers were circulated for noting:

- Transformation
- Connectedness

The next meeting of the *Board of Trustees* is scheduled for 7 December 2022. Summaries and minutes of the *Board of Trustees* meetings are available on the University website at:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised at the meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on 9 December 2022 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The remaining meeting scheduled for 2022 are as follows:

- 22/06 – 9 December 2022

The meeting formally closed at 12:25pm.