



ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 20/02) of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday 17 April 2020** at **9:30AM**, **by Zoom only**.

The Zoom details for this meeting are: https://uws.zoom.us/j/495244858

For apologies and enquiries, please contact Desiree Mulley by email at: d.mulley@westernsydney.edu.au.

AGENDA

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

☆1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy, will chair the meeting. The Chair will welcome all members and attendees, with a specific mention to:

- Welcome to new ex-officio member of Senate: Professor Mike Kagioglou, Dean, School of Engineering.
- Welcome to the following newly elected members of Academic Senate: Professor Catherine Renshaw, Professor Andrew Page and Dr Annette Sartor.
- Welcome to Libby Hughan, Business Process Lead, SMS Project, and Kathy Piestrzynski, Practice Adoption Manager, SMS Project who will answer questions in relation to item 3.5 SMS Project Update.
- Welcome to Daniel Bonatti, the Student Representative Council (SRC) representative who is attending as an observer.

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from: Professor Kate Stevens.

☆1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any interests, in terms of the <u>Conflict of Interest Policy</u>, they may have in relation to the items on this agenda. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the <u>Leadership and Governance webpage</u>.

Members are reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during a meeting of Academic Senate or one of its committees.

☆1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda are:

- 3.1 Report from the Chair
- 3.2 Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.5 SMS Project Update
- 3.10.2 Examinations Policy
- 3.10.3 Student Misconduct Rule Procedural Guidelines
- 3.10.4 Freedom of Speech Policy
- 3.10.5 Policy Response to Covid-19.

It is recommended:

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

There may be some re-arrangement of the order of business to enable some members and attendees to attend other meetings.

☆1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

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

☆1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AS 20/02-1.6

Page 001

Unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 21 February 2020 are appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 21 February 2020, as an accurate record.

☆1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

AS 20/02-1.7

Page 016

To assist members with monitoring the work of the Academic Senate, an action sheet from the previous meeting is appended.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

There is no business arising from the previous meeting.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

AS 20/02-3.1

Page 018

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 21 February has been appended. The Chair will provide an update on any recent developments and will answer any questions in relation to the report. The Chair's report to the 8 April meeting of the Board of Trustees, is appended to the Chair's report.

☆3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

AS 20/02-3.2

Page 024

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended.

3.3 STUDENT REPORT

AS 20/02-3.3

Late Paper

A report compiled by the student representatives of Senate will be provided at each meeting of Senate for noting.

3.4 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 AS 20/02-3.4

Late Paper

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean Graduate Research Studies and Associate Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) have authored papers that outline how Higher Degree Research students and International students are being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. The papers will be circulated as late items.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the University response to the COVID-19 pandemic for International and Higher Degree Research students.

☆3.5 SMS PROJECT UPDATE

Libby Hughan, Business Process Lead, SMS Project, and Kathy Piestrzynski, Practice Adoption Manager, SMS Project have provided an electronic presentation, prior to the meeting. This presentation will not be played during the meeting. Please click on the <a href="https://link.nih.gov/link.ni

Members will be invited to ask questions in relation to the presentation.

3.6 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS 2019

AS 20/02-3.6

Page 046

A report outlining the 2019 academic promotions outcomes is provided to the Academic Senate in accordance with the *Western Sydney University Promotions Policies (Promotion – Academic Promotion Procedures)*.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the 2019 academic promotions outcomes.

3.7 SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REVIEW 2019 PANEL REPORT AS 20/02-3.7 Late Paper

The School of Nursing and Midwifery Review 2019 panel report and School Action Plan will be circulated as a late paper.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate note the School of Nursing and Midwifery Review 2019 Panel Report, and the School of Nursing and Midwifery Review Action Plan.

3.8 HOT TOPICS

In response to the recent Senate Review Report recommendations, Senate members have the opportunity to submit a 'Hot Topic' for discussion prior to each meeting of Senate. No Hot Topics were submitted for this meeting of 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 were submitted for this meeting of Senate.

3.10 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.10.1 Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)

An update on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress to date by the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG) is listed below. APAG met on Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

ACADEMIC POLICIES		
Assessment Policy (renamed Assessment Policy - Criteria and Standards-Based Assessment)	A substantially revised and retitled <i>Assessment Policy</i> was discussed at the 30 July Assessment Committee meeting. An updated version of the policy was provided to the 14 August 2019 APAG meeting. Collated feedback from members was sent back to Kevin Bell for further work before it returned to APAG on 31 October 2019 for review. The impacts of the new Student Management System (SMS) on the <i>Assessment Policy</i> were also discussed, with members agreeing that the revised policy should progress through the consultation and approval process, with a view to a grade table update being made to the policy to incorporate the changes required due to the new SMS once the system has been implemented. The revised version of the policy was circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback from 21 February to 6 March 2020. A revised version will now be provided to Executive Committee on 14 April 2020 for noting.	
Course Transfer Policy	The <i>Course Transfer Policy</i> had progressed through 23 May 2018 APAG, 13 August 2018 Executive Committee and 12 March 2019 Senate Education and was presented for	

endorsement to the 12 April 2019 meeting of Senate. Issues were raised on behalf of the School of Science & Health and the policy was referred back to APAG. A response from the Director, Student Administration addressing the issues raised was considered at the 14 August 2019 meeting of APAG, where members agreed that a small group should meet to look at these issues and provide an update at the next meeting of APAG. Further feedback was provided on the policy at the 25 February 2020 APAG meeting. An updated version of the policy will now be circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback before it is progressed to Executive Committee for noting.

New Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy

The final Course Design Principles, to facilitate the drafting of the new Course Design Policy were discussed at the 12 March 2019 meeting of the Education Committee and endorsed at the 2 April 2019 meeting of APCAC. These principles provide the basis for the new Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy, scheduled to be provided to the December 2019 Senate for consideration. At the 14 August 2019 meeting of APAG, members agreed to reposition and Governance and the policy, Regulatory Requirements Sub-Group currently reporting to the 21C Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) to become the Curriculum Design and Approvals Policy Working Party of APAG. Members reviewed the draft version of the new policy at the 14 August 2019 and provided initial feedback. The policy and guidelines were returned to APAG on 31 October 2019, and members provided some further valuable feedback regarding the opening clauses of the policy. Draft versions of the new Curriculum Approval and Variation Procedures and Curriculum Structure Management Procedures were discussed at the 25 February 2020 meeting of APAG, with feedback provided. An updated draft of the policy was also tabled at the meeting, and circulated to members for feedback after the meeting. It was agreed that the CDA Policy Sub-Group would also be reconstituted, and discuss and revise the updated policy, and draft guidelines and procedures, before all the documents progress together through the consultation and approval process with one set of nomenclature.

Disruption to Studies Policy (renamed Special Consideration Policy)

The publication and implementation of the Disruption to Studies Policy is stalled awaiting the implementation of interim strategies for the eForms project, expected by mid-2019. A review of the approved policy to ensure terminology is updated before publishing is underway. The revised version of the policy and procedures was provided to the 14 August 2019 and 31 October 2019 meetings of APAG. Members provided feedback and agreed for the policy and procedures to progress through the consultation and approval process. The Student Management System (SMS) Project team are also working on building the new Disruption to Studies eForm in the new system to coincide with the publishing of the new policy. Further feedback was provided on the policy at the 31 October 2019 APAG

	meeting. Further revisions have been made to the policy to cover The College Students, with a view to an updated version of the policy being circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback before it is progressed to Executive Committee for noting.
Examinations Policy and Examinations Procedures	Following discussions with Audit and Risk around exam collection it was considered that it would be beneficial for the responsibility for the collection of examination papers to be specified in the <i>Examinations Policy</i> and <i>Examinations Procedures</i> . Proposed amendments were discussed at the 16 May and 14 August 2019 meetings of APAG where it was agreed to progress the revised policy through the consultation and approval process. The revised policy was circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback from late September 2019 to mid-October 2019, and an updated version noted at Executive Committee on 9 December 2019. The policy was released on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board for comment from 7 January 2020 to 4 February 2020 with 137 posting reviews and 3 responses. The procedures were also released on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board for comment from 7 January 2020 to 4 February 2020 with 82 posting reviews and 5 responses. Revised versions of the policy and procedures were provided to the 25 February 2020 meeting of the Assessment Committee. The revised policy and procedures were endorsed at the 10 March 2020 Education Committee meeting. The final versions of the <i>Examinations Policy</i> and <i>Examinations Procedures</i> are now submitted to Academic Senate for approval.
Graduation Policy – University Medals and Deans Medals provisions	A working group of APAG and a sub-group of the Research Studies Committee have been reviewing Dean's medal provisions and University Medal provisions respectively. Draft initial updates to the <i>Graduation Policy</i> were discussed at the 14 February 2019 and 16 May 2019 meetings of APAG. Preliminary feedback was sought from Deans and Deputy Deans from 2 July 2019 to 26 July 2019. An updated version of the policy was provided to the 14 August 2019 APAG for discussion, and was noted at Executive Committee on 30 September 2019. It was provided to the 22 October 2019 meeting of the Assessment Committee, and 10 December 2019 Research Studies Committee. It was released on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board for comment from 7 January 2020 to 4 February 2020 with 133 posting reviews and 2 responses. An issue has been raised regarding the School of Medicine provisions. Alphia Possamai-Inesedy is working on this with the School to resolve the issue. Once this issue has been addressed, a revised copy will be provided to the 23 April 2020 meeting of Education Committee for endorsement and 15 June 2020 meeting of the Research Committee for noting, before it is provided to Academic Senate for approval.
Professional Development in Learning and	At the 14 February meeting of APAG members discussed a substantially revised and renamed <i>Professional Development in Learning and Teaching Policy.</i> Further

Teaching Policy (renamed Foundations of University Learning and Teaching Program Policy) consultation from HR was sought, with HR noting that they will ensure the *Professional Development Policy* aligns with this policy as part of the upcoming review. The revised *Professional Development in Learning and Teaching Policy* was discussed at the 14 August 2019 meeting of APAG and circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback from 16-27 September 2019, with an updated version of the policy noted at Executive Committee on 28 October. The policy was released on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board for comment from 19 November 2019 to 4 December 2019 with 53 posting reviews and no responses. The Bulletin Board revised version of the policy was noted at the 10 March 2020 meeting of Education Committee, approved by the VC on 2 April 2020 via the Policy DDS approval process and published on 6 April 2020.

Progression Policy (renamed Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress)

The substantially revised and renamed *Progression Policy* was endorsed at the 7 March 2017 meeting of Education Committee. Associated process and system work has commenced to facilitate the successful implementation of the revised policy, which will be provided for consideration of Senate when implementation timelines are confirmed. Given how much time has passed awaiting various systems developments to enable implementation before this is progressed it to Executive and Senate, the policy was discussed at the 14 August 2019 APAG meeting and will be updated by a small group before the implementation plan is finalised and it is progressed through the consultation and approval process. Work has also occurred to incorporate The College's *Progression Policy* into the University *Progression* Policy, as it also applies to College students. A revised version of the policy was discussed at the 25 February 2020 meeting of APAG, where it was agreed that a new Sub-Group be formed to specifically look at the impacts of the new Student Management System (SMS) and possible impacts on the policy, before it progresses through the consultation and approval process.

New Surveys Policy

A proposed new *Surveys Policy* has been discussed at APAG, provided to Deans, Directors and Deputy Deans for initial comments and discussed with The Student Experience Office. At the 31 October 2019 meeting of APAG, it was proposed that a new *Student Feedback Policy* be developed, integrating (and superseding) the existing *Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy (SFU/SFT Policy)* with the new *Surveys Policy* that is currently under development. APAG members agreed to endorse this proposal, with the new draft survey returning to APAG once it has been developed.

In the interim, Tony Lazzara's current role (Executive Director, Business Intelligence and Performance) will take ownership of SFU/SFT policy until the new policy is approved and implemented. Discussions on the ownership of the new *Student Feedback Policy* has begun, but it has not yet been resolved if it will reside with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic (DVCA) or the Vice-President, People

Revised <i>Unit</i> Outline and Learning Guides Policy	and Advancement (VP People and Advancement). The draft new <i>Student Feedback Policy</i> is expected to come back to APAG for discussion and comment once it has been developed following comprehensive consultation. A full review of the <i>Unit Outline and Learning Guides Policy</i> has been completed, with a view to amalgamating Unit Outlines and Learning Guides. The revised version of the policy was discussed at the 25 February 2020 APAG meeting. Members provided feedback on the policy, including the impacts on the Handbook and these Guides with the implementation of the new SMS. Awaiting advice from the Unit Head for this policy on how this policy should progress.
NON-ACADEMIC POLICIES – for APAG advice only	
New Open Education Resources Guidelines	A preliminary draft version of the new <i>Open Education Resources Guidelines</i> , which are currently being developed by the Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group (LaTTe), were presented to the 31 October 2019 meeting of APAG for preliminary feedback. These guidelines, which are in a very early stage of development, link to the <i>Media, Social Media and Public Commentary Policy</i> , which is not an academic policy. However, the guidelines are focused on teaching and learning, so are relevant to APAG and will return for further consideration once further work has occurred. The <i>Open Education Resources Guidelines</i> have been put on hold at this stage to allow LaTTe to further explore and understand the extent of the issue with using these resources in teaching.
Scholarships for Undergraduate Policy	A draft revised version of this VC approved policy was provided for discussion at the 15 August 2018 APAG meeting. The proposed changes to the approval process for Scholarships were not supported and these changes have not been progressed. This policy has been reviewed by the Office of the Vice-President, People and Advancement, with approval escalated from the Chief Student Experience Officer, due to the inclusion of Donor funded Scholarships managed by the Office of Advancement, which does not fall under the Student Experience Office. A revised version of this policy will be progressed by the Office of Student Administration through the consultation and approval process. At the 14 August 2019 APAG meeting, members agreed to support this being taken forward and progressed from Office of the Vice-President, People and Advancement, with a view to it being provided to Executive Committee for noting.
New Social Media Guidelines for Learning and Teaching Guidelines	A preliminary draft version of the new <i>Social Media for Learning and Teaching Guidelines</i> , which are currently being developed by the Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group (LaTTe), were presented to the 31 October 2019 meeting of APAG for preliminary feedback. These guidelines, which are in a very early stage of development, link to the <i>Media, Social Media and Public Commentary</i>

Policy, which is not an academic policy. However, the guidelines are focused on teaching and learning, so are relevant to APAG and will return for further consideration once further work has occurred. A revised version of these guidelines was discussed at the 25 February 2020 of APAG. Feedback from members will be passed back to LaTTe for the guidelines to be revised.

The Office of Governance Services have developed

Student Misconduct Rule – Procedural Guidelines

Procedural Guidelines for the Student Misconduct Rule to cover a number of matters that School staff, authorised officers and decision makers frequently request advice and guidance on, including the hearing process and clarifying how the questioning of witnesses should be managed, as well as support persons and advocates, guidance on the standard proof of evidence, guidance on minimum sanctions and what constitutes extenuating circumstances when dealing with a matter that has a minimum sanction automatically applied, and a general guide on the level of sanctions that would be applied for proven cases of student misconduct. The draft version of the guidelines was discussed at the 25 February 2020 APAG. It was then circulated to Deans and Deputy Deans for preliminary feedback from 28 February to 3 March 2020, with an updated version of the policy noted at Executive Committee on 16 March 2020. The guidelines were released on the Policy DDS Bulletin Board for comment between 19 and 31 March 2020, with a revised copy now provided at item 3.10.3 for consideration.

☆8.10.2 Examinations Policy

AS 20/02-3.10.2

Page 056

The purpose of this paper is to seek Academic Senate's approval for the revised *Examinations Policy* and the revised *Examinations Procedures*.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the proposed revised Examinations Policy and Examinations Procedures from the date of approval.

₹8.10.3 Student Misconduct Rule – Procedural Guidelines

AS 20/02 - 3.10.3

Page 070

The purpose of this paper is to seek Academic Senate's feedback and endorsement of the *Student Misconduct Rule – Procedural Guidelines*.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate provides feedback and endorses the Student Misconduct Rule – Procedural Guidelines.

Page 078

The purpose of this paper is to seek Academic Senate's endorsement and feedback of the *Freedom of Speech Policy*.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate provides feedback on and endorses the proposed Freedom of Speech Policy.

☆8.10.5 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 AS 20/02-3.10.5Page 083

The purpose of this paper is to update Senate on the recent changes to Academic Governance policies and procedures in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies the variations to policy, as outlined in the attached Policy Response to COVID 19 document.

Members are invited to submit expressions of interest in contributing to the review of particular academic policies, please submit these to Ms Allyson McDonald, Executive Governance Officer at a.mcdonald@westernsydney.edu.au.

3.11 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL

No Posthumous Awards or University medals are required to be noted.

3.12 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Donor Funded Scholarships

AS 20/02-3.12

Page 096

Academic Senate is requested to consider the following proposals for new Donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement:

CBRE Scholarship for Women in Property

This newly confirmed scholarship is for continuing Undergraduate students who are enrolled in the Bachelor of Business (Property). Applicants must be commencing study or enrolled full-time in the second year of the Bachelor of Business (Property), and must demonstrate a commitment to a career in property in their personal statement. Applicants must identify as female. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course, and maintain satisfactory academic progress by passing all subject attempts and maintaining a pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the proposed Donor funded scholarship: CBRE Scholarship for Women in Property.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Items 4.1 - 4.7 provide an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AS 20/02-4.1

Page 098

The Senate Executive Committee has conducted the following electronic meetings:

- Meeting 20/03 Monday, 24 February to Wednesday, 26 February 2020
- Meeting 20/04 Friday, 13 March 2020.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report of the electronic meeting held between Monday, 24 February to Wednesday, 26 February 2020 (Meeting 20/03) and the face to face meeting held on Friday, 13 March 2020 (Meeting 20/04) of the Senate Executive Committee.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

AS 20/02-4.2

Page 104

The Research Committee met on 4 March 2020. The minutes are appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March of the Research Committee.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

AS 20/02-4.3

Page 110

The Research Studies Committee met on 11 February 2020 and 11 March 2020, these minutes are appended. The minutes of the 14 April 2020 meeting will be provided at the next meeting.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2020 and 11 March 2020 of the Research Studies Committee.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AS 20/02-4.4

Page 124

Senate Education Committee met on 10 March 2020, the minutes are appended.

It is recommended:

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

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE AS 20/02-4.5

Page 138

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on 11 February 2020, 3 March 2020 and 2 April 2020, the combined report is appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020, 3 March 2020 and 2 April 2020 and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

AS 20/02-4.6

Late Paper

The Assessment Committee met on 25 February 2020. The minutes will be circulated as a late item.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 25 February 2020.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE AS 20/02-4.7

Page 184

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met face to face on 30 March

2020, and conducted an electronic meeting between 24 - 28 February and 16 - 17 March 2020. Minutes appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the College Academic Pathway Program Committee face to face meeting held on 30 March 2020 (Meeting 20/04) and the electronic meetings of 24-28 February (Meeting 20/02) and 16-17 March (Meeting 20/03).

4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 10 June 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

4.9 2019 ANNUAL REPORTS

AS 20/02-4.9

Page 194

The School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics 2019 SAC Annual report was not available for the 21 February meeting of Senate. The report has been appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the School Academic Committee 2019 Annual Report for the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics.

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday 19 June 2020. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

- 19 June
- 14 August
- 16 October
- 4 December

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