

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 21/01) of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday, 26 February 2021 at 9:30AM**, at **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)** and **via Zoom**.

The Zoom details for this meeting are: [REDACTED]

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 Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, will chair the meeting. The Chair will invite Professor Michelle Trudgett, Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation to open the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Land Owners.

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

- Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies) who will present in relation to item 3.5 Big Picture Education Australia.
- Acknowledge the outgoing Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Scott Bowman.
- Acknowledge the outgoing undergraduate student member Rosina Armstrong-Mensah who has recently graduated from the Bachelor of Social Science.

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from: Professor Tanya Meade, Professor Catherine Renshaw, Professor Scott Bowman, Professor Andrew Page and Professor Annemarie Hennessy.

★1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any interests, in terms of the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), they may have in relation to the items on this agenda. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the [Compliance Program Unit webpage](#).

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:

- 2.1 - Animal Ethics Training
- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.5 – Big Picture Education Australia
- 3.6 – Countering Foreign Interference
- 3.7 – Academic Senate 2021 Work Plan
- 3.8 – Third Party Provider Committee
- 3.13.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group
- 3.14.2 - Master of Research Policy
- 3.14.3 – Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Special Consideration Policy
- 3.14.4 - Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 –Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

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 21/01-1.6

Page 001

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 4 December 2020 (Meeting 20/06) have been circulated.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 4 December 2020 (Meeting 20/06), as an accurate record.

★1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

AS 21/01-1.7

Page 016

To assist members with monitoring the work of the Academic Senate, an action sheet from the previous meeting has been circulated.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

☆2.1 ANIMAL ETHICS TRAINING

AS 21/01-2.1
Page 019

The purpose of this item is to inform Academic Senate of the current animal ethics training requirements for staff and students, and to discuss future training plans.

For Noting and Discussion.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

AS 21/01-3.1
Late paper

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 4 December has been circulated. 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 24 February meeting of the Board of Trustees, will be appended to the Chair's report.

For Discussion.

☆3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

AS 21/01-3.2
Page 022

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended.

For Noting.

☆3.3 STUDENT REPORT

AS 21/01-3.3
Page 033

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

For Noting.

3.4 ACADEMIC SENATE REVIEW AND TERMS OF REFERENCE VARIATIONS

AS 21/01-3.4
Late Paper

The purpose of this item is to discuss the outcomes of the Academic Senate review survey and recommendations, and to evaluate the Academic Senate standing committee's Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

- School Academic Committee
- School Academic Committee Executive
- School Academic Committee Graduate Research School
- School Research and HDR Committee
- Multi-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee
- Research Committee
- Research Studies Committee.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

- *School Academic Committee*
- *School Academic Committee Executive*
- *School Academic Committee Graduate Research School*
- *School Research and HDR Committee*
- *Multi-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee*
- *Research Committee*
- *Research Studies Committee.*

☆3.5 **BIG PICTURE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA**

AS 21/01-3.5

Page 037

The purpose of this briefing paper is to showcase the University's partnership with Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA). Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies) will present in relation to this item.

For Discussion.

☆3.6 **COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**

AS 21/01-3.6

Page 042

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President (Research, Enterprise and International) and Dr Shantala Mohan, Director, Research Impact and Integrity will present in relation to foreign interference and the *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020* (Foreign Relations Bill).

For Discussion.

☆3.7 **ACADEMIC SENATE 2021 WORK PLAN**

AS 21/01-3.7

Late paper

The purpose of this item is to discuss and review the Academic Senate 2021 work plan document.

For Discussion.

☆3.8 **THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE**

AS 21/01-3.8

Page 055

The purpose of this item is to present Academic Senate with the Third Party Provider Committee (TPPC) for discussion and approval.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the formation of the Third Party Provider Committee, and the associated Terms of Reference.

3.9 CONFERRAL OF GRADUANDS

AS 21/01-3.9
Page 057

The purpose of this paper is for Academic Senate to note the conferral of awards to graduands who have had their graduation conferred by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Academic Senate.

For Noting.

3.10 2020 ACADEMIC SENATE ATTENDANCE RECORD

AS 21/01-3.10
Page 058

The purpose of this item is for Senate to note the attendance record at the 2020 meetings of Academic Senate.

For Noting.

3.11 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS REPORT 2020

AS 21/01-3.11
Page 061

The purpose of this report is to notify Academic Senate of academic promotions in accordance with the *Western Sydney University Promotions Policies (Promotion – Academic Promotion Procedures)*.

For Noting.

3.12 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

3.13 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.

☆3.13.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group

Dr. Martin Daly will provide Senate with a verbal update on the draft *Fitness to Practice Policy*.

For Discussion.

3.14 POLICY REVIEW

3.14.1 Policy Review Update

AS 21/01-3.14.1
Page 068

The purpose of this item is to notify Senate of the proposed policies to be prioritised for 2021 for consideration and progress by the Academic Senate Policy Committee.

For Noting.

☆3.14.2 Master of Research Policy

AS 21/01-3.14.2
Page 071

The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of Senate for the draft *Master of Research Policy*.

It is recommended:

It is recommended that the Academic Senate approves the proposed Master of Research Policy from the date of approval.

☆3.14.3 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Special Consideration Policy

AS 21/01-3.14.3
Page 084

The purpose of this paper is to seek Senate's ratification for an extension to the variation to clauses 25 – 32 of the *Special Consideration Policy*.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies the variation extension to clauses 25-32 of the Special Consideration Policy, for an additional three months.

☆3.14.4 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy

AS 21/01-3.14.4
Page 086

The purpose of this paper is to seek Senate's ratification of the following addition to the policy variation to the *Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy*:

Students who are identified for exclusion for poor performance in future sessions (not including Quarter 1, 2021) will continue to be referred to the WesternSuccess program. In addition, their details will be provided to the relevant Director of Academic Program (DAP). If they cannot be contacted by WesternSuccess or the DAP, the exclusion will be applied to their record. These students will be eligible to Appeal an exclusion decision.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies the variation to the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy (GPA Neutral Scheme) as reflected in attachment 1 of item 3.14.4.

3.15 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

The *Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy* states that Academic Senate and Senate Assessment Committee should be notified of the rationale and decision to approve a Posthumous award.

AS 21/01-3.15.1

Page 088

The [REDACTED] approved the awarding of course [REDACTED] posthumously to [REDACTED]. This was noted at the 23 February meeting (Meeting 21/01) of Senate Assessment Committee.

For Noting.

3.16 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

There are no University or Donor funded scholarships for approval at this meeting.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Items 4.1 – 4.9 provide an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AS 21/01-4.1

Page 103

Senate Executive Committee conducted the following meetings:

- Friday, 11 December 2020 (Meeting 20/08) by electronic circulation;
- Friday, 15 January 2021 (Meeting 21/01);
- Friday, 21 January 2021 (Meeting 21/02); and
- Wednesday, 27 January (Meeting 21/03).

The minutes of these meetings have been circulated.

For Noting.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on Friday, 12 February 2021, the minutes will be reported to the next meeting of Senate.

For Noting.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

AS 21/01-4.3

Page 112

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 8 December 2020, Tuesday, 12 January 2021 and Tuesday, 9 February 2021. The minutes have been circulated.

For Noting.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee have not met since the last meeting of Senate.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

AS 21/01-4.5

Late paper

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on Tuesday, 19 January 2021 (meeting 21/01) and Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (meeting 21/02). A circular resolution was held between 16 -19 February 2021 (Circular 21/01).

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 19 January 2021 (meeting 21/01), Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (meeting 21/02) and the circular resolution 21/01 and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 (meeting 21/01). The minutes will be available at the next meeting of Academic Senate.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

AS 21/01-4.7

Page 135

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on the following dates:

- 5 November 2020 (meeting 20/10);
- Thursday, 10 December 2020 via electronic circulation (meeting 20/11); and
- Monday, 4 January 2021 via electronic circulation (meeting 21/01).

For Noting.

4.8 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

AS 21/01-4.8

Page 151

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday, 20 January 2021. The minutes have been circulated.

For Noting.

4.9 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

The purpose of this item is for Senate to ensure that all Standing Committees of Academic Senate are carrying out their functions in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

4.9.1	School of Built Environment	Page 156
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4.9.7	School of Humanities and Communication Arts	Page 176
4.9.8	School of Law	Late paper
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4.9.12	School of Science	Page 189
4.9.13	School of Social Sciences	Page 191
4.9.14	Graduate Research School	Page 194
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4.9.16	Research Committee	Late Paper
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4.9.21	Senate Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee	Page 223
4.9.22	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Health and Medicine Cluster	Page 227
4.9.23	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) Cluster	Page 231
4.9.24	Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning Committee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Cluster	Page 237

For Discussion and Noting.

4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 14 April 2021. 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_9d_meetings

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, 16 April 2021. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

- 16 April
- 18 June
- 13 August
- 15 October
- 10 December.

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