

# ACADEMIC SENATE

Circulated: 15 October 2015

Confirmed minutes of meeting 15/04 of the Academic Senate of the University held on Friday 14 August 2015 at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Building AD, at Werrington North.

## Present:

Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Chair)  
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright  
Professor James Arvanitakis  
Dr Catherine Attard  
Dr Matthias Boer  
Mr Jarrod Bradley  
Ms Ellen Brackenreg (Acting PVC Students)  
Professor Kevin Dunn  
Associate Professor Craig Ellis  
Ms Ushi Ghoorah-Hurrychurn  
Associate Professor Betty Gill  
Professor Barney Glover (VC)  
Mr Michael Gonzalez (Acting Librarian)  
Dr Deborah Hatcher (Acting Dean SoNM)  
Professor Annemarie Hennessy  
Professor Scott Holmes  
Professor Peter Hutchings  
Mr John Juriansz  
Dr Cindy Kersaitis  
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick  
Professor Gregory Kolt

Ms Shaneen McGlinchey  
Associate Professor Jane Mears  
Dr Terri Mylett  
Associate Professor Janette Perz  
Dr Christopher Peterson  
Dr Awais Piracha  
Dr Alpha Possamai-Inesedy  
Associate Professor Anne Power  
Dr Elfriede Sangkuhl  
Professor Simeon Simoff  
Professor Michele Simons  
Associate Professor Terry Sloan  
Professor Sheree Smith  
Professor Kate Stevens  
Professor Deborah Sweeney  
Professor Zhong Tao  
Associate Professor Linda Taylor  
Ms Maxine Veale  
Professor Greg Whateley  
Dr Qinghua Zeng

## In Attendance:

Ms Gillian Brown (Secretary)  
Mr Matthew Hinde  
Mr Ian Londish

Ms Belinda Salvatori  
Ms Pru Wirth

## Apologies:

Professor Michael Adams  
Professor Ian Anderson  
Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik  
Associate Professor Bronwyn Cole  
Professor Donna Craig  
Ms Sue Craig

Professor Rhonda Griffiths  
Associate Professor Alana Lentini  
Dr David Mahns  
Mr Murray Robertson  
Associate Professor Leanne Rylands

## Absent:

Mr Mitchell Klievens  
Professor Donald McNeill

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## 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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### 1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOMES, CONGRATULATIONS, FAREWELLS AND APOLOGIES

#### Welcome

The Chair of Academic Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, chaired the meeting of the Senate, and opened it by reading an Acknowledgment of the Traditional Owners, as follows:

“As a matter of Indigenous cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, the University acknowledges the Darug, Gandangarra and Tharawal peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in Greater Western Sydney.

In particular I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting today, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are here today.”

The Chair welcomed Dr Alphaia Possamai-Inesedy, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), Arts and Mr Jarrod Bradley, one of the newly elected student representatives, to their first meeting of Senate.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were noted and accepted.

## **1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests, in terms of the Conflict of Interest Guidelines, they may have in relation to the items on this agenda.

No declarations of interest were reported.

## **1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS**

Apart from procedural items, items starred on the agenda were:

- 3.1 Report from the Chair
- 3.2 Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.6 Red Tape Taskforce
- 3.9 Review of Academic Senate Standing Committees and Self - Review of Academic Senate
- 3.11 *Revised Assessment Policy – Criteria and Standards-based Assessment*
- 3.12 New Course Proposals – New Bachelor of Business Course, Postgraduate Qualifying Program (PQP non-award) and complementary Graduate Certificate in Postgraduate Studies (GCPS)

It was agreed to star the following additional items:

- 3.7 Development of 1 Parramatta Square
- 3.8 Rebranding of the University

### **It was resolved (AS15:04/01):**

*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 endorsed.*

## **1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Discussions concerning items 3.8 *Rebranding of the University* and 3.7 *Development of 1 Parramatta Square* occurred as part of the *Report from the Vice-Chancellor* at item 3.2.

## **1.5 OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Senate had before it the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate meeting held on 19 June 2015:

### **It was resolved (AS15:04/02):**

*To confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 19 June 2015 as an accurate record.*

## **1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING**

To assist members with monitoring the work of Senate, the action sheet from the meeting held on 19 June 2015 and previous meetings had been circulated.

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## **2 BUSINESS ARISING**

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### **2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **2.1 MINUTE 3.6 - STUDENT ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**

Without discussion it was noted that a revised draft of the *Student Misconduct Rule*, as endorsed by Senate at the 19 June 2015 meeting, will be progressed for consideration by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on 9 September 2015.

#### **2.2 MINUTE 3.10 - NEW STUDENT PLACEMENT POLICY**

Without discussion it was noted that the new *Student Placement Policy* had been published on the Policy DDS.

#### **2.3 MINUTE 3.11 - REVISED TEACHING AND LEARNING FUNDAMENTAL CODE**

Without discussion it was noted that the revised version of the *Teaching and Learning Fundamental Code*, as approved by the Senate Executive Committee at its 17 July 2015 meeting, had been progressed for publication on the Policy DDS.

#### **2.4 MINUTE 3.12 - REVISED AWARD COURSES AND UNITS APPROVAL POLICY**

Without discussion it was noted that the revised *Award Courses and Units Approval Policy* had been published on the Policy DDS.

## **2.5 MINUTE 3.13 - REVISED DOCTORATE POLICY**

Without discussion it was noted that the revised version of the *Doctorate Policy*, including a new clause (9) for complying with the *United Nations Security Council and Australia's Autonomous Sanctions* legislation, had been had been progressed for publication on the Policy DDS.

## **2.6 MINUTE 3.14 - REVISED AND RENAMED RESEARCH MASTERS (HONOURS) POLICY**

Without discussion it was noted that the revised version of this policy was provided to the 19 June 2015 meeting of Senate but due to time constraints discussion did not occur. Members agreed to provide comments electronically and for the revised policy to be considered by the Senate Executive Committee at its 17 July 2015 meeting. Senate members suggested further substantial revisions, and the item was withdrawn from the Senate Executive Committee agenda to allow further discussions to take place within the Graduate Research School and Research Studies Committee.

## **2.7 MINUTE 3.15 - NEW DUAL AWARD AND JOINT HIGHER DEGREES POLICY**

Without discussion it was noted that the new *Dual Award and Joint Higher Degrees Policy*, to replace the existing *Cotutelle Policy*, had been progressed for publication on the Policy DDS and that editorial comments made at the electronic meeting of the Senate Executive Committee held from 21 to 27 July 2015 have been referred to the Dean, Graduate Studies.

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## **3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Senate had before it a written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 19 June 2015.

The Chair provided an update on recent developments and reported the following additional matters.

- Many colleagues have commented on the valuable consultation and discussion around the development of *Securing Success*, endorsed by Academic Senate, which is driving, shaping and underpinning much of the work that is under way, from branding to internationalisation, research and research training, and building interdisciplinary partnerships.
- The work of the PVC Education and Associate PVCs with leadership from the DVC Academic and her team, regarding the new *Learning and Teaching Plan* was acknowledged. An initial draft is currently being developed which will be open for consultation.
- Investigations are underway in relation to students who are alleged to have submitted assessment tasks that were purchased from MyMaster, with assurances that "if any allegations are substantiated, the University will apply the relevant sanctions under the University's Student Academic Misconduct Policy." The potential sanctions can be very severe.

- The last major review of assessment was in 2007, well before the AUQA Cycle 2 audit, and discussions at Senate and elsewhere suggest that it would be timely and productive to conduct another review, including various aspects of assessment integrity. The Vice-Chancellor and DVC (Academic) have asked the Chair to lead this review.
- As indicated in the Chair's written report, it is proposed to adopt the national Higher Education Standards Framework as a replacement for the University's existing Academic and Assessment Standards Framework for Learning and Teaching, which has been of great value and points toward the more comprehensive national Framework. We will start by updating our academic policies, in the context of the new *Learning and Teaching Plan*.

### 3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on major initiatives and commented on relevant sectoral developments:

- The University rebranding:
  - A mixed response to the rebranding was expected and many positive as well as some negative responses have been received. Members were reassured that the Board of Trustees considered a detailed proposal before making a decision and further advice regarding the rebranding has been provided in Yammer postings.
  - Staff and students were consulted prior to the media announcement and this engagement continues as consequential issues of the change are considered. Registrations for the Open Day are ahead of other years and the International feedback has also been encouraging.
  - A more detailed report will be provided to Senate in October following the report to the Board of Trustees in September. Regulatory and legislative issues regarding the *UWS Act* are being addressed.

Further discussions regarding this item are recorded under the agenda item 3.8 *Rebranding of the University*.

- Universities Australia
  - Government proposals about literacy and numeracy testing for pre-service teachers have raised concerns regarding timing, graduation and accreditation, including implications for institutional autonomy.
  - A new policy statement will be released soon to set the scene for the next Federal election, noting there is some urgency with regards to the budget context.
- Development of the Westmead Campus – an announcement regarding expressions of interest regarding the redevelopment of the Westmead Campus was due to be released on Monday 17 August. The press release and statement will note the preservation of the historic precinct in the context of broader developments for the site.
- 1 Parramatta Square
  - Important milestones have been reached and further announcements are expected in the near future.

- The programs to be delivered at this site are currently being assessed by the DVC (Academic).

Further discussions regarding this item are recorded under the agenda item 3.7 *Development of 1 Parramatta Square*.

- Senior appointments – Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver has been appointed as the inaugural Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership) commencing in January 2016 and based at the Parramatta campus.
- Student Load – A report of student load will be completed in the next few weeks and will be discussed with the Deans of each School. It was noted that The College is over-target whilst the full-time student load for the University has reduced by approximately 520.
- *Securing Success* – a benchmarking document with around thirty key dashboard indicators is being developed. This will be provided to inform Senate of the University's high-level indicators.

### **3.3 HIGHER EDUCATION STANDARDS AND REGULATION**

At the 5 December 2014 meeting members agreed to establish a working party to review and contribute to consultation about the draft TEQSA guidance notes on Academic Governance and Corporate Governance, and report back to Senate. The working party was also asked to provide advice to Senate regarding how well our current academic governance processes satisfy the draft guidelines.

The Working Party's report was used to develop a set of actions included in Senate's draft 2015 Work Plan, including further governance information and resources for Senate members; improvements to reporting arrangements and communication between the various levels of University governance; self-review of Senate; and a greater focus on the role of External Advisory Committees.

The Working Party is being reconvened to consider a range of issues including the proposed Higher Education Standards Framework (please see agenda item 3.1) and processes to improve communication and discussion about Senate-related matters. A replacement Chair is being sought and the first meeting of the reconvened working party will be scheduled shortly. An update will be provided to the next meeting of Senate.

### **3.4 SENATE WORK PLAN**

At the 13 February 2015 meeting Senate members indicated their support for a set of working priorities to give shape, context and focus to the overall Work Plan for 2015.

The details of the Senate Work Plan are strongly influenced by the implementation and action plans for *Securing Success*, which are under development. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), Associate Professor Bronwyn Cole, is leading the development of the new *Learning and Teaching Plan* which will be open for consultation in early September 2015.

A draft Senate Work Plan was provided to the 24 April meeting of Senate and the document is continuing to develop in response to the *Securing Success* implementation plans and their areas of focus for 2015. An updated Work Plan, including progress to date, will be provided for the 23 October meeting.

### **3.5 SECURING SUCCESS: A Unique Learning Experience that is Innovative, Flexible and Responsive**

At the 20 June 2014 meeting the then Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Engagement) provided an update to Senate members on the recent work and plans for the UWS Academic Program 2014 – 2018 confirming the main principles as:

- Grow program offerings but maintain number of units offered;
- Map offerings on a whole of career context;
- Offer flexible modalities;
- Offer new campus locations;
- Establish holistic academic and career advising.

Members also requested information regarding the career mapping for Education courses, noting that a web enabled mapping tool was being created to assist schools. Due to insufficient time a presentation on this Online Career Mapping Tool was postponed from the 19 June 2015 meeting of Senate. This presentation will be provided to members at the 23 October 2015 meeting.

### **3.6 RED TAPE TASKFORCE**

The Red Tape Taskforce was established to review a range of administrative tasks required in support of teaching and research programs. This initiative of the Board of Trustees aimed to identify opportunities to free up academic time currently spent on administration, while improving efficiencies and processes.

A report and update on the progress on several of the priority areas identified by the Taskforce was provided at the 24 April meeting of Senate. This ongoing program continues to look at the efficiency of business processes and the Taskforce operates as a reference group to provide advice about opportunities and priorities for improving efficiency.

The Senior Project Manager, Mr Matthew Hinde provided an update on the progress with individual projects as follows:

- There has been a period of transition to Project Office mode and a University-wide communication is being prepared regarding the progress to date by the Red Tape Taskforce. Performance efficiency grants are being launched in the next few weeks, and proposals will be sought from across the University.
- A major piece of work around the University's Travel processes is nearing completion, and a new system is planned to be available from 1 October 2015.
- A project of transitioning the expenses for University Research Institutes from Excel to Oracle is almost complete.
- Assistance with new processes and systems is being provided to the Graduate Research School at its planning day.
- A final report on the Compass system has been provided to the Vice-President (People and Advancement).

The Red Tape Taskforce will continue until red tape across the University have been minimised. Members were requested to advise the Project Office of any efficiency projects currently underway to ensure duplication does not occur.

The following additional items were identified to be reviewed by the Red Tape Taskforce:

- The PhD thesis submission and examination process which contains 21 steps, with delays reported at seven of these.
- Risk assessments and identification of hazards to be converted to an online process.
- The new ethics approval process has been implemented and a new smart form system is being developed to complement the new process. It is planned to trial the new system in June 2016.

### **3.7 DEVELOPMENT OF 1 PARRAMATTA SQUARE**

At the 19 June 2014 meeting the Vice-Chancellor and President recommended that the development of the new Parramatta City Campus (1PSQ) be included as a standing item on Senate agendas to afford members the opportunity for information and academic debate regarding this project.

Members welcomed the strategy of consulting with affected schools to ensure this additional campus is focussed on enhancing the learning outcomes for students and the University's research activities. Clear communication and discussion was recommended to ensure this is also the perception of the wider university community.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the floor plan and fit-out had been finalised and four sub-groups of the working party established to address the teaching and learning spaces. A replica of the teaching space will be available on Kingswood campus by Summer session 2016 for staff to test and experience.

Members endorsed the importance of having a coherent set of programs and resources to take advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities and research linkages.

### **3.8 REBRANDING OF THE UNIVERSITY**

This item was included on Senate's agenda to afford members the opportunity to provide input and comment on the rebranding of the University, noting that the Office of Governance Services is assessing the operational implications for Senate. Members provided the following comments:

- Some concerns were expressed about a loss of focus in the University's advertising on its mission for equity and access. The Vice-Chancellor assured members there was no reduction in the University's commitment to the disadvantaged, and the campaign was designed to appeal more broadly and passionately to Western Sydney;
- It was noted that the stories of three graduates are included in the initial advertising and Schools will be asked to provide further examples to communicate the access that the University provides to excellence in teaching, research and career prospects;
- The rebranding is intended to make Western Sydney "the university you want to be at and not just the university you can get into";
- In response to concerns about the perception that the people featured in the advertising appear to be models, it was noted that they are all students who

were in the Kingswood Campus Library on the day of filming. In response to concerns that all of them are young, it was noted that the community is well aware that mature aged students gain admission to the University, and it was considered that the re-branding will not change this;

- The short consultation period was acknowledged, noting the challenges presented by the confidential aspects of launching a re-branding;
- Members were advised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were consulted, with positive feedback received;
- Appropriate nomenclature for UWSCollege and the International College was being investigated;
- Engagement with alumni and students is continuing and all respectful emails are being answered. More positive comments were being received than negative; and
- The need to minimise the disruptions to email and IT services was recognised. Monitoring and evaluation of the re-branding will be undertaken, involving focus groups.

Further information and opportunities for comment and discussion are available through Yammer and the University's website; please see:

<http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/roadshow>

[http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/brand\\_questions](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/brand_questions)

### **3.9 REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES and SELF - REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE**

As discussed at previous meetings, Academic Senate's Standing Committees are being reviewed progressively, to identify any changes that would improve their operation and the flow of information between the committees and Senate.

Work is progressing on the course and unit approval committees through the Course Approval Process Review Working Party, chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), and taking account of the recommendations from the Red Tape Taskforce. The Working Party will recommend changes to committee structures and delegations, and to the *Award Courses and Units Approvals Policy*, for consideration by Education Committee and Senate.

The Chair of Academic Senate, on behalf of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) provided a brief update on the work of the Course Approval Process Review Working Party. As part of the strategy for simplifying the committee structures and strengthening the roles and accountabilities of the schools, a number of delegations have been updated in the past few months to give the schools more authority and responsibility for a range of unit changes. The working party is also working on revised arrangements for the School Academic Committees and APCAC to cover the work that Curriculum Quality Committees currently do, to reduce complexity and shorten approval timelines. It is proposed that these arrangements will include:

- Clarifying the requirements for course concept proposals and full course proposals.
- Encouraging the roles of course teaching teams to ensure good-quality documentation.

- Acknowledging the important role of training for School Academic Committee members.
- Promotion of collaboration across disciplines and schools.
- Clarifying the distinction between the approval paths for academic and budget/resource considerations, to ensure they occur in parallel with correct information for each.
- Sharing of best practice between the schools regarding course development and review, prior to proposals being considered by School Academic Committees.
- Ensuring that resource implications such as Library resources and capital works requirements are considered at the course concept stage.

The draft Senate Work Plan proposes that a self-review of Academic Senate will occur in the second half of 2015, following the Performance Review of the Board of Trustees and its other standing committees, and informed by benchmarking with other academic boards and senates. Work has commenced on a survey instrument for Academic Senate members and a proposal developed by the Office of Governance Services will be provided for consideration by Senate at its 23 October meeting.

### 3.10 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

This standing agenda item has been introduced in line with item four of the Academic Senate Work Plan - **Develop and review academic policy**. An update on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress to date by the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG) is listed below:

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Admissions</i>	A draft revised policy has been prepared by ARO in conjunction with the Pathways Project and is being reviewed by APAG.
<i>Assessment Policy – Criteria and Standards-based Assessment (Assessment Policy)</i>	Following further discussion of mandatory assessment requirements and processes for resolving temporary grades a revised version was considered by Senate members at item 3.11.
<i>Award Courses and Units Approvals</i>	Awaiting proposed changes to the course approvals process, including responses to recommendations from the Red Tape Taskforce (see item 3.9).
<i>Misconduct – Student Academic Misconduct</i>	A revised version of the proposed <i>Student Misconduct Rule</i> was endorsed by Senate at the 19 June 2015 meeting in the wider context of Academic Honesty and Integrity at the University. The <i>Rule</i> will be considered by the Board of Trustees at its 9 September 2015 meeting.
<i>Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress</i>	Suitable data sources have been identified and benchmarking is being progressed. The Progression Policy Working Party will review this policy in the second half of 2015.
<i>Special Consideration</i>	The review of this complex policy has being progressed by the Special Consideration Working Party and further benchmarking has been completed to create a new <i>Disruption to Studies Policy</i> to

	replace the <i>Special Consideration Policy</i> . A draft will be discussed at the next meeting of APAG.
<i>Teaching and Learning Fundamental Code</i>	A revised version has been approved, and is being progressed for publication on the Policy DDS.

The following policies are also scheduled for review in 2015:

- *Postgraduate Coursework Policy*
- *Academic Advising Policy*

Members are invited to submit expressions of interest in contributing to the review of particular academic policies (please email [Gillian.Brown@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:Gillian.Brown@westernsydney.edu.au)).

### 3.11 REVISED ASSESSMENT POLICY – Criteria and Standards-Based Assessment

The 19 June 2015 Senate meeting discussed a set of proposed amendments to the *Assessment Policy – Criteria and Standards-based Assessment* (the Assessment Policy). The amendments arose from the review of the policy conducted in 2014 and Senate was provided with a discussion paper to allow debate and discussion about several matters on which there had been divergent views from the School Academic Committees.

Members provided comments, in particular about the proposal to make mandatory assessment the default requirement (clause 10) and about the automatic adjustment of unresolved 'N' grades to the new 'FNS' grade (currently 'AF') after census date.

The comments were discussed by Senate's Assessment Committee on 27 July 2015, and further feedback obtained in relation to grades-related issues from School Academic Committees.

The Assessment Committee made a strong argument for adopting the clause requiring all assessment tasks to be mandatory, unless otherwise specified, and agreed to make clarifications to the process whereby unresolved 'N' grades are converted to the new 'FNS' and that the Dean or Deputy Dean should approve this.

A revised version of the policy incorporating the views expressed by Assessment Committee and endorsed by Education Committee was discussed at this Senate meeting. The paper regarding this revised version proposed a streamlined process for identifying non-mandatory assessment tasks, seeking to minimise the administrative work required.

Some editorial amendments regarding consistency were sought by members with the following in particular:

- A definition of "submission";
- Rewording of clause (17)f from "students are not over-loaded" to "not so excessive as to detract from the students' learning";
- Clarity in 'R' grade definition to refer to a final or outcome grade;
- Include a reference that tasks where a student has not been assessed before/elsewhere will be mandatory;
- Need for a transition plan for the changes;
- If fundamental outcomes of the unit have been assessed then 'FNS' should not be used;
- Questions of consistency in wording across some clauses.

As these detailed amendments could not be resolved at the meeting,

**The recommendation was withdrawn.**

Senate members agreed to reconsider the revised policy at the October 2015 meeting with comments from Senate members to be sought prior to the meeting.

*Action: Provide comments to Education Committee and the Academic Registrar to discuss further.*

### **3.12 NEW COURSE PROPOSALS - New Bachelor of Business Course, Postgraduate Qualifying Program (PQP non-award) and complementary Graduate Certificate in Postgraduate Studies (GCPS)**

Approval was provided to fast-track the consideration for the new Bachelor of Business course, Postgraduate Qualifying Program Award course and Graduate Certificate in Postgraduate Studies. A briefing paper was provided at this meeting of Senate to facilitate discussion, foreshadowing consideration of the finalised course documents by the Senate Executive Committee at its 18 September 2015 meeting, on the recommendation of APCAC, following its 26 August meeting, to meet course advertising requirements.

The Dean of the School of Business introduced these items for discussion noting the following main elements of the variations:

- The new courses have been workshopped with external parties to ensure that they reflect contemporary practice.
- The existing undergraduate course needed to be reviewed to reverse the current trend of decreasing market share, and broaden its appeal to both domestic and international students.
- The new course will embed key skills in its core units, foster greater cooperation across disciplines, and facilitate strong partnerships with interns in the University Research Institutes.
- The new postgraduate program will initially be targeted at International students, but may also be attractive to domestic students, and serve as an exemplar for similar courses in other disciplines.

Members endorsed the proposed process and timeline, commending the overall thrust of the course changes and providing the following suggestions:

- Members supported the the proposed specialisations but questioned the traditional titles. It was explained that the more traditional titles are understood by the market and so have been retained at this time.
- It is important that the revised units are available by the commencing date of the start of 2016.
- The combination of the diverse elements within the School of Business was seen as a selling point for the course, and the recognition that Business underpins other discipline areas.
- Other important factors are assurance of quality and adherence to accreditation requirements, and a strong and clear narrative around the communication to students and employers.

*Action: Inclusion of these course variations to the Senate Executive agenda for the 18 September 2015 meeting.*

### **3.13 REVISED MEMBERSHIP OF GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

At the 22 September 2014 e-meeting of the Senate Executive Committee members approved the membership of the Graduate Research School Academic Committee.

A Deputy Dean for the Graduate Research School has now been appointed and approval was sought to amend the membership of the Graduate Research School Academic Committee to include a Deputy Dean, in line with other School Academic Committees.

Without discussion.....

#### **It was resolved (AS15:04/03):**

*That Academic Senate approves the revised membership of the Graduate Research School Academic Committee, effective from the date of publication on the Academic Senate Standing Committees website.*

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## **4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

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### **4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Without discussion...

#### **It was resolved (AS15:04/04):**

*That Academic Senate notes the report of the Senate Executive Committee electronic meeting conducted between 21 and 27 July 2015.*

### **4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

Without discussion...

#### **It was resolved (AS15:04/05):**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the 4 August 2015 meeting of the Research Committee.*

### **4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

Without discussion...

#### **It was resolved (AS15:04/06):**

*That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the 7 July 2015 face to face Research Studies Committee meeting.*

### **4.4 EDUCATION and ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES**

Without discussion...

**It was resolved (AS15:04/07):**

*That Academic Senate notes the report of the Assessment Committee meeting held on 27 July 2015 and the electronic meeting conducted between 31 July and 5 August 2015.*

**4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE**

Without discussion ....

**It was resolved (AS15:04/08):**

*That Academic Senate notes the reports of the face to face 24 June and 22 July meetings and the electronic meeting conducted between 6 and 7 August 2015 of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee and ratifies the recommendations contained therein.*

**4.6 BACHELOR (HONOURS) COMMITTEE**

The Bachelor (Honours) Committee met last on 30 March 2015. The next meeting of the Bachelor (Honours) Committee will be held on 28 September 2015.

**4.7 UWSCOLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

The UWSCollege Academic Committee met face to face on 28 July 2015. The minutes of this meeting will be provided to the next meeting of Senate.

**4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees met on 2 June 2015.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9 September 2015. Summaries of Board of Trustees meetings, and minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, are available on the web-site at: <http://www.uws.edu.au/boardoftrustees>.

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**5 FOR INFORMATION**

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No items were reported.

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**6 NEXT MEETING**

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The next Academic Senate meeting is arranged for Friday 23 October. The remaining Senate meeting dates for 2015 are as follows:

- Friday 23 October
- Friday 4 December

All the meetings start at 9.30 AM, and will be held in the Board Room, Building AD, at Werrington North.