



ACADEMIC SENATE

The meeting (Meeting 23/03) of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday, 16 June 2023 at, 9:30AM, at, Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) and via Zoom.

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright (Associate Dean, HDR, Graduate Research School)
Associate Professor Amit Arora (Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences)
Dr Evan Atlantis (Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences)
Professor Clive Baldock (Dean, Graduate Research School)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Vice-President, Academic)
Professor Simon Bedford (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Futures)
Dr Rachel Bentley (Acting Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts)
Dr Nathan Berger (Senior Lecturer, School of Education)
Dr Maria Bhatti (Lecturer, School of Law)
Dr Ritesh Chimoriya (Postgraduate Student Representative) (arrived 10.17am, exited 10.32am)
Professor Anna Cody (Dean, School of Law)
Dr Evan Crawford (Academic Program Advisor, BICT and Information Systems, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences)
Associate Professor Ann Dadich (Associate Professor, School of Business)
Associate Professor Gary Dennis (Acting Dean, School of Science)
Professor Miroslav Filipovic (Discipline Lead, Applied Physics, School of Science)
Mr Bowen Fucile (Undergraduate Student Representative)
Ms Jess Gleeson (Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Dr Erika Gyengesi (Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine)
Professor Deborah Hatcher (Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery)
Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy (Pro Vice-Chancellor Health and Medicine Cluster and Dean, School of Medicine)
Associate Professor Ana Hol (Associate Dean, Learning & Teaching, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences)
Ms Leanne Hunt (Senior Lecturer, Deputy Director Clinical, School of Nursing and Midwifery) (exited 12pm)
Professor Mike Kagioglou (Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment)
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana (Senior Lecturer, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment)
Associate Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana (Professor, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment)
Professor Amir Mahmood (Dean, School of Business) (exited 12.20pm)
Professor Robert Mailhammer (Chair of Academic Senate)
Professor Tanya Meade (Dean, School of Psychology)

Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch (Associate Professor in Philosophy, School of Humanities and Communication Arts)
 Mr Anthony Mitri (Action Chief Executive Officer, The College)
 Dr Nicolene Murdoch (Pro Vice-Chancellor Educational Partnerships and Quality)
 Professor Susan Page (Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching)
 Dr Ben Perry (Lecturer, Anatomy and Physiology, School of Science)
 Professor Clare Pollock (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost) (exited 12pm)
 Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement) (exited 12pm)
 Dr Margarite Poulos (Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Communication Arts)
 Mx Vicky-Rae Reed (Disability Matters Student Representative) (arrived 11am)
 Dr Ana Rodas (Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Policing, School of Social Sciences)
 Professor Tony Rossi (Acting Dean, School of Health Sciences)
 Ms Vidushi Sethi (International Student Representative)
 Ms Payal Shah (Postgraduate Student Representative)
 Ms Tiffany Sharpe (Indigenous Australian Student Representative)
 Ms Sirjan Sidhu (Undergraduate Student Representative)
 Professor Simeon Simoff (Pro Vice-Chancellor STEM and Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences)
 Associate Professor Liesel Spencer (Senior Lecturer, Director of Research, School of Law)
 Professor Brian Stout (Pro Vice-Chancellor Humanities, Arts and Social Science Cluster and Dean, School of Social Sciences)
 Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan (Associate Dean (Indigenous Education), School of Education)
 Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President, Research, Enterprise & International)
 Professor Michelle Trudgett (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership)
 Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman (Associate Professor, School of Education)
 Professor Sarah Zhang (Deputy Chair of Academic Senate)

Apologies:

Dr David Arness (Academic Course Advisor, Undergraduate Psychology, School of Psychology)
 Professor Dennis Chang (Professor Of Pharmacology/Associate Director Research, Engagement & Partnerships, Asia, NICM Health Research Institute)
 Professor Kevin Dunn (Pro Vice-Chancellor Research)
 Ms Debra Farrelly (Pro Vice-Chancellor Student and University Planning)
 Dr Erin Mackenzie (Director, Postgraduate Specialist Studies, School of Education)
 Professor Matt McGuire (Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts)
 Professor Graciela Metternicht (Dean, School of Science)
 Dr Alexie Papanicolaou (Associate Professor in Bioinformatics, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment)
 Professor Michele Simons (Dean, School of Education)
 Ms Ayda Succarie (Lecturer, School of Business)
 Professor Linda Taylor (Pro Vice-Chancellor, International)
 Professor Anna Williams (Professor of Ageing, School of Nursing and Midwifery)

Absent:

Professor Andy Marks (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Government and Alliances)
 Professor Neil Merrett (Foundation Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine)
 Ms Fiona Salisbury (Executive Director, Library Services)

In attendance:

Ms Jo Byng (attending on behalf of Professor Linda Taylor)
 Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)

Ms Shubha Devadasen (Associate Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Libby Hughan (Senior Manager, Student Systems, Presenter) (arrived 11.25am)
Ms Jane Hutchison (University Secretary)
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis (Senior Governance Officer)
Emeritus Professor Paul Wormell (Interim Chair, TEQSA Steering Group, Presenter)

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

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

An Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the Chair:

Western Sydney University acknowledges that today's meeting is being held on campuses located on the country of the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal), Wiradjuri peoples and is being held across the lands of many other different Indigenous Australian Nations. Western Sydney University acknowledge their ancestors who have been Traditional Owners of their country for thousands of years. Western Sydney University pays respect to their Elders past and present and thank them for their support of our work in their lands and beyond.

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

New members:

- Mr Bowen Fucile, elected student member (Undergraduate)
- Ms Sirjan “Cookie” Sidhu, elected student member (Undergraduate)
- Mx Vicky-Rae Reed, elected student member (Disability Representative)
- Professor Miroslav Filipovic, nominated academic staff member replacing elected staff member Level D-E for School of Science (due to resignation of Associate Professor Liza Cubbedu)
- Associate Professor Liesel Spencer, nominated academic staff member replacing elected staff member Level D-E for School of Law (due to resignation of Professor Catherine Renshaw)

Acting Deans:

- Associate Professor Gary Dennis, School of Science
- Professor Tony Rossi, School of Health Sciences
- Dr Rachel Bentley, School of Humanities and Communication Arts

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership invited everyone to National NAIDOC Week events to celebrate, learn about and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Prof. Trudgett pointed out that everyone was able to support their local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the various campuses. She especially drew the Committee’s attention to the following events:

Yarramundi Lecture, Tuesday 4th July, Parramatta South Campus

NAIDOC Week BBQ Lunch, Wednesday 5th July, Hawkesbury Campus

First People's Walk & Indigenous Decadal Launch, Thursday 6th July, Kingswood Campus

Basket Weaving, Friday 7 July, Campbelltown Campus

There would also be a launch for the national design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Members were reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during this meeting.

No declarations of interest were reported.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members were asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1 – 2022 Survey Results of Senate and its Standing Committees
- Item 3.1 – Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor’s Report
- Item 3.4 – TEQSA Steering Group update
- Item 3.5 – Education Quality Assurance Reporting to Senate Education Committee
- Item 3.7 - Student Management System Update
- Item 3.9 – Academic Senate Policy Committee Update and Policy Review

It was resolved (AS 23/03:01):

All unstarred items noted and items endorsed.

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 3.9 Academic Senate Policy Committee Update & Policy Review and Item 3.10 Approval of Scholarships were brought forward after Item 3.2 Vice-Chancellor’s Report.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised at this meeting.

Members were advised to email the Chair, Deputy Chair or Secretary with Items for inclusion into future Agendas.

The Chair acknowledged that this was Professor Mike Kagioglou’s last Academic Senate meeting and thanked him for his service to the University. Professor Mike Kagioglou’s acknowledged this recognition.

1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023, (meeting 23/02) were attached for confirmation.

It was resolved (AS 23/03:01a):

The unconfirmed minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate held on Friday, 14 April 2023, (meeting 23/02), are confirmed as an accurate record.

1.7 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To assist members with monitoring and controlling the work of the Committee, the current action sheet (incorporating items arising from previous meetings) was attached.

Members were requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

Action Item 23/02:3.1 - Chair's Report re Deputy Chair of APCAC

Update: No Expressions of Interest have been received; Expression of Interest to stay open.

Action Item 23/02:3.1 - Chair's Report – Should College Academic Pathway Program Committee report to TPPC or Academic Senate

Update: It is unclear if it's best to be funnelling through Third Party Provider Committee or report directly to Academic Senate. Update to be provided at next Academic Senate meeting.

Action Item 23/02:3.7 - Learning Guide Data: Establishment of working Group

Update: Working Group has been created, led by Dr Ana Rodas, and is commencing work by benchmarking learning guides and seeing how other institutions share learning guides. Mx Vicky Reed to get in touch with Dr Ana Rodas to have disability aspect reflected for learning guides Future updates be provided once results are available.

Action Item 23/02:3.7 - Learning Guide Data: Liaise with Deans

Update: Ms Debra Farrelly was an apology. Update to be provided at next Academic Senate meeting.

Action Item 23/02:3.7 - Learning Guide Data: Bring Paper to Senate education Committee:

Update: Complete. Item closed.

Action Item 23/01:46 - MRes Scholarship Metrics

Update: Work has been undertaken on the PhD and MRes strategy in conjunction with the alternative entry strategy and the scholarships linked to the MRes.

Conversations are taking place on completion times available to international students and associated issues with Academic English and having to complete either PhD or MRes while overseas. Further investigation of the expectations on candidates and the lack of knowledge of what is required by students. There is further working with finance looking into the whole cost of the course and making recommendation regarding scholarships. This will be presented to Academic Senate at the last meeting of 2023 (in December).

Action Item 23/04:3.2 - GRS Review Update on Implementation

Update: Updates will be incorporated into the Chair of Research Studies Committee report.

Action Item 22/02:3.1 - SMS Update

Update: Item 3.7.

Action Item 21/03: 3.7.1 - Credit for Prior Learning

Update: Audit of practices paper due to Education Committee

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 2022 SURVEY RESULTS OF SENATE AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES

The results of this survey have been available since the last Academic Senate meeting. There were three items of note:

1. Responsibilities and reporting lines are sometimes not well understood.
2. There is a large volume of work, and more meetings would be beneficial.
3. Presence of senior executive and management has a stifling effect on discussions.

The Chair commented on organisational issues, such as frequency of meetings and distribution of papers, saying that while everyone was doing their best to manage the workload and the distribution of papers, sometimes delays and peaks in workload were inevitable. The lack of clarity regarding the purpose of committees could also be addressed by better communication and better onboarding ensuring that committee members are familiar with their role and the structural embedding of the committees that they sit on. The perceived effect of the Executive was also discussed. Possible suggestions about how to address it were assigned tasks or topics for elected members of Senate to enhance their knowledge in this area, boosting self-confidence, mentoring by more senior members or buddy systems. The Vice-Chancellor noted that people had different perspectives, and these were all respected.

The Chairs of the Standing Committees were given the opportunity to briefly speak on actions that they plan to undertake in response to feedback on their Committee.

Academic Planning and Curriculum Approval Committee

The data needed to be taken in context, as there had been only a 25% response rate, and the responses had been more positive than last year. The negative responses related to membership. The responses also related to how workload was allocated, and the work done in between meetings. The appointment of a Deputy Chair from elected academic members of Senate would be an important step, as this permits other voices from Academic Senate to be heard at APCAC. A decision also needed to be made on how to improve student engagement with the Committee.

Education Committee

The Chair commented, it was good practice to have face to face meetings and the utilisation of the chat in Zoom, incorporating the chat into the minutes and using the Deputy Chair to bring the chat into the minutes. More learning opportunities for those on Committees should be provided to learn the roles and the associated responsibilities; to provide training for Chairs, peer reviewing on papers, templates, online workplan and use the role of the Deputy Chair more.

Assessment Committee

Changes to OGS staff had resulted in loss of corporate knowledge, as has the change from Deputy Deans to Associate Deans, Teaching and Learning. The Committee was starting to utilise e-meetings.

Third Party Provider Committee

The Chair noted that there was a need to communicate outwards to stakeholders and have a firm understanding of role of Third Party Provider Committee. The appointment of a Deputy Chair would also be helpful.

Academic Senate Policy Committee

A review of Terms of Reference, Committee membership and number/frequency of meetings was required.

Research Studies Committee

The Chair pointed to numerous ongoing issues the Committee was tasked with, and said there was not enough time to cover these. There was a need to review the Terms of Reference and remove the operational matters from the Research Studies Committee. The Chair disputed the response that all members were not given the opportunity to engage and ask questions.

Research Committee

The Chair said that the Deputy Chair was very helpful with the engagement of members. The Committee would trial one or two discussants from Academic Senate members and provide an opportunity for all to participate.

It was noted that the survey was internally focused and that an external component would be able to give a richer picture, especially on the perception on how the Committees are performing. More work would need to be done on informing the University on the work and functionality of the Committees. In this connection, a member noted that the Vice-Chancellor's weekly updates on the activity of Board of Trustees, the Higher Education Sector, and what is taking place in the University was a step towards providing a better flow of information and more transparency.

2.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STRATEGY

The Academic Integrity Strategy was approved [subject to amendments](#) at the last meeting of Senate. The revised strategy document is appended for noting.

The revised Academic Integrity Strategy was noted.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 14 April 2023 was circulated for noting. The Chair, Professor Robert Mailhammer, highlighted the following from the report:

The Chair chaired the Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CoCABS) meeting at PS on 4 May 2023 as Acting Chair and subsequently was elected Deputy Chair. Current projects of the Committee include the preparation of a second Accord submission from the national committee (OzCABS), a more formalised and institutionalised structure for OzCABS, and a comparative project on academic governance.

The Chair also mentioned the Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate Forum, taking place on 4 August, focusing on the interim report of the Accord panel, and pointed out that the University's academic quality assurance processes have been very much in focus over the past months, especially given TEQSA re-registration.

The Chair invited the Chairs of the peak standing committees of Academic Senate to provide a brief update on current work.

Academic Planning and Curriculum Approval Committee (APCAC)

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Simon Barrie noted that the Committee was continuing working on the curriculum portfolio review and mapping inactive subjects across the University. It also considered CDA adjustments, AI and the Academic Literacy Strategy.

Senate Education Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Simon Bedford, advised that the first series of Quality Assurance Reports provided an opportunity for members to see how they performed. He also said that the new Engaged Teaching Transformation Project would support raising Teaching Quality. The 2022 TEQSA Compliance report foreshadowed areas of focus - the delivery and curriculum quality, and the opportunities and threats brought about by AI, inclusive education for our students, particularly access to computers and technology, noting high levels of disadvantage among students. The Committee also considered the review of key areas to cover in the forthcoming School Teaching and learning reports. Another set of Honours Guidelines using the new Honours Procedures were approved. The Learning Guides Task and Finish Group was established to review fitness for purpose of learning guides and there was good discussion of the Academic Literacy Strategy, in particular its connection with digital literacy – and the new SEC Advisory Group – Terms of Reference, and School representation.

Senate Assessment Committee

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Futures, Professor Simon Bedford, reported on the Assessment Committee, noting that the Committee continued to include strong support for professional learning in Assessment design and literacy, especially the impact of generative AI and assessment in the online environment. A special e-meeting was to be held the following week for the inclusion of generative AI narratives for inclusion in the learning guides for Spring to support consistency across the University.

Research Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Deborah Sweeney, reported on the Research Committee, noting that the Accord has provided new opportunities at Western. She also advised that in the absence of an ARC review, the University would conduct its own assessment. The Committee would also review the Research Management System in relation to including ethics approvals and whether the system is the best in supporting this function.

Research Studies Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Clive Baldock, reported that the Committee had undertaken considerable work including that of the examination of theses, Show Cause cases and a review of the Terms of References and the MRes examination. Acting on a recommendation of the review of the GRS, Dr Michael Baker has commenced as Director of GRS. A potential organisational change was being considered, as well as a review of the systems being used such as Recruit. A HDR candidate survey was being undertaken to explore the experiences of students and to

lead to improvements, including service improvements, and incorporating these in WesternNow. Included in the improvement would be clarity on what GRS does and what Schools do with the development of a service catalogue. It was commented that his first experience with Research Master was very smooth, and the only error was an operator error.

Third Party Provider Committee

The Chair of the Third-Party Provider Committee, Dr Nicolene Murdoch, provided the following update noting that the Committee focused on three initiatives:

1. Results Processing for Third Party Providers
2. Consultation process with Schools - Education partnership SharePoint site
3. Compliance review process

Members discussed the update for Student Progression Show Cause and Student Academic Appeals and querying if there was an annual comparison and year on year, noting it was hard to interpret data on two-month period. The annual reports would allow members to see the impact on the new progression policy.

New Action: 23/03:3.1

Once a year discuss comprehensive Student Progression Show Cause and Student Academic Appeals reports to track the progression. Have an annual report at an appropriate time of year.

3.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor's report was circulated to the Senate for noting. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following from the report:

The Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone involved in preparation for this submission to THE Impact Ranking, in particular, Professor Kevin Dunn. The Vice-Chancellor reconfirmed the University's commitment to the sustainable development goals. He also noted that conventional rankings included a finite number of universities while the THE impact ranking was able to include a broader range of universities including a number of our partnership universities, such as in India and Vietnam. The THE Impact ranking would continue to be a focus for the University.

Professor Glover said that the University's Decadal vision was discussed at the Board of Trustees. He also pointed out that Professor Clare Pollock had been leading the consultation process to Accord and the Interim report. The final report would contain recommendations. The most important issue to be addressed were issues of equity, research and the governance of the sector.

The Vice-Chancellor also informed Senate about a significant amount of international activity with a range of delegation of visits to a number of countries including China, India, Japan, and Indonesia, in addition to opening of a campus in Indonesia.

The Board of Trustees Strategy Day had three main themes:

1. The way that AI is being used and the personalisation of service provision, and what that personalisation means to the University and its programs;
2. Disruption through microcredentials – this is an area the University will develop significantly
3. A midterm review of the strategic plan – with the adaptation of the University to future challenges and the development of the campus network as focal points.

Members of Senate discussed the NSW Minister for Skills Review of Higher Education Strategy and the need for Indigenous representation. The previous minister had proposed having a one-page strategy which was supported by universities. It was agreed that it is vital to bring Indigenous voice into the strategy paper.

A member noted that in the finance report, there was an increase in operating for Schools and queried whether the Indigenous portfolio would also benefit from increase funding.

The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the Board of Trustees was presented with the Q1 re-forecast, and that the University was down on load. However, money had been put away for volatility and there had been a recent increase in international students. Students were taking lower load, but the number of students had remained constant (47,000 students). Professor Glover said that the University was currently facing a slightly challenging environment. However, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence would have its own funding, which would be adequate.

It was queried whether there would be disability representation at the Accord. The Vice-Chancellor provided reassurances that the panel had received submissions from disability groups and other equity groups and that it was necessary to look at these as a whole not as individual groups. The Minister had made it clear that he wanted the panel to consider low SES and other equity groups into higher education. During COVID, attendance from disability and other equity groups had increased in higher education. The Student Disability Representative was invited to provide input to the Accord process. Following up, in connection with adaptation to future challenges was argued that face to face learning was not equitable for disability groups. It was acknowledged that the aim is to get the hybrid balance right of face to face and online learning. The sector has been exploring how we think about modes of delivery and the volatility of the novelty of the coming back to campus experience.

The Vice-Chancellor also pointed out that the Engaged Teaching Project had started and that the pilot program would begin with three Schools (the School of Science, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and the School of Humanities and Communication Arts). A question was asked about how the Schools would be engaged as partners in the project. Professor Si Bedford was asked to provide an update on how the project has been engaging with the Schools and on the standards for pedagogy and engagement at the end of the year.

The Board of Trustees looked at QILT results, noting there was positive movement on some of the QILT indicators. The Board of Trustees asked senior management for strategies to get traction on some of the non-moving QILT indicators. The Vice-Chancellor also advised that the Student Experience Survey was being revised.

3.3 STUDENT REPORT

The international student representative, Ms Vidushi Sethi, highlighted the following points:

1. Delayed payments for international undergraduate scholarships had significant consequences for about 860 students in lack of access to teaching materials, revocation of their COE with further visa implications.
2. No policy framework covering international coursework scholarships.
3. Group Zoom sessions assisting scholarship queries lack the necessary privacy.
4. Necessary streamlining for the application process.

In the discussion, it was acknowledged that there was an issue and that more work remained to be done. It was argued that a fee hold was applied in cases in which the scholarship amount will not cover the required fee. Moreover, there was information on the international scholarship webpage and international scholarship agreement which is given to all students upon signing up and accepting their offer/scholarship agreement.

A suggestion for improvement was that the International Office develop a webpage with terms and conditions on international scholarships noted (information that is included in the scholarship agreements).

Ms Jo Byng from the International Office advised that the International Office was currently doing manual checks in Banner to ensure that international students are still entitled to their payments. The team were also working with SMS to develop Argos report to make this process quicker.

The Zoom sessions were created during COVID and served a specific purpose. One-on-one sessions would be available for those that required that type of services. It was agreed that Ms Sethi would work with the International Office and update Senate as appropriate.

New Action: 23/03: 3.3

Ms Vidushi Sethi to provide update on this issue when available.

3.4 TEQSA STEERING GROUP UPDATE

The TEQSA Steering Group is working towards preparing the University for the TEQSA accreditation review scheduled for 2025. The Steering Group provides strategic direction, monitors the preparation schedule and any risks, and identifies and monitors actions that are needed to make sure that all of our processes and evidence are in place. The Steering Group will meet regularly over the next 18-months and will make reports to Academic Senate. Emeritus Professor Paul Wormell is currently chairing this group and presented a brief update.

Prof. Wormell pointed out that the University existed by an act of parliament and a large number of Commonwealth legislation. The University had to meet certain standards to be able to approve its own degrees and operate as higher education provider. In April 2019, the University had renewed its registration with the sector regulator (TEQSA) unconditionally for 7 years.

He said that the TEQSA findings of 2018 can be used as a guide for the submission to TEQSA at the end of 2024. Things they had been looking for then included governance and accountability, management of risk and finance, academic quality and research outcomes, increasing participation, academic and research integrity, evaluation and innovation in teaching, learning and research.

Prof. Wormell made the follow points:

- Unconditional TEQSA registration is critically important for our University.
- Senate and its standing committees play crucial roles, and the minutes are part of the portfolio of information that TEQSA reviews.
- Evidence is based on our regular processes and reporting, and as a mature University, TEQSA is interested in our capacity to self-regulate.
- This is an opportunity to drive quality improvement.

- There may be a need to adapt, as evidence requirements could change to reflect sector developments and priorities, as well as TEQSA's large volume of renewals, which may lead to some streamlining.

Questions were asked to be sent via chat if members were attending via zoom or they could be sent through to the Chair or Secretary for consideration at the next meeting. The following questions were submitted:

In the recent past TEQSA focus has been PP, TPP and Academic Integrity? Now AI, inclusive education (Accord) – Credit for Prior Learning given MC's articulation pathways?

Given the TEQSA Compliance report and recent presentation by Mary Russell to Chairs of Academic Boards – what insights can be gleaned as to the main focus areas TEQSA will be looking at for our re-registration ?

What formal processes are being undertaken to prepare for the review? Will we be undertaking an internal audit prior to re-registration like we will do for the ESOS external audit?

3.5 EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORTING TO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The internal audit report on Education Quality Assurance reporting to Senate Education Committee is appended with a briefing paper. The Chair of the Academic Senate will speak to this report.

This item was held over until the following meeting.

3.6 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

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

3.7 STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

The presentation was made by Ms Libby Hughan, Senior Manager, Student Systems.

Ms Hughan informed Senate that there had been a major upgrade in the last three months, the introduction of functionality of self-service space. This upgrade had taken place and no problems have been experienced.

Ms Hughan also explained Multi-Term Resulting in RePS: The Multi-term resulting process is used when the student in a multi term subject has a final result on their record. DIQO/Exams, Results and Progression run job, as part of the end of teaching session business processes, to identify students in a multi-term subject who have a final result and to update their results at the unfinalised results stage in RePS. Ms Hughan argued that this process eliminated the need for subject coordinators to action unfinalised results for this scenario, as well as reducing the risk the student is issued their final result through the unfinalised process before the official results release.

Ms Hulan also informed Senate about cases where enrolment has lapsed: a student will receive up to four emails asking them to taking action otherwise their status will lapse. Relevant students are then identified and any student who has not taken any action is automatically lapsed.

She said that there were ongoing updates to Argos as well as tighter security, including updating the reports that are used most frequently. After the completion of some minor task there would be another major upgrade planned to take place in July. Ms Hulan explained that there would be a transitioning from Parchment to MyEquals on 26 June. This would include improvements in ordering of documents in system. There was also ongoing work in scholarships and disbursements of funds.

Ms Hulan also pointed to the following future developments:

- Continued improved resulting processes for Third Party Providers.
- partnership with Ellucian
- Automation of conferral and graduation processes
- SMS technical roadmap 23/24 – move to Ellucian managed cloud.

Questions that were submitted via chat or email were to be taken on notice, followed up and answered in business arising at next meeting, however, no questions were submitted via chat or email.

3.8 SCHOOL OF SCIENCE REVIEW

The School of Science was reviewed in 2022 as part of the University's cycle of School Reviews. The School of Science Review 2022 Panel Report, and School of Science Review Action Plan were circulated for noting by the Senate.

3.9 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE & POLICY REVIEW

3.9.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Academic Senate Policy Committee update report was appended.

3.9.2 MICROCREDENTIALS PROCEDURES

The proposed *Microcredentials Procedures* were listed in the appended papers. Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning Futures spoke to this paper.

They stated that the University was sector-leading in this area. It was emphasised that this space is still evolving and that the procedures combined rigorous academic oversight and quality assurance, important to TEQSA, with agility and flexibility.

The University had been successful in getting two microcredential grants, one in pathways in The College and the other in the PG space. The procedures had been written for core Western X space.

A member raised the question about whether the microcredentials had been developed liaison with industry. Professor Simon Bedford confirmed that all had an industry partner.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 02):

That Academic Senate approves the draft Microcredential Procedures from the date of publication.

3.9.3 LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES POLICY

The proposed changes in the revised version of the *Learning Technologies Policy* were listed within the appended papers. Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning Futures spoke to this paper.

This policy has undergone a 12-month review, and the amendment is only a minor amendment, simplifying the language.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 03):

That Academic Senate approve the revised Learning Technologies Policy from the date of publication.

3.9.4 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COURSEWORK STUDENTS POLICY

The proposed changes in the revised version of the *Scholarships for Coursework Students Policy* were listed in the appended papers. The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement spoke to this paper.

It was pointed out that these are important changes to bring the policy into line with practices. They were expanded for microcredentials, the inclusion of NZ citizens and the inclusion of international students and Clause 6 – work that Katie Aguilera had talked to senate in last meeting.

A member questioned the gender balance in the selection committee. Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy confirmed that it was achieved by not moving forward unless gender balance was confirmed.

A typographical error was identified – “4 wheels” should read “4 weeks”.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 04):

That Academic Senate endorses the revised and renamed Scholarships for Coursework Students Policy (previously Scholarships for Undergraduates Policy) to be progressed to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

3.9.5 DISRUPTION TO STUDIES POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The proposed changes in the revised version of the *Disruption to Studies Policy and Disruption to Studies Procedures* were listed in the appended papers. The Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations spoke to this paper.

It was advised that the proposed changes were a result of a 12-month review; they comprised some changes to definitions and feedback related to processes, streamlining where possible, a shift in processes and a minor adjustment to assessment policy.

Clarification was requested on whether an extension is not an outcome when a student is requesting a disruption to studies. The answer provided was that a disruption to studies is a significant disruption as opposed to an extension, which may be requested without a such a disruption.

A suggestion to not allow an application to be submitted if supporting evidence is not provided was not seen as an option as this may stop students who may need to submit but are not able to provide supporting evidence at the time of submitting their application.

Another suggestion by a member was one portal for the various applications, e.g. disruption to studies, extension, deferred exams, etc rather than students submitting using an incorrect form/portal. Jess Gleeson confirmed that DIQO was looking at this holistically and the potential use of a single form. Libby Hughan also advised that ESM, SMS and DIQO were working together to provide an Ellucian portal experience workflow that will be seamless. The strategic goal was to have one single point of entry for students, but this option was not ready at this point.

The question was also raised regarding permitting medical certificates issued by overseas practitioners. Jess Gleeson confirmed that the policy did not exclude them. However, she pointed out that it may be that the circumstances may not allow them, as a disruption to studies refers to an unexpected event not ongoing event.

It was noted that it was important for both students and staff that the policy gets stability.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 05):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Disruption to Studies Policy and Disruption to Studies Procedures from the date of approval.

3.10 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

3.10.1 DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Committee was requested to approve the following new donor funded scholarships and amendments to current donor funded scholarships, as noted in the appended paper. The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement spoke to this paper.

New Scholarships (for approval):

- Genea Scholarship in Science
- Steglick Indigenous Women's Scholarship
- Dean's Western Sydney Local Health District Master of Art Therapy Indigenous Scholarship
- Berg Family Foundation Scholarship for Refugee Students

Amendments to Current Scholarships (for approval):

- Hawkesbury City Council Scholarship
- Dr Jennifer Fraser Yarramundi Scholarship

Professor Possamai-Inesedy pointed out that considerable work had been done with the Office of Advancement, industry and donors to comply with regulations.

A member noted that that GPA as indicator was an issue, as advanced standing is not included in this calculation. The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement noted that scholarships were for when entering the university, as such GPA is not an issue, however, she would take this back to the team for students who transfer from other universities and who apply for scholarships.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 06):

The Academic Senate approves recommendations in as noted in the appended paper for:

New Scholarships:

- Genea Scholarship in Science
- Steglick Indigenous Women's Scholarship
- Dean's Western Sydney Local Health District Master of Art Therapy Indigenous Scholarship
- Berg Family Foundation Scholarship for Refugee Students

Amendments to Current Scholarships:

- Hawkesbury City Council Scholarship
- Dr Jennifer Fraser Yarramundi Scholarship

3.10.2 UNIVERSITY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Committee was requested to approve the amendments to an existing university-funded scholarship, as noted in the appended paper:

- Fast Forward Scholarship

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 07):

That Academic Senate approves the recommendations as noted in the appended paper.

3.11 APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE CHANGES

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Academic Senate for the revised Terms of Reference and membership for the Third Party Provider Committee.

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 08):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Third Party Provider Committee memberships as outlined in the revised Terms of Reference.

3.12 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

There were no posthumous awards for noting.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Report from the below Senate Executive meeting was attached for noting by members:

- Meeting 23/02 consisting of the following items:
 - Endorsement of Associate Professor Ann Dadich as Deputy Chair of the Senate Research Committee.
 - Approval of amendments to the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee Terms of Reference.

4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Report of the meetings of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 3 May 2023 (meeting 23/03 was appended).

It was resolved (AS: 23/03: 09):

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 3 May 2023 (23/03) and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 27 April 2023 (Meeting 23/01) were appended for noting by the Senate.

4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The confirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 21 February 2023 (Meeting 23/02) were appended for noting by the Senate.

4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The report of the Research Committee meeting held on 5 April 2023 (Meeting 23/02) was appended for noting by the Senate.

4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee held on 9 May 2023 (Meeting 23/04) were appended for noting by the Senate.

4.7 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) held on 3 May 2023 (Meeting 23/02) were appended.

4.8 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

The Third-Party Provider Committee (TPPC) met on 5 April (Meeting 23/02). The unconfirmed minutes were appended.

4.9 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The following confirmed minutes of the meetings of the College Academic Pathway Program Committee were appended for noting by the Senate:

- Confirmed minutes of e-meeting 23/02 held on 20 – 24 March 2023
- Confirmed minutes of meeting 23/03 held on 20 April 2023

4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 13 June 2023. 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 items.
Meeting closed 12.37pm.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (23/04) will be on 11 August 2023 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The remaining meetings scheduled for 2023 are as follows:

- 23/04 – 11 August 2023
- 23/05 – 13 October 2023
- 23/06 – 8 December 2023