

ACADEMIC SENATE

Circulated: 9 May 2017

Confirmed minutes of meeting 17/02 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on Friday 21 April 2017 at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Ground Floor, Building AD, Werrington North campus.

Present:

Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Chair)
Professor James Arvanitakis
Professor Kevin Bell
Associate Professor Matthias Boer
Mr Jack Braithwaite
Mr Michael Burgess
Ms Robyn Causley
Mr Andrew Dawkins
Dr Kathleen Dixon
Professor Kevin Dunn
Associate Professor Paola Escudero
Mr Michael Gonzalez
Dr Stephen Janes
Associate Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick
Professor Gregory Kolt

Associate Professor Jane Mears
Dr Christopher Peterson
Professor Carol Reid
Associate Professor Alpana Roy
Associate Professor Juan Francisco Salazar
Dr Elfriede Sangkuhl
Professor Michele Simons
Associate Professor Terry Sloan
Professor Sheree Smith
Professor Deborah Sweeney
Associate Professor Zhong Tao
Dr Vivek Thakkar
Associate Professor Paul Wormell
Ms Janice Yane
Dr Katina Zammit

In Attendance:

Dr Paul Breen
Ms Gillian Brown
Professor Sara Denize
Mr Ian Londish
Mr Grant Murray
Associate Professor Markus Riegler

Professor Kate Stevens
Mr Peter Tow
Mr Rory Warren
Ms Kim Weimer
Ms Pru Wirth
Ms Alyssa White (minutes)

Apologies:

Professor Michael Adams
Professor Simon Barrie
Mr Jarrod Bradley
Professor Barney Glover
Professor Paul James
Professor Scott Holmes
Dr Kate Huppatz
Professor Peter Hutchings

Professor Lisa Jackson-Pulver
Associate Professor Alana Lentin
Dr Olivia Mirza
Dr Terri Mylett
Associate Professor Julie Old
Associate Professor Surendra Shrestha
Professor Simeon Simoff
Associate Professor Linda Taylor

Absent:

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOMES, CONGRATULATIONS, FAREWELLS AND APOLOGIES

Welcome

The Chair of Academic Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, welcomed all members of Academic Senate to the second meeting for 2017.

The Chair opened the meeting by reading an Acknowledgment of the Traditional Owners, paying his respects to their Elders, past, present and future, and extending a warm welcome to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending the meeting.

A special welcome was extended to Associate Professor Paola Escudero, a new member representing the University Research Institutes, and Associate Professor Juan Salazar, representing Professor Paul James, who is also a University Research Institute representative. The Chair noted that this would be the first meeting for Senate's new undergraduate student member, Ms Janice Yane. He extended his thanks to Mr Jarrod Bradley, whose term as an undergraduate student member concludes on the 31st of May, and wished him well for the future.

The Chair welcomed Ms Alyssa White, Senior Governance Officer, to her first meeting of Academic Senate.

The Chair also welcomed those in attendance from Schools or Institutes reporting later in the agenda, and acknowledged the large amount of hard work that the School and University Research Institute committees do on behalf of the University. The first Senate meetings for 2017 aim to highlight this, as well as completing a full set of Committee reports to Senate. These reports are essential for transparency and good academic governance, which is one of the focus areas for our re-registration by TEQSA. It also allows for appropriate recognition and appreciation to be given to some very active committees, as they share information and good practice through their reports to Senate.

Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were reported. The Chair highlighted the importance of having a Declaration of Interest agenda item at each meeting of a Senate standing committee, especially where student coursework results or HDR examinations are being considered.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

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

- 3.1 Report from the Chair
- 3.3.2 Educational Compliance Update
- 3.4.1 Senate Work Plan
- 3.5.1 TWSU Projects Update
- 3.5.2 Liverpool Campus
- 3.6.1 Researcher Development Initiatives
- 3.7.1 OES Partnership
- 3.8 Red Tape Task Force
- 4.6 School Academic Committee Reports
- 4.7 School/Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee Reports

It was agreed to star the following additional item:

- 4.2 Senate Research Committee

It was resolved (AS17:02/01):

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.

The Chair acknowledged the large volume of work completed by the standing committees of Senate, in connection with the unstarred items which had just been approved.

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Some School Academic Committee reports and Research and Higher Degree Research Committee reports were brought forward to be considered after 3.1 to enable relevant staff members to attend other important meetings.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

The addition of a late circulated tabled paper was acknowledged at 3.7.2.

1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Senate had before it the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 17 February 2017 and also the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 21 October 2016 (which were not confirmed at the inquorate meeting on 9 December 2016.)

It was resolved (AS17:02/02):

To confirm the minutes of the Senate meetings held on 17 February 2017 and 21 October 2016, as accurate records.

1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

To assist members with monitoring the work of Senate, the action sheet from the meeting held on 17 February 2017 and previous meetings had been circulated.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minute 3.10.2 Policy Amendments – Replacement of Redundant Position Title

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/03):

That Academic Senate approves the proposed minor amendments to the Academic Records Issuance Policy, Assessment Policy – Criteria and Standards-based Assessment, and the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy, from the date of publication.

The minor amendments to the above policies will be arranged following the upgrade of the Policy DDS system.

2.2 Minute 3.10.3 Revised Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/04):

That Academic Senate approves the revised version of the Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy.

The revised version of the *Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy* will be published following the upgrade of the Policy DDS System.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

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 17 February 2017.

Additionally, the Chair acknowledged the passing of Dr John Hayes, a leading chemical educator at the Hawkesbury Campus in the 1980s and 1990s. John was a generous mentor and a resolute defender of academic quality and standards.

3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This item was unstarred as the Vice-Chancellor had provided his apologies for this meeting.

3.3 HIGHER EDUCATION STANDARDS AND REGULATION

3.3.1 Higher Education Standards Framework

The revised *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015* commenced from 1 January 2017 as a legislative instrument, and re-registration of the University to ensure it meets these standards is due in May 2018.

The University has established a TEQSA Working Party whose membership includes the Chair of Academic Senate. A report from the Office of Quality and Performance (OQP), including a compliance map and action plan, was noted by members via the electronic meeting of Senate conducted in December 2016. Members were provided with an updated Compliance Action Plan annotated by the Chair of Academic Senate with some other actions that Senate or its committees will contribute to.

Members were invited to raise any related matters or provide comment. No matters were raised or comments provided.

3.3.2 Educational Compliance Update

The University is registered as a higher education provider with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) until 31 May 2018. Submission of documentation for the renewal of registration is due at least 180 days prior to this date (1 December 2017).

Academic Senate was provided with an update of the progress on:

- implementation of the HESF 2015 Compliance Action Plan, and
- the University's renewal of registration with TEQSA.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, introduced this item, and the Executive Director, Quality and Performance encouraged members to contact her team if their work units required further clarification on the Action Plan, including the requirements of various stakeholders. There will be an update on milestones for the Action Plan, noting that these would be determined collaboratively.

3.4 SENATE WORK PLAN AND SECURING SUCCESS

[Securing Success: 6.5 Promote inclusive and participatory decision-making; 6.7 Foster a strong culture and track record of successful renewal and innovation, achieved through the determination, creativity and hard work of all staff; 6.16 Aspire to the highest standards of university governance and accountability]

3.4.1 Senate Work Plan

The Chair has reviewed the Work Plan following discussion and advice from the Senate Executive Committee on 10 February 2017, and making more use of the standing committees' individual work plans.

Senate was presented with a revised draft Work Plan that focuses more on Senate's own role and responsibilities, and provides further scope for Senate to hear about, discuss and advise on major academic topics.

Possible Academic Senate Priorities for 2017

- Support the preparations for the 2018 TEQSA Re-accreditation.
- Support enhancements to the student experience through coursework and higher-degree research.
- Promote a culture of student academic honesty and integrity.
- Engage with the 21st Century Curriculum Renewal project, including research dimensions of coursework.
- Contribute to further development of Western Sydney University Online Renewal and other aspects of technology enhanced learning.

The Chair indicated that he would welcome comments and advice from members to assist with further development of the Work Plan.

3.4.2 School of Social Sciences and Psychology Review

The School of Social Sciences and Psychology was reviewed in 2016 as part of the University's cycle of School Reviews. The terms of reference for the school review were to evaluate and provide commendations and recommendations on the extent to which the School is achieving the strategic goals and objectives of *Securing Success 2015-2020* and addressing the *2015 Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards)*. The Introductory Report and Action Plan were provided for Senate's information.

3.5 TRANSFORMING WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

On Thursday 21 July 2016 the Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of the University's current performance and financial position and key future strategic initiatives. Transforming Western Sydney University (*TWSU*) is a suite of these related strategic initiatives organised into five thematic areas, to enact the *Securing Success* strategies.

3.5.1 TWSU Project Update

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) gave a progress report on the *TWSU* projects, highlighting their five thematic areas and noting the role of Academic Senate and its standing committees to progressing the 21st Century Curriculum Renewal (Structures) theme. The DVC(A) noted that 1PSQ is going well, and has attracted industry and international interest and media attention. Level 9, a public event space has been particularly successful in drawing external interest. Professor Kirkpatrick encouraged all Schools to teach at 1PSQ and to utilise the possibility of postgraduate evening classes. There are specific items in the Senate Work Plan to help achieve the goals outlined in *TWSU*.

3.5.2 Liverpool Campus

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) gave a presentation on the new Liverpool campus, outlining the offerings to begin in 2018, which will help to alleviate some of the overstretched offerings on other campuses.

There was discussion from members about the lessons learned from the launch of 1PSQ, and members provided further feedback. The DVC (A) took this feedback on board and assured Senate that the transition to the new campus will be integrated, and will include change management processes, and clear communication with all internal and external stakeholders. There will be a public launch on a date to be advised in May.

3.6 RESEARCH

3.6.1 Research Development Initiatives

The Researcher Development Initiative (RDI) was introduced in 2015 and has been offered on an annual basis. The RDI offers a suite of grants and awards focused on early career development, gender equity, and career interruption. These funding opportunities are directed toward staff members who are establishing their research profile or considering applying for their first or second round of grant funding from an external agency.

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) has undertaken an evaluation of the outcomes of the RDI, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) introduced this report. Key achievements include the gender-equity dimension, with 80% of the 174 successful award recipients identifying as female.

An acknowledgement of appreciation was given to Schools for helping to mentor successful RDI recipients in the first 12 months and beyond. The true value in this program is the continuing support and networks developed for these academics.

3.6.2 Summer Scholarship Research Program 2016-2017

The Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development), in conjunction with Jobs on Campus, provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students who want to learn more about university through the University's Summer Scholarship Research Program. The Program is designed to provide students with a placement in a formal research setting where they are supervised by an academic member of staff, during the summer break. A report was provided for members' information.

3.7 LEARNING AND TEACHING

3.7.1 Online Education Services (OES) Partnership

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Digital Futures) gave an update on the OES Partnership, noting that the project focuses on bringing in a diverse range of students who, through a variety of circumstances, are not able to attend on-campus and therefore are seeking an online alternative study option. This is an educational space that the University is currently not utilising to its full potential.

The governance for the Project includes three working groups and one steering group working towards a September 2017 launch. Although ambitious the timeline is achievable.

There was discussion from members on how consultation for the Partnership had taken place. It was confirmed that discussions with specific Schools had begun and are continuing to take place, with the consultation to broaden as other disciplines are brought into the Partnership. The involvement of the School Academic Committees was confirmed as a key part of planning and consultation for the Project. A Frequently Asked Questions document will be shared with staff once it has been approved for publication through the Project governance processes.

3.7.2 STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS

A late paper was circulated to members and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) gave an overview of the data and encouraged members to review it in more detail.

The data in this report feeds into the larger data set that helps the University to analyse the performance of courses, including how they are performing in terms of student satisfaction and employability. This will also inform the *TWSU* Curriculum Renewal project.

3.8 RED TAPE TASK FORCE

The Red Tape Task Force (RTTF) 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.

Mr Peter Tow, Director, Project Management Office, introduced an update on the current RTTF projects and noted that the Task Force is now conducting a Post Implementation Review of some earlier projects. Members were invited to raise any related matters or provide comment, and highlighted the importance of making further progress with the Career Development Planning and Review (CDPR) process and COMPASS.

3.9 ACADEMIC SENATE MEMBERSHIP AND THE SELF-REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE

3.9.1 Committee Membership Changes – APCAC, Education Committee and Assessment Committee

Some membership changes to the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC), Education Committee and Assessment Committee were proposed to improve efficiency and for succession planning purposes.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/05):

That Academic Senate approves the proposed changes to the membership of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee, Assessment Committee and Education Committee.

3.9.2 Transforming the Student Engagement and Experience Committee (SEEC) to the Transition and Retention Advisory Group (TaRAG)

A paper was circulated outlining the transformation of the Student Engagement and Experience Committee (SEEC) to an advisory group of Education Committee.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/06):

That Academic Senate approves the retirement of the Student Experience and Engagement Committee and transition to an advisory group of Education Committee.

3.10 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.10.1 Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)

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

Policy	Status
<i>Advanced Standing Policy</i>	The revised version approved by Academic Senate on 21 October 2016 has been published. The Student Experience Office will propose an implementation plan to the 24 May APAG meeting.
<i>Articulation Pathways Policy</i>	The 26 October 2016 APAG meeting discussed a proposed new version of the <i>Articulations Policy and Procedures</i> . This version was further amended to align with the new Partnerships and Pathways Framework and was discussed at the 16 February meeting of APAG. Further consultation with SACs and via the Policy DDS will now occur.
<i>Assessment Policy</i>	Part of the implementation of the new <i>Disruption to Studies Policy</i> required an amendment to the <i>Guidelines for Academic Staff – Student Unable to Attend a Compulsory Unit Component</i> . Minor amendments to the definition of ‘N’ Grade in the <i>Assessment Policy</i> to remove “academic” before misconduct in Part D, Temporary Grades were agreed to clarify for Schools and improve consistent application. See agenda item 3.10.3.

<i>Courses and Units Approvals Policy</i>	The minor amendment to include the link to the revised <i>External Advisory Committee Procedures</i> into the <i>Courses and Units Approval Policy</i> was supported and endorsed by APCAC and Education Committee. An amendment to the delegation for approval of an additional location (A2.9) to a course offering was also agreed and endorsed by APCAC and Education Committee. See agenda item 3.10.4.
<i>Course Design Policy</i>	The Terms of Reference and membership for the Working Party have been agreed noting that this work will be heavily influenced by the <i>TWSU Curriculum Renewal</i> project. Some difference of opinion has been noted at APCAC regarding the compliant volume of work for Graduate Certificates. Amendments to the <i>Postgraduate Coursework Policy</i> will be investigated by OQP for any necessary compliance updates.
<i>Disruption to Studies Policy (renamed from Special Consideration Policy)</i>	The new <i>Disruption to Studies Policy</i> and associated guidelines were approved at the 21 October 2016 meeting of Academic Senate. An implementation plan is being devised which may involve alignment of some other processes.
<i>Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress</i>	A revised <i>Progression Policy</i> was agreed at the 16 February meeting of APAG and endorsed at the 7 March meeting of Education Committee. Further consultation with SACs and via the Policy DDS will now occur.
<i>Special Consideration Policy - Deferred Exams Procedures</i>	Deferred Exam Procedures were agreed, following SAC consultation, linked to the Procedures to the <i>Examinations Policy</i> and removed from the current <i>Special Consideration Policy</i> . These were endorsed by Education Committee at the 7 March meeting. See agenda item 3.10.5.

Members were invited to submit expressions of interest in contributing to the review of particular academic policies (to Gillian.Brown@westernsydney.edu.au).

3.10.2 Assessment Policy – Associated Information **AS 17/02-3.10.2**
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Part of the implementation of the new *Disruption to Studies Policy* required an amendment to the *Guidelines for Academic Staff – Students Unable to Attend a Compulsory Unit Component*. The revised guidelines were endorsed at the 7 March Education Committee meeting.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/07):

That Academic Senate approves the revised Guidelines for Academic Staff – Students Unable to Attend a Compulsory Unit Component as an Associated Document to the Assessment Policy.

3.10.3 Pending Grades and Assessment Policy **AS 17/02-3.10.3**
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In April 2016, a School requested a change to the grade from 77 D to 71 C for a student following the outcome of misconduct proceedings. A review of relevant University Policy has identified that there is some lack of clarity on the process for applying pending grades. Complementary minor amendments to the *Student Misconduct Rule* are being proposed to align and clarify when a pending grade should be applied. These amendments were endorsed at the 7 March Education Committee meeting.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/08):

That Academic Senate approves the minor amendment to the Assessment Policy.

3.10.4 Courses and Units Approvals Policy – Associated Information

AS 17/02-3.10.4

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The *External Advisory Committee Procedures* were approved to replace the *External Advisory Committee Policy* via an electronic meeting of Academic Senate conducted from 12 to 19 December 2016. A minor administrative amendment is now required to the *Courses and Units Approval Policy* to refer to the *External Advisory Committee Procedures*.

An amendment to the delegation for approval of an additional location (A2.9) to a course offering was also endorsed by APCAC and Education Committee.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/09):

That Academic Senate approves the minor amendment to the Courses and Units Approval Policy.

That Academic Senate approves the revised version of the Course Approval and Authorities Delegations.

**3.10.5 Special Consideration Policy - Deferred Exams Procedures–
Associated Information**

AS 17/02-3.10.5

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During the review of the *Examinations Policy* in 2014 it was agreed that the procedures for Deferred Exams, currently published as part of the *Special Consideration Policy*, should be published as separate procedures linked to the *Examinations Policy* which contains the relevant policy provisions.

At the beginning of 2014 a project to review the *Special Consideration Policy* began and the replacement *Disruption to Studies Policy* and *Disruption to Studies Procedures* have been approved by Senate for implementation later in 2017.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS 17:02/10):

That Academic Senate approves the new Deferred Exam Procedures and revised version of the Special Consideration Policy.

3.11 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

3.11.1 Awards of the University Medal

The following students were awarded University Medals at the April 2017 Graduation ceremonies, as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate, on behalf of the Senate.

- Preston PEACHEY (SID 17533267) Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours), Honours Class 1
- Madison HANNON (SID 18542686) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Aimee Lauren OLIVERI (SID 17803175) Bachelor of Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Tanya JUAREZ (SID 17352374) Bachelor of Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Caitlin Jayne HOOPER (SID 17709271) Bachelor of Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Cassandra Ann MASTERS (SID 15179829) Bachelor of Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Kristy Ann DWYER (SID 17739492) Bachelor of Psychology, Honours Class 1
- Denise BECKWITH (SID 15209678) Bachelor of Social Work, Honours Class 1
- Sam Nicholas LANE (SID 17642952) Bachelor of Social Work, Honours Class 1
- Jennifer Mary May KREMER (SID 16777213) Bachelor of Science (Honours), Honours Class 1
- Ariana VILLAROSA (SID 17658010) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Podiatric Medicine, Honours Class 1
- Angela WOOD (SID 17681399) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Occupational Therapy, Honours Class 1
- Joanna SCHRODER (SID 17808024) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Occupational Therapy, Honours Class 1
- Jason DARWALL (SID 17679086) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Physiotherapy, Honours Class 1
- Troy SOUTHWELL (SID 17733407) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Physiotherapy, Honours Class 1
- Adem ZEBIB (SID 17679653) Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)/Master of Physiotherapy, Honours Class 1
- Mohammed Rashed Saeed Salem ALHMOUDI (SID 17151968) Bachelor of Engineering, Honours Class 1
- Brendan COOK (SID 17642750) Bachelor of Engineering (Advanced), Honours Class 1
- Jason JOHNSTON (SID 17680989) Bachelor of Engineering (Advanced), Honours Class 1
- Timothy DEKRUIF (SID 17712095) Bachelor of Construction Management, Honours Class 1
- James CARR (SID 98048898) Bachelor of Music (Honours), Honours Class 1

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/11):

That Academic Senate notes the award of the University Medals, approved by the Chair of Academic Senate, on behalf of the Senate.

3.11.2 Posthumous Award

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

At its meeting in February 2017, the School of Nursing and Midwifery Academic Committee approved a posthumous award to Kathleen Horne noting that she had completed 60 of 80 credit points (75%) of the 4682 Master of Child and Family Health, which complied with the *Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy*.

It was resolved (AS17:02/12):

That Academic Senate notes the award of the Master degree 4682 Master of Child and Family Health posthumously to Kathleen Horne SID 17439389 under the Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy.

3.12 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Senate was requested to consider the following proposals for new University Donor Funded Scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement and Alumni:

HIMAA NSW Branch ICT (HIM) Scholarship – This scholarship is intended for new or continuing full-time students in the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (Health Information Management), and who maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Hazlett Family Scholarship – This scholarship is intended for new or continuing students in any undergraduate degree in the School of Business, School of Nursing and Midwifery, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics or the Bachelor of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, who must demonstrate financial or other hardship, and who maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Foster Care Angels Danielle Raemer Scholarship – This scholarship is intended for new or continuing full-time students in any undergraduate degree, who must demonstrate financial or other hardship and have been in or are currently in out-of-home care as defined by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, and who maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Scenic World Scholarship in Natural Science and Tourism Management – This scholarship is intended for new or continuing full-time or part-time students in the Bachelor of Natural Science or Bachelor of Tourism Management, who must demonstrate financial or other hardship, and have resided in the Blue Mountains LGA for at least 12 months prior to commencing study, and who maintain satisfactory academic progress.

John Mac Scholarship – This scholarship is intended for new or continuing full-time students in any undergraduate degree, or Foundation Studies, Diploma or Associate Degree at The College, who must demonstrate financial or other hardship, reside in the Western Sydney region, and are Australian citizens or permanent residents, with a preference given to those who have been granted a humanitarian visa and who maintain satisfactory academic progress.
Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/13):

That Academic Senate approves the following proposed Scholarships:

- HIMAA NSW Branch ICT (HIM) Scholarship
- Hazlett Family Scholarship
- Foster Care Angels Danielle Raemer Scholarship
- Scenic World Scholarship in Natural Science and Tourism Management
- John Mac Scholarship

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

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

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) conducted an electronic meeting in conjunction with APCAC from 3 to 9 March 2017. The report of this meeting was circulated with the agenda papers.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/14):

That Academic Senate notes the report of the joint electronic meeting conducted from 3 to 9 March 2017.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on 6 April 2017. The minutes of this meeting were circulated with the agenda papers.

This item was started to seek advice about the location of the paper referenced at agenda item 4.7 *Framework and Process for the Development of the 2017-2021 Research Plan*. The paper is available via Yammer for all Senate members.

It was resolved (AS17:02/15):

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held 6 April 2017 and ratifies the recommendations contained therein.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on 21 February 2017 and 14 March 2017. The minutes of these meetings were circulated with the agenda papers.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/16):

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the 21 February 2017 and 14 March 2017 meetings of the Research Studies Committee.

4.4 EDUCATION and ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES (including Student Engagement and Experience Committee)

The Education Committee met on 7 March 2017, the Assessment Committee met on 7 February 2017; and The Student Experience and Engagement Committee (SEEC) met on 1 February 2017. A combined report of these meetings was circulated with the agenda papers.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/17):

That Academic Senate note the report of the Education Committee meeting on 7 March 2017, the Assessment Committee meeting on 7 February 2017 and The Student Experience and Engagement Committee on 1 February 2017.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met face-to-face on 28 February 2017 and 28 March 2017 and conducted an electronic meeting from 3 to 9 March 2017. The combined report of these meetings was circulated with the agenda papers.

Without discussion

It was resolved (AS17:02/18):

That Academic Senate notes the reports of the meeting conducted from 3 to 9 March 2017 and the meetings on 28 February 2017 and 28 March 2017 of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SCHOOL ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORTS

The 2016 Annual Reports for the following School Academic Committees were presented:

- School of Business – Professor Sara Denize, Deputy Dean of the School of Business, spoke to the report. She noted the vast volume of work the committee had completed in order to facilitate the move to 1PSQ. There was discussion about the positives and negatives in the move to 1PSQ and congratulations were given for the management of this major transformation of location and curriculum.
- School of Law – Dr Stephen Janes, Deputy Dean of the School of Law, spoke to the report. The SAC has been working hard on a resequencing of LLB units to ensure that students maintain good standing throughout the course. There has been a particular focus on units in legal literacy and governance, as well as the introduction of global law units (China in place, India in the pipeline). There was recognition that 85% of law students are studying double degrees, many of which are in the School of Business. The response has been a move to introduce first year units at 1PSQ. Academic Senate congratulated the Committee on being proactive in student retention and working well in supporting the transition to 1PSQ.

- Graduate Research School – Professor James Arvanitakis, Dean, Graduate Studies, spoke to the report. There was an acknowledgement that this report signified the conclusion of the first year for the School, and appreciation was expressed for the work the School has achieved in this short time. The School is reviewing teaching styles and will be making more use of block delivery modes, including the introduction of a one week 'Bootcamp' to be piloted in June and then again in September to coincide with Research Week. The School is also looking to engage with the Academic Literacy Taskforce.
- School of Social Sciences and Psychology – Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, spoke to the report. The SAC worked on 25 new units, 35 course variations and 75 unit variations throughout 2016, a massive achievement with a need for high levels of quality assurance.
- School of Medicine – Professor Annemarie Hennessy, Dean of the School of Medicine, spoke to the report. She provided further information about the course variations outlined in the report. She also noted the importance in both reporting up and down, and highlighted to Academic Senate that this is a standing item on the Committee's agenda.

The Chair commended the work of the School Academic Committees.

4.7 SCHOOL/INSTITUTE RESEARCH AND HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORTS

The 2016 Annual Reports for the following School/Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committees were presented:

- School of Business – Professor Sara Denize, Deputy Dean for the School of Business, spoke to the report on behalf of Associate Professor Meg Smith. She recognised the School's existing base of research and the collaborations available for Business through other Schools and the University Research Institutes; the plan is to expand this with the guidance of the Committee. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) commended the School on its positive work in implementing the University's *Research and Development Plan*.
- School of Law – Dr Alpana Roy, Associate Professor from the School of Law, spoke to the report. Law held a successful Research Seminar Series last year. They are looking into why there was an ERA ranking drop and ways of attracting Category 2 and 3 funding, as well as maintaining a focus for Category 1. They are looking at broadening the range staff involved in HDR supervision, and REDI staff have been assisting with this. Senate was encouraged by Professor Deborah Sweeney to applaud the School on its introduction of an Impact and Engagement (Research) Officer, and for enthusiastically pursuing the research-impact initiative.
- School of Medicine – Professor Annemarie Hennessy, Dean for the School of Medicine, spoke to the report. She noted the great achievement of over \$11 million in funding, and that the School is well on target for HDR students with 112. HDR completions are also going well. The Dean highlighted that the Clinical Trials Database is a significant issue for the School, and the Health Taskforce is working with other schools on this. There is also a need to

address the issue of important research being funded by non-recurrent sources.

- School of Nursing and Midwifery – Professor Deborah Hatcher agreed to present her School's report at the next Senate meeting.
- School of Social Sciences and Psychology – Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, spoke to the report. The number of meetings and e-meetings held was noted, with the outcome of 32 seeding grants. There are 6 groups reporting to the Committee.
- Institute for Culture and Society – Associate Professor Juan Salazar, Research Director of the Institute for Culture and Society, spoke to the report. The Institute has just completed a 5-year review; they have been successful in Category 1 funding, three ARC Discovery grants and one DECRA. They are working on addressing a need to diversify the Category 2 and 3 income streams. They are developing new linkage grants, with six in the pipeline and a hope that three will get through. They have a declining number of PhD students due to a lack of funding; they are investigating the possibility of co-sponsorship with industry and are looking to get more involved in undergraduate teaching.
- The MARCS Institute – Professor Kate Stevens, Director of Research and Engagement, and Dr Paul Breen, Director, Higher Degree Research, from the MARCS Institute, spoke to the report. They commented that they have reached 50 successful PhD graduates from MARCS and have a very positive student experience rating. Well-established events ran well and it was also noted that non-academic ventures are going to take a new importance.
- The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment – Associate Professor Markus Riegler from the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, spoke to the report. He noted that the Committee is working on doubling its membership in order to address the issues with declarations of interests in such a small group. The Institute had its first two Master of Research students submit within days of the Academic Senate meeting.

The Chair commended the work of the School/Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee Reports, noting that they had highlighted some areas for sharing experiences and good practice; for example, in managing on-time completions for HDR students.

4.8 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

The College Academic Committee met face to face on 17 November 2016. The minutes of this meeting were provided. This matter was held over from the inquorate 9 December 2016 meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of The College Academic Committee was 9 March 2017.

4.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on 22 February 2017 and 5 April 2017.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 16 June 2017. 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>.

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is arranged for Friday 23 June. This meeting will be held in the Board Room, Building AD, Werrington North campus.

The Academic Senate meeting dates for 2017 are as follow:

- Friday 23 June – Board Room, Building AD, Werrington North campus
- Friday 18 August – Board Room, Building AD, Werrington North campus
- Friday 20 October – Board Room, Building AD, Werrington North campus
- Friday 8 December – To be Advised

Meetings commence at 9:30am and conclude by 12:30pm.