



ACADEMIC SENATE

The meeting (**Meeting 24/06**) of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday, 6 December 2024** at, **9:30AM**, at, **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)**.

For apologies and enquiries, contact Georgia Vasiliadis by email at:
G.Vasiliadis@westernsydney.edu.au

AGENDA

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

☆ 1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer will open the meeting and welcome members and attendees.

An Acknowledgement of Country will be 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 will welcome all members and attendees, with specific mention to:

Board of Trustees members attending this meeting:

Ms Elizabeth Dibbs, Deputy Chancellor

Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore, Academic Staff Representative

Sonu, Postgraduate Student Representative

Professor Gabrielle Drake, Interim Deputy Dean, School of Social Sciences

Associate Professor Leeanne Heaton, Interim Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from:

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright, Interim Dean, Graduate Research School

Dr Nathan Berger, School of Education (Level A, B or C Representative)

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director of Indigenous Research (Vice-Chancellor's Nominee)

Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative

Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Wendy Hu, School of Medicine (Level D, E Representative)

Professor Sarah Lewis, Dean, School of Health Sciences

Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou, University Research Institutes Representative

Professor Adam Possamai, Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success
Associate Professor Lei Si, School of Health Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Michele Simons, Dean, School of Education
Associate Professor Liesel Spencer, School of Law (Level D or E)
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Sarah Zhang, Deputy Chair of Academic Senate

In Attendance:

Dr Michael Baker, Director, Graduate Research School
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services, Secretariat
Ms Julia Haremza, Director, Risk and Resilience
Professor Freya MacMillan, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer

☆ 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 will be reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during this meeting.

☆ 1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, the items below have been starred:

- Item 3.1 – Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor’s Report
- Item 3.3 – Student Report
- Item 3.4 – External Review of Academic Senate
- Item 3.5 – Academic Senate Policy Committee Update & Policy Review
- Item 3.6 – AI Action Plan
- Item 3.7 – Academic Risk Framework
- Item 3.8 – TEQSA Risk Assessment
- Item 3.9 – Governance Framework- Entities and Educational Partners
- Item 3.10 – Literacy Strategy Update
- Item 4.2 – Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
- Item 4.3 – Senate Education Committee

It is recommended:

That the documents for all unstarred agenda items are noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items are endorsed.

☆ 1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Members to advise if a re-arrangement of the order of business is required.

☆ 1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

Members will be invited to nominate any other relevant matters for discussion at this meeting or for a future meeting.

☆ 1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11 October 2024, (meeting 24/05) are attached for confirmation.

For Confirmation.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 11 October 2024, (meeting 24/05) 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) is attached. Members are requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There is no business arising from previous meetings.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

☆ 3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 11 October 2024 has been circulated. The Chair will provide an update on any recent developments and will answer any questions in relation to the report. The Chair's report to the 2 December 2024 meeting of the Board of Trustees, is appended to the Chair's report.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ **3.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended. Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, will speak to this report.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ **3.3 STUDENT REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s) :6.3.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3*

The Student Report is appended for noting.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ **3.4 EXTERNAL REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3d, 6.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

A paper to discuss the External Review of Academic Senate and the recommendations provided. Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate to speak to this item.

For Discussion and Noting.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate:

- 1. Notes the Independent Review of Corporate and Academic Governance prepared for Western Sydney University by MinterEllison Consulting, November 2024; and*
- 2. Requests that the University Secretary, in consultation with the Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate to prepare a response to the recommendations contained with the MinterEllison Report for consideration at the February 2025 Board of Trustees and Academic Senate meetings. This will outline an implementation plan for the recommendations that will be adopted by the University.*

☆ **3.5 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE & POLICY REVIEW**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-c, 6.3.2.d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5*

3.5.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.2.1, 6.2.1g, 6.3.1d, 6.3.2a,
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

The Academic Senate Policy Committee update report is appended for noting.

For Noting.

3.5.2 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH POLICY SUITE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 4.2.1, 4.2.4
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6*

To seek Academic Senate approval of the revised *Higher Degree Research Policy* suite. Dr Michael Baker, Director, Graduate Research School will speak to this item.

For Approval.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approve the revised and renamed HDR policy documents suite, as listed below:

- *Higher Degree by Research Policy*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Admission*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Candidature*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Candidature Variation*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Dual Awards Research Degrees*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Examination*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Progress*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Resources*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Scholarships*
- *Higher Degree by Research Procedures – Supervision*

And that Academic Senate approve the retirement of the following policy documents:

- *Research Masters (Honours) Policy*
- *Doctor of Medicine by Publication Policy*
- *Doctor of Philosophy by Publication Policy*
- *Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Procedures*
- *Supervision of Research Candidates Procedures.*

3.5.2 PROGRAM SPECIFIC PROGRESSION RULES

*Higher Education Standard(s): 1.3.4-6
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3, 5*

To present Academic Senate with the revised Program Specific Progression Rules for approval. Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations will speak to this item.

For Approval.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the revised Program Specific Progression Rules.

☆ 3.6 AI ACTION PLAN

*Higher Education Standard(s): 1.4.3-4, 5.2, 6.3.2d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5*

Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education will speak to this item.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ 3.7 ACADEMIC RISK FRAMEWORK

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.2.1e-f, 6.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3

A paper to update Academic Senate on the annual review of Western Sydney University's academic risks and highlight the development of a comprehensive plan to effectively manage these risks. Professor Robert Mailhammer will speak to this item.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ 3.8 TEQSA RISK ASSESSMENT

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3a, 6.2.1a+c+e, 6.3.1d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1

Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education will speak to this item.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ 3.9 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK | ENTITIES AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Higher Education Standard(s): 5.4.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships will provide a verbal update.

For Discussion and Noting.

☆ 3.10 LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE

Higher Education Standard(s): 1.3.2a-c, 3.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5

Ms Fiona Salisbury, Executive Director, Library Services to provide an update.

For Discussion and Noting.

3.11 UPDATE FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a, b, c, 6.3.2d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

There are no Updates from Schools or Institutes for this meeting.

3.12 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

There are no Questions on Notice or Hot Topics for this meeting.

3.13 ACADEMIC SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE | REVISED MEMBERSHIP

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.2.1, 6.3.1a-c, 6.3.2.d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

To seek Academic Senate's approval for the revised membership of the Academic Senate Assessment Committee.

For Approval.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the revised membership of the Academic Senate Assessment Committee.

3.14 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

*Higher Education Standard(s): 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 6.3.1b, c, 6.3.2b, d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

The Committee is requested to consider and approve the following new scholarships, consider and approve the amendments to the following existing scholarships, consider and approve the amendment to the following existing prizes, and consider and approve the following new gift of funds.

New donor scholarship for approval

The Brian Schwartz AM - Scentre Group Scholarship for Excellence
Warwick Cumming Refugee Scholarship
Q Agency Scholarship for Excellence
Baxter Healthcare Indigenous Scholarship in Health Sciences
Baxter Healthcare Indigenous Scholarship in Nursing
Westlink M7 Indigenous Scholarship
AirTrunk STEM Scholarships

Amendments to Existing Scholarships

GE Healthcare Biomedical Engineering Scholarship for Women
Podiatry Professionals Scholarship – Six months
The Matthew Hotchkis Sports Podiatry Scholarship – One year
Scholarship: Dialysis Australia Clinical Placement Bursary in Nursing

Amendments to Existing Donor-Funded Prizes

Picton Family Medical Centre & Wollondilly Shire Council Prize for Academic Excellence in General Practice
Richardson & Wrench Prize for Personal and Professional Development and Leadership

New Gift of Funds

Anne Cutler Memorial Travel Grant

For Approval.

It is recommended:

The Academic Senate review and approve the proposed new scholarships and gift of funds, and review and approve the amendments to existing scholarships and prizes for immediate execution.

3.15 GRADUAND LISTS, UNIVERSITY MEDALS AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

*Higher Education Standard(s): 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4, 6.2.1h
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

3.15.1 CONFERRAL OF AWARDS

There are no students lists for noting or approval.

3.15.2 POSTHUMOUS AWARD

This item has been redacted as it contains student information.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Chairs of the Senate Standing Committees will provide brief updates of the key developments from the committee.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a, 6.3.1d, 6.3.2d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3*

The reports of the e-meetings of the Senate Executive Committee held on 29 October 2024 to 1 November 2024 (meeting e24/o8) are appended for noting by members and consisted of the following item:

October Conferral of University Awards

The Academic Senate Executive Committee:

- i. Approved the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction.*
- ii. Approved the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal.*
- iii. Noted the conferral of awards to graduates with pass or honours coursework degrees as listed in Attachment C - Graduates with pass and honours coursework degrees approved within SAC delegation.*
- iv. Noted the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.*

For Noting.

4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE
Higher Education Standard(s): 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 6.3.1a, c, 6.3.2c, d, f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3

The report of the meetings of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 3 September 2024 (meeting 24/06), 8 October 2024 (meeting 24/07), and 27 November 2024 (meeting 24/08), are appended.

For Approval.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the reports of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meetings held on 3 September 2024 (meeting 24/06), 8 October 2024 (meeting 24/07), and 27 November 2024 (meeting 24/08), and approves the recommendations contained therein.

☆ 4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3

The confirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee meetings held on 19 September 2024 (meeting 24/04) and 17 October 2024 (meeting 24/05) are appended for noting. Professor Maryanne Dever, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, to provide a brief update.

For Noting.

4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2e-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 11 November 2024 (meeting 24/05) are appended for noting.

For Noting.

☆ 4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-, 6.3.2e-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 6

The unconfirmed minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 11 September 2024 (Meeting 24/04) are appended for noting. Professor Deborah Sweeney, Chair of the Research Committee to provide a brief update.

For Noting.

4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-, 6.3.2e-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 6*

The confirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 8 October 2024 (Meeting 24/11) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 5 November 2024 (Meeting 24/12) are appended for noting by the Senate.

For Noting.

4.7 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.2.1, 6.3.1a-c, 6.3.2.d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate Policy Committee meetings held on 6 November 2024 (Meeting 24/03) are appended for noting by the Senate.

For Noting.

4.8 THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.4.2, 6.3.1a, 6.3.1d, 6.3.2d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1,3*

The confirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 25 September 2024 (Meeting 24/04) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 20 November 2024 (meeting 24/05) are appended for noting.

For Noting.

4.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 2 December 2024. 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

If raised at the meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

This is the last meeting of the Academic Senate Committee for 2024.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (25/01) will be Monday 24 February 2024 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The meetings scheduled for 2025 is as follows:

- 25/01 - Monday 24 February 2025
- 25/02 - Friday 11 April 2025
- 25/03 - Friday 20 June 2025
- 25/04 - Friday 15 August 2025
- 25/05 - Friday 10 October 2025
- 25/06 - Friday 5 December 2025