ACADEMIC SENATE

Confirmed minutes of meeting 17/04 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on Friday 18 August 2017 at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Ground Floor, Building AD, Werrington North campus.

Present:

Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Chair)	Professor Kevin Bell
Professor Simon Barrie	Associate Professor Matthias Boer
Ms Robyn Causley	Mr Phil Craig
Mr Andrew Dawkins	Dr Kathleen Dixon
Professor Kevin Dunn	Mr Buch Ezidiegwu
Mr Michael Gonzalez	Professor Scott Holmes
Dr Kate Huppatz	Professor Paul James
Associate Professor Slade Jensen	Dr John Juriansz
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick	Professor Gregory Kolt
Associate Professor Jane Mears	Dr Terri Mylett
Associate Professor Julie Old	Associate Professor Surendra Shrestha
Professor Simeon Simoff	Associate Professor Terry Sloan
Professor Sheree Smith	Dr Katina Zammit

In Attendance:

Professor Sharon Bell	Ms Sara Godfrey (minutes)
Mr Ian Londish	Dr Shantala Mohan

Apologies:

Professor James Arvanitakis	Mr Jack Braithwaite
Mr Michael Burgess	Associate Professor Paola Escudero
Professor Barney Glover (VC)	Professor Zhong Tao
Professor Steven Freeland	Associate Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Annemarie Hennessy	Professor Peter Hutchings
Professor Lisa Jackson-Pulver	Associate Professor Alana Lentin
Dr Olivia Mirza	Ms Julie Onyango
Dr Christopher Peterson	Professor Carol Reid
Associate Professor Alpana Roy	Dr Elfriede Sangkuhl
Professor Michele Simons	Professor Deborah Sweeney
Associate Professor Zhong Tao	Associate Professor Linda Taylor

1   PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1   INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, welcomed all members of Academic Senate to the fourth 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.

The Chair welcomed new members, Associate Professor Slade Jensen (elected member, School of Medicine) and Mr Phil Craig (elected undergraduate student member).

The Chair welcomed Sara Godfrey and thanked her for her executive support. The Chair acknowledged Secretariat colleagues who are working hard during a time of transition through Shared Services.

In his introductory remarks the Chair noted that this meeting's agenda included updates and discussion on some key academic issues for the University, including further consultation

about the University's Strategic Plan and Academic Structure; research engagement and impact; international rankings; and the *Transforming Western Sydney University* projects. He highlighted the two-fold role of Senate members, bringing perspectives, expertise and intellectual calibre from their various units and the student body, and taking back what they have heard for dissemination and to help in shaping academic practice at the local level.

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.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members were asked which items they wished to be starred for discussion. Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda were:

- 3.1   Report from the Chair
- 3.2   Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3   Consultation on the Strategic Plan and Academic Structure
- 3.6   *Transforming Western Sydney University*
- 3.7.1 Research Impact and Engagement
- 3.8   Leiden Rankings 2017 – Lead Dean (Global Rankings)
- 4.6   School/ Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee Reports
- 4.7   Report and Proposed Retirement of the Academic Governance Working Party

It was resolved (AS17:04/01):
> *That the documents for all unstarred agenda items be noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items be approved.*

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Senate noted that Item 3.3 *Consultation on the Strategic Plan and Academic Structure* would be held over until Professor Sharon Bell's arrival after the break for morning tea.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 23 June 2017 had been circulated.

It was resolved (AS17:04/02):
> *To confirm the minutes of the Senate meetings held on 23 June 2017 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 23 June 2017 and previous meetings had been circulated.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Items of business arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda are included in this section for noting.

2.1 *Minute 3.11.2 Course Advice to Students Policy – Associated Information*

The Chair noted some editorial changes had been received from a member unable to attend, and document on the Policy DDS System.

2.2 *Minute 3.11.3 Admissions Policy*

Without comment Senate noted that arrangements are being made to publish the revised version of the Policy on the Policy DDS System.

2.3 *Minute 3.11.4 Honours in Bachelor Awards Policy*

Without comment Senate noted that arrangements are being made to publish the revised version of the Policy on 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 23 June 2017. The Chair was unable to attend the 9 August 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees due to ill health.

The Chair updated Senate on his report about the Review of Assessment. He has worked closely with Senate Assessment Committee on this, and the Deputy Deans have been able to give feedback. There is a substantial amount of implementation already under way.

The Chair acknowledged that this is an exceptionally busy time of year with Progression Appeals – students appealing against exclusion or placement on conditional enrolment. He noted that many of these appeals demonstrate the care and compassion shown by academic and professional staff to students, and gave his warm thanks.

The Chair provided an update to Senate on his input into the consultation about academic structures, including some perspectives on earlier structures and reorganisations. The input has been welcomed. During the consultation, the Chair highlighted the need to consider potential impacts on Senate and its committees, as well as academic delegations and policies, in any reorganisation. It was noted that the last restructure took six months of hard work to redevelop Senate and its committee arrangements, plus the follow-up to remove committees that had a transitional function, so we should not underestimate the amount of work these changes involve.

3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Senate had before it a written report from the Vice-Chancellor covering activities undertaken since 23 June 2017.

Professor Scott Holmes provided a verbal update on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor on the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) report on the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment at Australian Universities, which was launched on 1 August, and the University's comprehensive set of actions in response. He also provided an update on national developments in Higher Education Policy, which are subject to parliamentary debate, and Western Sydney University's acceptance of an invitation to join the Innovative Research Universities (IRU) network.

Professor Holmes responded to members' questions, including a request for the Vice-Chancellor to provide an update in his next report on the University's new vertical campus in Liverpool.

The Chair thanked Professor Holmes for his presentation.

3.3   CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning), Professor Sharon Bell provided an update to Senate on key issues informing a draft white paper on the Strategic Plan and Academic Structure, and the Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate Forum that took place on 2 August 2017 at Parramatta South on the topic of *Consultation on Academic Structures.*

Professor Sharon Bell informed the Senate that the purpose of the current consultation is to look at what works and what doesn't. This is about working out if we have appropriate structures in place. In her introductory presentation Professor Bell noted that considerable time and effort had been spent looking at two proposed Faculty models, as well as other possibilities. Recent consultation, including an Academic Charrette, has focused on the future of governance and decision-making in the University, and the comparative lack of sub-structures in the Schools. Any changes to structures and sub-structures would require time and attention to ensure that they can be appropriately resourced, effective, innovative and collaborative. Any new structure should optimise the university's competitiveness; it should also be sustainable. It was noted that there is currently some diversity in school leadership structures within the University. Terminology is not always consistent, and this can impede communication.

Following further discussion about structural options and the role of decision making at various levels of the University, the Chair thanked members for their thoughtful comments and questions, and Professor Bell for her presentation, answers and discussion. It was agreed that a second Academic Charrette would be beneficial, specifically to discuss sub-structures. Senate members were asked to consult with their colleagues about options and ideas to bring to this gathering. It was also agreed that Professor Bell should share a summary of learnings to date in advance of the Charrette.

3.4 HIGHER EDUCATION STANDARDS AND REGULATION

[Securing Success: 6.16 Aspire to the highest standards of university governance and accountability]

3.4.1 Educational Compliance Update

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.

An update will be provided for Academic Senate at the October meeting.

3.4.2 Securing Success Dashboard 2017-2020 Half Year Update

An update on the Western Sydney University *Securing Success 2017-2020* Dashboard was provided to the Board of Trustees 16 June meeting, and was provided to this meeting of Senate for information. Key indicators are highlighted in Academic Senate's Work Plan.

Senate noted the report without comment.

3.5 SENATE WORK PLAN

[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]

The latest revised draft Senate Work Plan was provided to members, who were advised that the Chair would welcome comments and advice from members to assist with further development of the Plan.

3.6 TRANFORMING WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Transforming Western Sydney University (TWSU) is a suite of related strategic initiatives organised into five thematic areas, to enact the Securing Success strategies. This is a standing item for Academic Senate.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, provided an update to the Senate on this suite of projects.

<u>People.</u> This is being progressed through Enterprise bargaining. The process of negotiation is underway and there is now a public website, available here.

<u>Environment.</u> The University is optimising the 14-storey Peter Shergold Building located at the flagship Parramatta City campus; One Parramatta Square (1PSQ). Strong relationships are being developed as a result of the University's position within Parramatta's Central Business District (CBD). Learnings from this project will inform the second vertical campus at Liverpool CBD.

The Western Growth strategy is a wide-ranging program, focused on delivering access to students across Western Sydney.

<u>Research.</u> Research Fellows have been recruited to work within these themes; they will be located at the University Research Institutes.

<u>Systems.</u> The intention is to integrate and strengthen the systems that operate across the University. A large amount of work has been done to digitize the student experience and to improve Student Survey instruments. A project is underway to better understand students' future tertiary preferences.

Structures. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Transformations), Professor Simon Barrie, presented to Senate an update on the University's 21st Century Curriculum Project (21CC), which will renew Western Sydney University's curriculum to (1) better leverage and reflect the University's unique institutional partnership strengths and communities; (2) enable the University to innovate at scale to respond to emergent opportunities externally; (3) make the University's curriculum more relevant, accessible and attractive to prospective students; and (4) enable the University to realise its potential share of Australia's global education brand.

Project Website: Project Plan Overview and Planning and Analysis Report

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning_futures/home/ct/curriculum/21st_century_curriculum_project

The Chair thanked Professor Kirkpatrick and Professor Barrie for their presentations. He advised members of Academic Senate to send any questions for Professor Kirkpatrick to Sara Godfrey, Executive Officer.

3.7   RESEARCH

3.7.1. Research Impact and Engagement

Director of Research Strategy, Dr Shantala Mohan, provided Senate with an update on the Australian Research Council's (ARC) assessment (ratings and feedback) of the impact case studies and engagement narratives submitted by Western Sydney University to the *2017 Engagement and Impact Assessment Pilot (EIAP),* and an overview of the University's' approach to the 2018 assessment of engagement and impact.

It was noted that University's commitment to being a research-led University with regional, national and global impact is reliant on the collective and collaborative work of:

- o   Researchers/research teams;
- o   Schools/Institutes;
- o   Library; and
- o   The Office of DVC (REDI).

Dr Mohan highlighted the strengths and weaknesses that the ARC had identified in the case studies and narratives submitted to the pilot assessment. For example, the pilot exercise has highlighted the importance of collaboration with research end-users and the need for case studies to clearly articulate the extent to which the University has supported areas of research. Lessons learnt from the pilot exercise will not only enable the development of robust impact case studies for the 2018 and future assessments, but increase awareness among researchers about the significance of integrating impact into the research design and involving end-users from the conceptual stages of the research.

Senate thanked Dr Mohan for her presentation.

3.8   LEIDEN RANKINGS 2017 – LEAD DEAN (GLOBAL RANKINGS)

Professor Kevin Dunn provided an update on the Leiden 2017 bibliometric rankings which were released on Wednesday 17 May, 2017.

The Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) Leiden (University, Netherlands) Rankings 2017 offer key insights into the scientific performance of 902 major universities worldwide. This ranking uses only bibliometric indicators on the scientific impact of universities (citations) and on universities' involvement in scientific collaboration. The source for CWTS Leiden Ranking 2017 is based on *Web of Science* indexed publications from the period 2012-2015. Leiden's web application provides University listings based on varied impact and collaboration criteria.

Western Sydney University has maintained its global ranking at 271st on the Leiden measure, but has slipped within Australia from 13th to 17th with only 25 universities in Australia ranked.

Western Sydney has some very impressive performances on the collaboration indexes:

- 2nd in Australia (96th worldwide) for proportion of collaborative publications;
- 8th in Australia for proportion of international collaborative publications;
- 4th in Australia for the proportion of short distance (<100km) collaborative publications.

Based on subject clusters, Western Sydney University has maintained its high rankings and in some cases seen some considerable improvement.

In discussion it was noted that these rankings are often quite sensitive to changes in research activity and output, and we need to be aware of this.

Senate thanked Professor Kevin Dunn for his presentation, and indicated that future presentations on other rankings would be welcome.

3.9   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.

An update will be provided to Academic Senate at the October meeting.

3.10   THE SELF-REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE

A paper was appended to provide Academic Senate with an updated progress report on the set of action items arising from Senate's Self-Assessment Survey completed in late 2015.

Senate noted the report without comment.

3.11   ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.11.1 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
Advanced Standing Policy	The revised version approved by Academic Senate on 21 October 2016 has been published. The implementation plan was discussed at 24 May APAG meeting.
Articulation Pathways Policy	The 26 October 2016 APAG meeting discussed a proposed new version of the *Articulations Policy* and *Procedures*. This version was further amended to align with the new Partnerships and Pathways Framework. Consultation has occurred and the policy, procedures and a delegations document are on this agenda for consideration at Item 3.11.2.
Course Design Policy	The Terms of Reference and membership for the Working Party have been agreed noting that this work will be heavily influenced by the 21st Century Curriculum Project, with guidance from the Project Implementation Advisory Group. Amendments to the *Postgraduate Coursework Policy* regarding Graduate Certificates are being investigated by

	OQP for any necessary compliance updates.
Disruption to Studies Policy (renamed from Special Consideration Policy)	The new *Disruption to Studies Policy* 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.
Lecture Recording Policy Review	A draft revised *Educational Video Policy* was discussed at the 24 May APAG. Development is continuing via LaTTe.
Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress	A revised *Progression Policy* was agreed at the 16 February meeting of APAG and endorsed at the 7 March meeting of Education Committee. The new policy will be provided to the October meeting of Academic Senate for consideration.

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

3.11.2 Articulation Policy

A paper outlining the policy updates for Academic Senate was provided. The revised Policy has been amended to align with the revised *Courses and Units Approvals Policy* and meet requirements of the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards 2015).*

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/03):
> *That Academic Senate approves the revised Articulation Pathway Policy, Articulation Pathway Procedures and Articulation Approval Authorities and Delegations document from date of publication.*

3.12 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

There were no awards for noting at this meeting.

3.13 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Senate was requested to consider the following proposal for amendment to a University Funded Scholarship prepared by the Office of Advancement and Alumni:

- Allianze Refugee Scholarship.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/04):
That Academic Senate approves amendments to the following Scholarship:
- *Allianze Refugee 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 two electronic meetings from 7 July to 12 July 2017 and 14 July to 19 July 2017. The reports of these meetings were circulated with the agenda papers.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/05):

That Academic Senate notes the report of the electronic meetings of Senate Executive Committee conducted from 7 July to 12 July 2017 and 14 July to 19 July 2017.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on 10 August 2017. The minutes of this meeting will be included in the October agenda of Senate.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee conducted an electronic meeting from 20 June to 27 June 2017. The report of this meeting was provided.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/06):

That Academic Senate notes the report of the electronic meeting conducted from 20 June to 27 June 2017 of the Research Studies Committee.

4.4 EDUCATION and ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES

The Assessment Committee met on 25 July 2017. The minutes of this meeting were provided as a late paper.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/07):

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the Assessment Committee meeting on 25 July 2017.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APAC) met on 27 June and 27 July 2017. The combined report of these meetings was provided as a late paper.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/08):

That Academic Senate notes the reports of the meetings on 27 June and 27 July 2017 meetings of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SCHOOL/INSTITUTE RESEARCH AND HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORTS

The 2016 Annual report for the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics was provided. Professor Simeon Simoff, Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, spoke to this report. He highlighted the recognition and awards received by SCEM academics and HDR students, and noted the Committee's areas of focus for 2017.

Without discussion ...

It was resolved (AS17:04/09):

That Academic Senate notes the 2016 Annual Report of the Research and Higher Degree Committee of the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics.

4.7   REPORT AND PROPOSED RETIREMENT OF ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY

At the February 2017 meeting, Working Party members agreed to review the ongoing work at the May meeting to determine whether further meetings are required.

On 19 May it was agreed by all members that:
The purpose of this working group, as stipulated in the Terms of Reference has been achieved.

The notes of the last Academic Governance Working Party meeting were appended.

The Chair reported that there was likely to be a future need for a working party of this type, and it would be timely to review this when the scope of any future changes to academic structures and academic governance were known. Senate agreed to hold this agenda item over to its October meeting.

4.8   THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

The College Academic Committee met face to face on 29 June 2017 and 20 June 2017. An electronic meeting was also conducted commencing 26 July 2017.

Senate noted the minutes without comment.

4.9   BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on 9 August 2017.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 11 October 2017. Summaries of Board of Trustees meetings, and minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, are available on the University website at:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees/board_meetings

5   FOR INFORMATION

No items**.**

6   NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is arranged for *Friday 20 October 2017*. This meeting will be held in the *Boardroom, Building AD Werrington North Campus.*

The Academic Senate meeting dates for 2017 are as follow:
- Friday 8 December – To be Advised

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