

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 20/04) of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday 14 August 2020** at **9:30AM**, by **Zoom only**.

The Zoom details for this meeting are: <https://uws.zoom.us/j/495244858>

For apologies and enquiries, please contact Desiree Mulley by email at: d.mulley@westernsydney.edu.au.

AGENDA

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

☆1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, will chair the meeting. The Chair will acknowledge the Traditional Land Owners and welcome all members and attendees, with a specific mention to:

- Dr. Roger Attwater, Senior Manager, Environmental Sustainability who will present in relation to item 3.4 – Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from: Professor Michelle Trudgett and Leanne Hunt.

☆1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any interests, in terms of the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), they may have in relation to the items on this agenda. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the [Leadership and Governance webpage](#).

Members are reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during a meeting of Academic Senate or one of its committees.

☆1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

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

- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.4 – Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

- 3.5 – Strategic Plan Consultation
- 3.6 - Contract Cheating
- 3.7 - Senate Executive Committee Expressions of Interest
- 3.11.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Party
- 3.12.1 – Question on Notice - Online Teaching Evaluations
- 3.13.2 - Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy
- 3.13.3 – Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 Deferred Exam
- 3.13.4 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 GPA Neutral Scheme
- 3.13.5 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 – Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty and Repeat at No Cost.

It is recommended:

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

There may be some re-arrangement of the order of business to enable some members and attendees to attend other meetings.

☆1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

Members are invited to nominate other relevant matters, noting that such items will normally be included on the agenda for a future meeting.

☆1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AS 20/04-1.6

Page 001

Unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 19 June 2020 (Meeting 20/03) have been circulated.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 19 June 2020 (Meeting 20/03), as an accurate record.

☆1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING

AS 20/04-1.7

Page 022

To assist members with monitoring the work of the Academic Senate, an action sheet from the previous meeting has been circulated.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 BRAND HEALTH RESULTS

AS 20/04-2.1

Page 025

The purpose of this paper is to provide Senate with a summary of the results from the brand health research that was conducted to assess reputational changes for Western since 2017. This paper has been provided in response to an action item.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the brand health results research that was undertaken to assess reputational changes for the University since 2017.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

☆**3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

AS 20/04-3.1
Page 029

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 19 June 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 5 August meeting of the Board of Trustees, is appended to the Chair's report.

☆**3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

AS 20/04-3.2
Page 041

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended.

☆**3.3 STUDENT REPORT**

AS 20/04-3.3
Page 058

A report compiled by the student representatives of Senate will be provided at each meeting of Senate for noting.

☆**3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**

AS 20/04-3.4
Page 063

Dr Rodger Attwater, Senior Manager, Environmental Stability will present to Senate regarding the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

☆**3.5 STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION**

Professor Brian Stout to lead Senate in discussion regarding the next iteration of the University's strategic plan. Senate will move into breakout rooms to discuss in small groups.

☆**3.6 CONTRACT CHEATING**

AS 20/04-3.6
Late Paper

The purpose of this paper is to advise Senate of the proposed steps for a University wide approach to addressing contract cheating.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report on Contract Cheating from the Transition and Retention Working Party Academic Integrity Sub Group.

☆**3.7 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

As per the Terms of Reference for Academic Senate Executive Committee two elected members of Academic Senate are appointed by the Chair of Senate, to achieve gender balance and/or appropriate expertise. Expressions of Interest are sought from the elected members of Senate to be members on Senate Executive Committee.

3.8 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE TERMS OF REFERENCE
AS 20/04-3.8
Page 092

The purpose of this paper is to request the review and approval of Academic Senate for the Executive Committee of the Research Studies Committee Terms of Reference.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approve the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee of the Research Studies Committee.

3.9 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS REVIEW 2019 PANEL REPORT **AS 20/04-3.9**
Late Paper

The purpose of this paper is to update Senate regarding the School of Business Review 2019 Panel Report.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the School of Business Review 2019 Panel Report, and the School of Business Review Action Plan.

3.10 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP EXTENSIONS
AS 20/04-3.10
Late Paper

Professor Caroline Smith, Dean Graduate Research School has prepared a report that outlines the scholarship extension provisions for Higher Degree Research students that were introduced in response to COVID-19.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report on Higher Degree Research Scholarship Extensions.

3.11 HOT TOPICS

In response to the recent Senate Review Report recommendations, Senate members have the opportunity to submit a 'Hot Topic' for discussion prior to each meeting of Senate.

☆3.11.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group **AS 20/04-3.11.1**
Page 094

The purpose of this paper is to provide Senate with an update on progress in work carried out by the Fitness to Practice Working Group.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senates notes the progress of the Fitness to Practice Working Group.

3.12 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice are a tool that academics from across the University can use to engage with Senate. Questions must be sent to the Chair and the Secretary at least two weeks prior to Senate and must fit within the scope of the Terms of Reference of

Senate. All questions that fit this criterion will be answered, it is up to the discretion of the Chair if questions will be tabled at Senate.

3.12.1 Online Teaching Evaluations

AS 20/04-3.12.1

Page 103

The purpose of this Question on Notice is to discuss the policy framework for online teaching evaluations in circumstances where class sizes have fewer than five students.

For Discussion and Feedback.

3.13 ACADEMIC POLICY REVIEW

3.13.1 Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)

AS 20/04-3.13.1

Page 106

The purpose of this paper is to update Senate on the academic policies prioritised for consideration and progress to date by the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG). APAG met on Friday, 26 June 2020.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the update on academic policies and progress to date by the Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG).

3.13.2 Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy

AS 20/04-3.13.2

Page 114

The purpose of this paper is to amend the references to the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery clauses in the of the *Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress policy* as a result of the introduction of the Doctor of Medicine from 2020.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the variation to the Progression & Unsatisfactory Academic Progress policy to incorporate the Doctor of Medicine into the scope of this policy.

3.13.3 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19

Deferred Exam

AS 20/04-3.13.3

Page 125

The purpose of this paper is seek Senate's ratification of the temporary suspension to clause 13(c) of the *Examinations Policy* and clause 5 of the *Examinations Procedures*, to allow students who experienced technical or other difficulties during an online examination to sit a deferred exam.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies the temporary suspension to clause 13(c) of the Examinations Policy and clause 5 of the Examination Procedures in response to COVID-19.

**3.13.4 Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 -
GPA Neutral Scheme**

AS 20/04-3.13.4
Page 126

The purpose of this paper is to seek the ratification of Senate to extend the GPA Neutral Scheme to encompass Spring, 2H and Quarter 4 (including Sydney City Campus Quarter 4), Block 4 and Trimester 3.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies an extended variation to clause 14 of the Graduation Policy and clauses 34 and 35 of the Assessment Policy: Criteria and Standards Based Assessment, for an additional six months.

**3.13.5 - Policy Variations and Suspensions in Response to COVID-19 –
Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty and Repeat at No Cost**

AS 20/04-3.13.5
Page 128

The purpose of this paper is to seek the ratification of Senate to extend the policy variation of the *Enrolment Policy* and the *Student Fees Policy* to continue to enable students to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty (WWAP) (with financial liability), and to repeat a failed unit at no cost (international students only), for an additional 6 months.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate ratifies an extended variation to clauses 8, 51, 52 and 126 of the Enrolment Policy and clause 42 and 113 of the Student Fees Policy, for an additional six months.

3.14 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL

The purpose of this paper is to advise Academic Senate of students who have been awarded a University Medal, as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Senate.

The attachment for this item has been omitted as it contains student information.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the awarding of the University Medal to students listed in attachment 1 of item 3.14 Awards of the University Medal.

3.15 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

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

The attachment, blurb and recommendation for this item has been omitted as it contains student information.

3.16 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Donor Funded Scholarships

AS 20/04-3.16

Page 130

Academic Senate is requested to consider the following proposal for five new Donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement:

Flavorite Scholarship in Protected Cropping

This newly confirmed scholarship is for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

Perfection Fresh Scholarship in Protected Cropping

This newly confirmed scholarship is for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

Costa Group Scholarship in Protected Cropping

This newly confirmed scholarship is for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs Scholarship in Protected Cropping

This newly confirmed scholarship is for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

ICI Industries Scholarship in Protected Cropping

This newly confirmed scholarship is for commencing or continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a career in protected cropping. The recipient must remain enrolled full-time or part-time in the required course (not less than 20 credit points per semester), and maintain a Pass average (GPA 4.0 or greater).

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Donor funded scholarship:

- *Flavorite Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Perfection Fresh Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Costa Group Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs Scholarship in Protected Cropping*
- *ICI Industries Scholarship in Protected Cropping.*

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 **AS 20/04-4.1** Page 132

The Senate Executive Committee conducted a meeting (meeting 20/07) on Friday, 10 July. The minutes have been circulated.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report of the meeting held on Friday, 10 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) of the Senate Executive Committee.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE **AS 20/04-4.2** Page 136

The Research Studies Committee met on Monday, 15 June, appended. The minutes of Friday, 7 August will be provided at the next meeting.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 June of the Research Committee.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE **AS 20/04-4.3** Page 142

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 16 June and Tuesday, 14 July. The minutes are appended. The minutes of the Tuesday, 11 August meeting will be available at the next meeting of Senate.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16 June and Tuesday, 14 July of the Research Studies Committee.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE **AS 20/04-4.4** Page 160

Senate Education Committee met on 23 June 2020, the minutes are appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020 of Senate Education Committee.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

AS 20/04-4.5

Late paper

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on 7 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and 4 August 2020 (meeting 20/08), the combined report has been circulated.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 7 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and 4 August 2020 (meeting 20/08) and approves the recommendations contained therein.

4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

AS 20/04-4.6

Page

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 28 July 2020. The minutes are appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held Tuesday, 28 July 2020.

4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

AS 20/04-4.7

Page 169

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on Thursday, 2 July 2020 (meeting 20/07) and conducted an electronic meeting between Wednesday, 20 May and Monday, 25 May (20/06). Minutes appended.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate notes the minutes of the College Academic Pathway Program Committee meeting held on Thursday, 2 July 2020 and the electronic meeting held between Wednesday, 20 May and Monday, 25 May.

4.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 7 October 2020. 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/board_meetings

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 October 2020. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

- 16 October
- 4 December

Meetings commence at 9:30AM and conclude by 12:30PM.