WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 21/03 of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University held on Friday 18 June 2021 at 9.30AM, at the following Zoom hubs *and* via Zoom:

- Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) (Chair location)
- Campbelltown, Building 22, level 2, room 39 (CA-22.2.39)
- Hawkesbury, Building H7, level G, room 15 (HW-H7.G.15)

Present:

Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy (Chair)
Associate Professor Ana Hol
Associate Professor Kate Huppatz (Deputy Chair)
Associate Professor Linda Taylor
Associate Professor Mary Hardie
Associate Professor Michael Tyler
Associate Professor Simon Green
Dr Ana Rodas
Dr Annette Sartor
Dr Caterina Tannous
Dr Kenan Matawie
Dr Ludmilla (Lucy) Robinson
Dr Maggie Davidson
Dr Margarite Poulos
Dr Martin Daly
Dr Peter Humphreys
Dr Samanthika Liyanapathirana
Dr Steven Trankle
Bakar Mohamad (Undergraduate student)
Khandakar Farid Uddin (HDR student)
Leanne Hunt
Lizette DeLacy (*arrived at 10:00AM*)
Pete Maggs

Professor Amir Mahmood
Professor Anna Cody
Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Professor Brian Stout
Professor Catherine Renshaw
Professor Deborah Hatcher
Professor Deborah Sweeney
Professor Eileen McLaughlin
Professor Gregory Kolt
Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright
Professor Kevin Dunn
Professor Matthias Boer
Professor Michele Simons (*arrived at 10:13AM*)
Professor Michelle Trudgett (*departed at 11.20AM*)
Professor Mike Kagioglou
Professor Simeon Simoff
Professor Simon Bedford
Professor Suzan Burton
Professor Tanya Meade
Professor Yenna Salamonson
Professor Zhong Tao

Apologies:

Associate Professor Christopher Peterson
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman
Associate Professor Karen Soldatic
Associate Professor Liza Cubeddu
Associate Professor Matt McGuire
Dr Nicolene Murdoch
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana
Dr Robert Osei-Kyei
Professor Adam Possamai
Professor Andrew Page
Professor Barney Glover (*Vice-Chancellor*)

Professor Clare Pollock
Professor Heather Horst
Professor Kate Stevens
Professor Simon Barrie
Elif Sakiz (Postgraduate student)
Hollie Hammond (Undergraduate student)
Matija Burrett (student representing disability matters)

Absent:

Jessie Robinson (ATSI student)   Michael Burgess
Khulan Khurelbaatar (International
student)

In attendance

Angela MacDonald, Senior Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services (Secretary)
Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services
Sophie Buck Director, Office of Governance Services
Nicole Gismondo, Senior Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services
Allyson McDonald, Executive Governance Officer, Office of Governance Services
Naomi Hastings, Postgraduate Student Representative, Board of Trustees
Daniel Bonatti, Student Representative Council
Tim Horan, Senior Advisor Partnership & Growth, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research, Enterprise and International)

CONFIRMED MINUTES

1   PROCEDURAL MATTERS

☆ 1.1   INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy, Chaired the meeting. The Chair invited Professor Michelle Trudgett, Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation to open the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Land Custodians.

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

- Welcome to Professor Clare Pollock the University's new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, and member of Senate. Professor Pollock is in attendance at today's graduation ceremonies.
- Congratulations to Hollie Hammond for her re-election as Undergraduate Student Senate Member.
- Welcome and congratulations to Bakar Mohamad the newly elected Undergraduate Student Senate Member.
- Welcome to Ms Nicole Gismondo, Senior Governance Officer, Secretariat - attending as an observer via Zoom.
- Welcome to Mr Daniel Bonatti, Student Representative Council and Vice-President Postgraduate Education - attending as an observer via Zoom.
- Welcome to Tim Horan, Senior Advisor Partnership & Growth, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and International) - in attendance to present Item *3.5 National Priorities and Industry Linkage Funding (NPILF)*.

☆ 1.2   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were reported.

☆ **1.3   STARRING OF ITEMS**

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   Student Report
- 3.4   The Future of International Education
- 3.5   National Priorities and Industry Linkage Funding (NPILF)
- 3.7.1   Question on Notice – Advanced Standing
- 3.9.2   Curriculum Design and Approvals (CDA) Policy – Implementation Update
- 3.9.3   Dual Award and Joint Research Higher Degrees Policy
- 3.9.4   Academic Appeals Procedures

The following items were additionally starred:
- 2.2   Impact of Progression and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy Suspension
- 3.6   School of Law Review 2020
- 4.5   APCAC report

It was resolved (AS 21/03:01)
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**

The order of business was amended as follows:
- 3.4   The Future of International Education
- 3.5   National Priorities and Industry Linkage Funding (NPILF)
- 2.2   Impact of Progression and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy Suspension

☆ **1.5   OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

☆ **1.6   MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday 16 April 2021 (Meeting 21/02) were confirmed without amendment.

It was resolved (AS 21/03:02)
That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 16 April 2021 (Meeting 21/02), as an accurate record.

☆ **1.7   ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING**

To assist members with monitoring the work of the Academic Senate, an action sheet from the previous meeting was circulated and updated accordingly.

2   BUSINESS ARISING

2.1   2020 ANNUAL REPORT - Resubmission

The purpose of this item was for Senate to ensure that all Standing Committees of Academic Senate are carrying out their functions in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

All school reports were submitted to the 26 February meeting of Senate, the 2020 SAC Annual Report to Senate was resubmitted for noting, following corrections to the Chair/Deputy Dean during 2020.

Noted.

☆ 2.2   IMPACT OF PROGRESSION AND UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS POLICY SUSPENSION

In response to an action arising from Senate Executive Meeting 21/04 on 12 March, a report was provided from Ms Lizette DeLacy, Director, Data Integrity, Quality & Operations. The purpose of this item was for Senate to assess the impact of the Progression and Unsatisfactory Progress policy suspension. With a review of the number of students who have been on conditional enrolment for more than one teaching session, we need to ensure we are adequately capturing students at risk under the GPA neutral scheme.

Due to member availability this item will be rolled over to the next Academic Senate meeting planned for 13 August 2021, with the below action item.

Action item:
The documentation is requested to be updated with the variables tabled and discussed under Business Arising at the Senate Executive meeting on 14 May. Revised documentation to be provided by Ms DeLacy to the 13 August meeting of Academic Senate.

3   GENERAL BUSINESS

☆ 3.1   REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 16 April 2021 and the Chair's Report to the 9 June meeting of the Board of Trustees had been circulated.

The Chair highlighted several key points within the Chair's Report and the Report to the Board of Trustees:

- Following the April meeting of Senate, the revised Course and Unit Authorities Delegations documents were provided to APCAC for endorsement, with final approval received from the Senate Executive Committee on 14 May 2021. It was important to note, the documentation maintains SAC oversight in the approval process while maintaining agility in curriculum approvals with the approved delegations.

- The Third Party Provider Committee (TPPC) is now actively meeting, with work currently being undertaken on creating a TPP database and risk register. Also to note, the [Third Party Provider Policy](#) has been published on the Policy DDS.
- The Chair recently attended a Universities Australia conference and reported on the presentations of the Federal and Shadow Education Ministers. The focus was on Domestic students, with the Federal Education Minister expressing a keenness to enable this cohort to return to the on-campus experience. The Hon Alan Tudge MP spoke to the issue of the commercialisation of research, with an aim to fundamentally shift the current models of research. The Chair recommended this be brought back to a future meeting of Senate.
- At today's meeting of Senate, Associate Professor Linda Taylor will speak to the University's vision for international students and decadal planning around this, with linkage to the Federal Government goals of international and online student enrolment.
- The Chair also attended the recent *Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates* meeting. A presentation from Dr Helen Gniel, the Director, Higher Education Integrity Unit, TEQSA detailed the risks that TEQSA are currently examining, with a continued emphasis on contract cheating, admissions, and cyber security.
- In addition, following a presentation at the *Chairs of Academic Boards* meeting, the Chair has extended an invitation to Professor Phil Dawson, Deakin University. Professor Dawson will present at the 13 August meeting of Senate on the complexities of contract cheating with fast-moving technologies.
- At the next Senate meeting, the topics of Admissions (English testing), micro-credentialing, cyber security, and what we can do protect our students with predatory journals – will also be earmarked for discussion.

The Chair invited Professor Simon Bedford, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) to provide an update on behalf of the Senate Education committee. Key points included:

- Transition and retention remains a focus for the Education Committee with connection to the Vice-Chancellor's Transition and Retention Taskforce strategy. The Taskforce is currently looking at new initiatives to gather better data on these activities, with a focus on international and offshore retention and flexible delivery modes.
- Work continues on quality enhancement initiatives, analysis on trends in the 2020 SFU data with an aim of closing the loop with schools.
- The new *Student Feedback on Units and Teaching Survey Policy* is currently going through the approval process.
- Future updates will soon be available on *Project Query*, led by Kate Liddell Associate Director, Education Quality & Policy, DVC(A) and Deans of school.
- Peer review and analysis of teaching and learning data continues (as per the committee's Work Plan) with a view to better measure teaching and learning. There is potential for this data to be gathered in a portal type dashboard, which could prove useful for development of teaching and learning as well as evidence for promotions and awards. The Rewards and Recognition paper on this topic is going to the Executive Committee this week.
- The 21C generated '*We are the University: Students Co-creating change'* unit is in its second year, the committee is looking to establish collaborations between students and academic governance committees for potential projects.

Action item:
The topic of 'commercialisation of research' to be tabled at a future meeting of Senate, the Committee Secretary and Chair to liaise with Professor Deborah Sweeney and Professor Kevin Dunn.

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

The Vice-Chancellor's Report was appended. Professor Deborah Sweeney Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President (Research, Enterprise & International) spoke to the report. Professor Sweeney highlighted the following within the report:

- In relation to the opening of international corridors for students, it has progressed from the NSW Government to Federal Government, more information on the pilot will be released shortly.
- The Hon Alan Tudge MP's position continues to emphasise the importance of activating campuses to allow for our domestic student's return to campus.
- Outcomes from the TEQSA quality of research consultation is under review. The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (REI) are supportive of the recommendations, noting the Government needs to provide further clarity in regard to accreditation and reaccreditation. With the next stage of ERA impact, questions have been raised on what world standard should actually be; world average or alignment to the higher performing countries results.
- The Federal Budget 2021-2022 reflects no ongoing support for universities, there are small amounts of funding available around internships for postgraduate students, thus encouraging closer working relationships with external partners.

The Chair thanked Professor Sweeney for the update on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

☆ **3.3   STUDENT REPORT**

A report compiled by Higher Degree Research Student representatives Elif Sakiz and Khandakar Farid Uddin had been circulated.

Mr Uddin highlighted a key concern within the student report relating to international students within the Graduate Research School (GRS). Peer feedback centred on students experiencing problematic support from the International Office and GRS in relation to obtaining required documentation for visa extensions.

It was agreed improvements to the GRS FAQs webpage would address concerns around insufficient guidance to international students, however, any changes made would need to align with existing Admissions processes. This task was recommended to be progressed to the International Taskforce for consideration.

Lastly, it was noted the Graduate Research School will be providing funding towards academic literacy support, with more structured programs in place provided by the Library.

Action item:
An extract of minutes to be provided to the International Taskforce, with a subsequent update to be provided at the next Senate meeting.

☆ 3.4 THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President (Research, Enterprise & International) and Associate Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) provided a presentation on the future of international education titled the *International Road to Recovery*.

Statistics were provided on the Covid-19 impacts to international student enrolments and tuition fee revenue. With high gains in the period between 2016-19 with a 60% increase in enrolments and revenue doubling, in comparison, the period 2019-20, enrolments were down 7%, revenue down 10%, and student commencements down 16%. To note, this is below the higher deficit levels experienced at other institutions.

A growth strategy is in place to increase enrolments; acknowledgement was extended to the International team and schools for their work on this, with borders remaining closed, we will continue to see restrictions on our offshore student intake.

International Student progression data was provided from the top five schools performing well in course progression and GPAs; School of Business, Nursing and Midwifery, Engineering, Built Environment, and Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences.

The percentages of International student enrolments in 2019 were provided for comparison, proportionally Western Sydney University performed well with 18% of international student enrolments. In 2020 WSU's market diversity outperformed NSW data with student enrolments from India, Nepal and China.

Future strategies include diversification into the Philippines, Africa (specifically Nigeria and Kenya) with high percentages of young populations looking to study overseas. Philippines for example, has seen a rapidly increasing economy with strong growth since 2017, With regard to Africa, following a Vice-Chancellor led tour in 2019, there is keenness to restart this focus; for example, in Nigeria there is a high population already studying overseas, mainly driven by lecturers needing a PhD to teach in African institutions.

Comparisons on undergraduate and postgraduate students by school were also provided, with five schools obtaining 75% of commencing students in 2020.

In order to improve graduate outcomes, a pathway to work is integral with the following key drivers:
- Strengthen support for internships & placements
- Develop more industry certificates embedded in curriculum
- Leverage Western Sydney industry partnerships
- Improve access to work while studying

A paid work pilot initiative led by the School of Business to improve graduate outcomes is soon to launch; commencing students will be offered $3000 paid work with either local businesses or the university. Students will receive pre-employment training, support, mentors and peer networks. The pilot will differentiate WSU business courses from all other universities in Australia.

Further investigation is underway to establish Transnational Education (TNE) providers at reputable offshore institutions. Lessons learnt may be extracted from the maturing relationship with the University of Economics (UEH), Ho Chi Minh City,

Vietnam; the appointment of a Provost has provided a beneficial one point of contact, and a streamlining of third party governance.

Priority markets for TNE include Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India:

Indonesia:
- Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) allows Australian branch campuses.
- Universities to offer at least 2 STEM courses.
- Micro-credentials, online, HyFlex uptake.
- Aligning Western strengths to Indonesia's Industry 4.0 skills agenda.
- Monash and CQU established in 2020/21.

Sri Lanka:
- Unmet demand for higher education places.
- 2020 Government higher education sector allows branch campuses.
- Skills gaps – tourism, IT, construction, light engineering, entrepreneurship, data analytics.
- Pathway programs with partners - Monash, Edith Cowan, Swinburne, Curtin, Deakin.

India:
- Largest tertiary-age population in the world.
- Plan to increase higher education enrolment to 50%, India in need of international partners.
- National Education Policy invites top 200 universities to establish in India.
- Longer term strategy, possibly through IRU

Member feedback was requested on the method of payment for the School of Business paid work pilot. In response, it was confirmed to be the same as existing employee wage payments with relevant insurances included. This will be managed by the Office of People and Success.
In conclusion, the Chair highlighted the importance of people and governance, and subsequent benefits to quality assurance. Liaison with the Third Party Provider Committee also playing a key role in this space.

The Chair thanked Professor Sweeney and Associate Professor Taylor for the presentation.

Action item:
The Committee Secretary to share the presentation with members post-meeting.

☆ **3.5** **NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND INDUSTRY LINKAGE FUND (NPILF)**

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President (Research, Enterprise & International), and Mr Tim Horan, Senior Advisor Partnership and Growth, provided an update on how the block grants allocated to Universities as part of the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF) are to be used.

Professor Sweeney provided introductory comments on the presentation; NPILF was introduced by the Commonwealth Government via the Job Ready Graduates (JRG) program, to encourage universities to work closely with Industry to create job ready graduates. The funding will be released in block grants under a tripartite framework

of Work Integrated Learning (WIL), STEM-skilled graduates, and industry partnerships. The process by year is defined as; 2021 is considered a 'learning year', 2022-24 is the three-year pilot period, with performance based funding introduced from 2025.

Mr Horan continued with the presentation, noting to members this is a whole of university approach (not just STEM), targeting the domestic student experience. Partnerships are critical to achieving positive results in 11 of the 15 NPILF metrics spanning WIL, employability, education, research, commercial income, and infrastructure.

An example of a WSU industry collaboration case study is the *Launch Pad Precinct Activation*; integrating teaching and research objectives with co-located commercial partners, aligned with the University's Western Growth developments.

The Chair thanked Professor Sweeney and Mr Horan for the presentation.

Action item:
The Committee Secretary to share the presentation with members post-meeting.

[Professor Michelle Trudgett departed at 11:15AM]

☆ 3.6   SCHOOL OF LAW REVIEW 2020

The purpose of this item was to notify Senate of the School of Law Review 2020 Panel Report and Action Plan.

Senate members and representatives for the School of Law, Professor Catherine Renshaw and Dr Lucy Robinson provided further commentary around the review and action plan.

Professor Renshaw advised the review took place when the school was undergoing significant change in the teaching and learning profile. ERA outcomes in 2010 and 2015 ranked the School's research as ERA 2 "Below World Standard", whereas in 2012 and 2018 it was ranked at ERA 3 "At World Standard".

A new teaching staffing profile has been introduced and investments in development and training for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) have been made. As a result, the School has seen a more engaged student body with increased attendance at seminars and events. The school is also looking to improve upon connections with schools and institutes, with a focus on obtaining research grants, and working towards a ranking of ERA 4.

Dr Robinson wished to highlight several recommendations and commendations within the panel report:

- *Commendation 1:* The School academic and pastoral support provided to students during the pandemic in Autumn session 2020 – acknowledgement of the positive feedback received from students in relation to this.
- *Recommendation 2:* The School to consider extending the support and opportunities given to first year undergraduate law students to later years – feedback received has been encouraging.

- *Action Plan #2:* It was agreed further work should occur on the research program and objectives of the International Centre for Ocean Governance (ICOG).
- *Action Plan #6:* The newly refurbished staff common room has had a positive impact on staff morale.

Professor Anna Cody, Dean, School of Law, provided final comments. The review has been extremely beneficial to the school in highlighting key areas; workload policy and performance drivers, the importance of ECR development and mentorship, consistency in teaching workloads, and future growth of Justice Clinic. As mentioned in the Affirmations, the School will ensure the further development of an Indigenous strategy to attract, retain and support Indigenous students, and will continue to ensure staff morale remains high via regular school meetings and catch-ups. Professor Cody concluded by extending thanks to the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Ms Deirdre Lee and the Chair of the panel, Professor Brian Stout for their guidance through the review process.

The Chair thanked Professor Cody, Professor Renshaw and Dr Robinson for their comments and feedback.

Noted.

3.7 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

'Questions on Notice' is 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.

☆ 3.7.1 Advanced Standing

Senate member Dr Caterina Tannous requested the item be tabled for further discussion, in order to seek clarification on the application of advanced standing based on previous work experience. It has been identified that there are inconsistencies in awarding advanced standing and there may be a policy gap in this space. Some schools use 'challenge assessments' to determine a student's capacity. A consistent approach was sought for assessing competency on the basis of previous work experience.

This issue has also been raised at a recent Director of Academic Program (DAP) forum, following discussion it was clear that different approaches were in place, with inconsistencies in addressing prior learning.

The Pathways Working Group is tasked with looking at the Advanced Standing Policy;

Clause (12) c.
Demonstrable skills and learning gained from work or life experience that is relevant to the course being studied (informal learning);
Specifically, how to measure other training contexts in *"work or life experience"*

The Chair suggested a guide or set of procedures would be beneficial in how to assess applications under this criterion, consideration should also be given where there are school or disciplinary specific contexts to consider.

A suggestion was raised to approach the review of Advanced Standing applications as an assessment process. There are inherent risks around giving students credit for learning and whether the student is prepared and ready to progress beyond the credited units. A dialogue with the student would also prove beneficial.

In conclusion, it was agreed concerns still exist on the variable issues raised. The Chair thanked Dr Tannous for bringing this to the attention of Academic Senate.

Action item:
Assign to the Pathways Working Group for further discussion and development. With alignment to the existing Advanced Standing Policy, specifically clause 12.c, develop a guide or set of procedures on:
- assessing applications under the criteria of *"work or life experience"*
- consideration given to school or discipline specific needs
- approaching as an assessment process, including the opportunity to have a conversation with the student.

Following compilation, bring back to a future Academic Senate meeting.

3.8   HOT TOPICS

In response to the Senate Review Report recommendations, Senate members have the opportunity to submit a 'Hot Topic' for discussion prior to each meeting of Senate. There were no hot topics tabled for discussion at this meeting.

3.9   POLICY REVIEW

3.9.1   Policy Review Update

The purpose of this item was to notify Senate of the proposed policies to be prioritised for consideration and progress by the Academic Senate Policy Committee in 2021.

Noted.

☆ 3.9.2   Curriculum Design and Approvals (CDA) Policy – Implementation Update

The purpose of this item was to update Senate on the implementation of the CDA Policy and procedural documents: Curriculum Structure Procedures, Curriculum Approval Procedures and Curriculum Advice to Students Procedures.

Professor Simon Bedford provided a brief update on the implementation plan, key points included:

- Following approval of the Policy by Senate, a phased introduction is underway, with next steps including testing in the Curriculum Management Tool (CIM), a module linked to the new SMS.
- With regard to the Honours Guidelines (replacing the Honours in Bachelor Awards Policy), a draft has been released for consultation via the Policy DDS Bulletin Board from 26 May to 16 June, with circulation via School Academic and Research and Higher Degree Committees.
- Recent receipt of NPILF funding has enabled additional curriculum advisors.

- Socialisation of the CDA Policy and implementation is ongoing, more recently at the Course Leaders Forum.
- Thanks were extended to the CDA Implementation Group chaired by Dr Kate Liddell, with implementation progress and associated resources frequently updated on the 21C website.

The Chair thanked Professor Simon Bedford for the progress update.

Noted.

☆ **3.9.3   Dual Award and Joint Research Higher Degrees Policy**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Dual Award and Joint Research Higher Degrees Policy* (previously titled *Dual Award and Joint Higher Degrees Policy*). Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research provided a brief introduction on the proposed revisions.

The Policy, last reviewed 2015, the proposed changes include revisions to procedural information and guidelines around agreements, noting this has undergone a high-levels of consultation including the Senate Policy Committee.

The Chair thanked Professor Dunn for the update.

It was resolved (AS 21/03:03)
It is recommended that the Academic Senate approves the revised and retitled Dual Award and Joint Research Higher Degrees Policy from the date of approval.

☆ **3.9.4   Academic Appeals Procedures**

The purpose of this paper was to seek the approval of Senate for the revised *Academic Appeals Procedures*. Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services, provided a rationale for the recent revisions.

The Academic Appeal Procedures have been in place since 2017. Following a recent spike in volume and complexity of appeals submitted to the Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee, it was determined that a review of the procedures was required.

The procedures have largely been rewritten with close alignment to the Misconduct Rule, in turn providing appropriate rigour and guidance in decision making. Previously the Research and Higher Degree Research appeals were a separate set of appeal procedures, these are now combined within the new *Academic Appeal Procedures*.

A new step has been introduced whereby the Chair or Deputy Chair conducts an initial review to assess whether grounds exist in order to progress the appeal, if the appeal is rejected on the basis of no valid grounds, there is a subsequent second reviewer.

General updates include improvements on readability, and the change in ownership moved to the Office of Governance Services. The Procedures have moved through the usual channels of approval; Senate Policy Committee, Executive and the Policy DDS Bulleting Board. Recently one minor change has occurred for 'working days' to be changed to 'business days' under the delegation of Ms Buck, as Director of Governance Services.

The Chair thanked Ms Buck for the rationale of changes presented.

It was resolved (AS 21/03:04)
It is recommended that the Academic Senate approves the revised Academic Appeals Procedures from the date of approval.

3.10   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.

3.10.1   ███████████████████

The School of Science Academic Committee approved the awarding of course 3675 Bachelor of Science posthumously to ███████████████ This was also noted at the 18 May meeting of Senate Assessment Committee.

Noted.

3.10.2   ███████████████████████

The School of Computer, Data, and Mathematical Science Academic Committee approved the awarding of course 3639 Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology posthumously to ████████████████████ This will also be noted at the 27 July meeting of Senate Assessment Committee.

Noted.

3.11   APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

3.11.1   Donor Funded Scholarships

Academic Senate was requested to consider the following proposal for five new donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement:
- Dr Wayne Wai-Kung Wong Scholarship in Medicine
- Baxter Healthcare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship in Nursing
- Abergeldie Engineering Scholarship
- Hunt & Hunt Law Scholarship
- Bartier Perry Law Scholarship for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Women

It was resolved (AS 21/03:05)
That Academic Senate approves the following proposed new Donor funded scholarships:
- *Dr Wayne Wai-Kung Wong Scholarship in Medicine*
- *Baxter Healthcare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship in Nursing*
- *Abergeldie Engineering Scholarship*
- *Hunt & Hunt Law Scholarship*
- *Bartier Perry Law Scholarship for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Women*

3.12 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL

There were no University Medals for noting at this meeting.

3.13 CONFERRAL OF GRADUANDS

There were no awards conferred to graduands by the Chair of Academic Senate since the last meeting.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Items 4.1 – 4.9 provides an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate Executive Committee conducted a meeting on Friday 14 May 2021 (Meeting 21/06). The minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee met on 23 April 2021, the minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday 13 April and Tuesday 11 May 2021. The de-identified minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senate Education Committee met on Thursday 22 April 2021. The minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

✩ 4.5   ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on Tuesday 4 May 2021 (meeting 21/05) and Tuesday 1 June 2021 (meeting 21/06). The minutes had been circulated.

The item was starred to allow for adjustments to items, with a revised resolution to reflect this. It was agreed that the APCAC meeting on 1 June 2021 (21/06) report would be approved subject to the following being excluded from Academic Senate approval:

- *4.3.3.14 – 301464 Regulatory Risk Management and Continuity Planning*
- *4.3.3.15 – 301465 Quality Systems*
- *4.3.3.16 – 301466 Production Systems*
- *4.3.3.17 – 301467 Innovation Design and Delivery*
- *4.3.5.7 – SM3120 Integrated Management*

Following acknowledgement on the adjustments required, the Chair took the opportunity to highlight the importance of Academic Senate's oversight on curriculum and exposure to increasingly innovative programs of study, such as the new Master of Neuromorphic Engineering. The Masters has been developed by the MARCS Institute and progressed by Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIs), it is not a typical research degree and has a cross-disciplinary approach with strong connections to industry.

It was resolved (AS 21/03:06)
  i.   *That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 (meeting 21/05) and approves the recommendations contained therein.*
  ii.   *That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 (meeting 21/06) and approves the recommendations contained therein, with the exclusion of the following units and specialisation:*
      o   *4.3.3.14 – 301464 Regulatory Risk Management and Continuity Planning*
      o   *4.3.3.15 – 301465 Quality Systems*
      o   *4.3.3.16 – 301466 Production Systems*
      o   *4.3.3.17 – 301467 Innovation Design and Delivery*
      o   *4.3.5.7 – SM3120 Integrated Management*

4.6   SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday 18 May 2021 (meeting 21/02). The unconfirmed minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.7   THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on 25 March (WSTC21/03) and 6 May 2021 (WSTC21/04). The minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.8 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday 12 May 2021. The minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.9 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

The Third Party Provider Committee met on Thursday 8 April (meeting 21/01) and Tuesday 1 June (meeting 21/02). The minutes had been circulated.

Noted.

4.10 GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following endorsement by the Graduate Research School Academic Committee, the Terms of Reference for the Graduate Research School were provided to Academic Senate for approval.

It was resolved (AS 21/03:06)
It is recommended that the Academic Senate approves the Terms of Reference for the Graduate Research School.

4.11 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 4 August 2021. 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 13 August 2021. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Remaining meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:
- 13 August
- 15 October
- 10 December.

Meetings commence at 9.30AM and conclude by 12.30PM.