

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Meeting 24/05 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday, 11 October 2024 at, 9:30AM, via zoom.

Present

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright, Interim Dean, Graduate Research School
Dr Tuki Attuquayefio, School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative) Arrived 9:40am
Dr Nathan Berger, School of Education (Level A, B or C Representative)
Dr Maria Bhatti, School of Law (Level A, B or C Representative)
Mr Glenn Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, The College
Dr Evan Crawford, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Ann Dadich, School of Business (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Education Arrived 9:48am
Dr James Dunn, School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative) Arrived 9:36am
Professor Kevin Dunn, Provost
Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon, Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment
Mr Prashith Fernando, Undergraduate Student Representative Arrived 10:16am
Professor Jane Frost, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level D, E Representative)
Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative Arrived 9:46am; Exited 12:14pm
Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations
Associate Professor Ana Hol, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Wendy Hu, School of Medicine (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Bahman Javadi, Interim Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences
Professor Sarah Lewis, Dean, School of Health Sciences Arrived 9:34am
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level A, B or C Representative) Arrived 9:37am
Professor Samantha Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level D, E Representative) Arrived 9:34am
Professor Amir Mahmood, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Surabaya campus
Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate
Professor Rod McClure, Dean, School of Medicine Arrived 9:33am
Professor Tanya Meade, Dean, School of Psychology
Mr Ashes Niroula, International Student Representative Arrived 10:01am; exited 11:35am
Professor Susan Page, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education
Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou, University Research Institutes Representative Arrived 9:36am
Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degree Research Candidate Student Representative Arrived 9:56am
Dr Ben Perry, School of Science (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Adam Possamai, Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences
Dr Margarite Poulos, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Catherine Renshaw, Dean, School of Law

Ms Fiona Salisbury, Executive Director, Library Services
Ms Tiffany Sharpe, Indigenous Australian Student Representative
Associate Professor Lei Si, School of Health Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Michele Simons, Dean, School of Education
Dr Erika Smith, School of Social Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Meg Smith, Interim Dean, School of Business
Associate Professor Liesel Spencer, School of Law (Level D or E Representative)
Dr Kylie Steel, School of Health (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching
Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International Exited 11:26am
Distinguished Professor Anthony Uhlmann, Interim Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Sarah Zhang, Deputy Chair of Academic Senate

Apologies

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director of Indigenous Research (Vice-Chancellor's Nominee)
Professor Miroslav Filipović, School of Science (Level D, E Representative)
Associate Professor Emilee Gilbert, School of Psychology (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dr Peter Lewis, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C Representative)
Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Graciela Metternicht, Dean, School of Science
Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success.
Professor Corrinne Sullivan, School of Social Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Enterprise and Global
Associate Professor Chloe Taylor, Vice-Chancellor's Nominee
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership
Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President

Absent

Professor Dennis Chang, Director, NICM, representing the University's Research Institutes
Ms Treasure Kamuli, Undergraduate Student Representative
Mx Vicky-Rae Reed, Disability Matters Student Representative
Dr Ata Samad, School of Business (Level A, B or C Representative)

In Attendance

Ms Belinda Atkinson, MinterEllison Exited 11:40am
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services, Secretariat
Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore, BoT, Academic Staff representative Arrived 9:39am
Professor Freya MacMillan, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer
Dr Kay Visser, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Transformation

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer formally opened the meeting at 9:32am, acknowledging Country and welcoming attendees, and external reviewers.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1 – School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences Review
- Item 3.1 – Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor’s Report
- Item 3.3 – Student Report
- Item 3.4 – Education
- Item 3.5 – Strategic Plan and Academic Success
- Item 3.6 – School Review
- Item 3.8 – Update from Schools and Institutes
- Item 3.10 – Academic Senate Policy Committee Update & Policy Review
- Item 4.2 – Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
- Item 4.3 – Senate Education Committee

Members also starred Item 3.7 TEQSA Re-Registration Update.

It was resolved: (AS 24/05: 01)

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

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

A re-arrangement of the order of business was not required.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was nominated for this meeting.

1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on Friday 9 August 2024, (meeting 24/04) were attached for confirmation.

It was resolved (AS 24/05:02):

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 9 August 2024, (meeting 24/04) 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) was attached.

Members were requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

24/04:1.7 Action Items: The Chair to contact Mr Bill Parasiris, Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial, regarding the arrangement of newspaper adverts in the lifts in 1PSQ.

Update:

Mr Bill Parasiris has advised that the FOX news ads have stopped. Item closed.

24/04:2.1 Question on Notice: The Chair to send out an EOI for the creation of a small group to explore what is currently in place regarding visibility on research partnerships and the best way that Senate can have clear line of sight.

Update:

The EOI was sent on Thursday 3 October 2024. EOI to remain open, but Item closed.

Action 24/03: 3.3.2 Postgraduate Student Report: Mr Prasad Perera to provide regular updates on the PhD Stipend.

Update:

The Research Committee discussed this matter. The Vice-Chancellor and the Board of Trustees are firmly committed to providing PhD stipends. In 2025. Item to remain open.

24/03: 3.3.3 Diversity Student Report: Mr Ashes Niroula to talk to Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon regarding engineering site visits.

Update: Conversations are ongoing. Both parties will endeavour to close item by December meeting.

Action: 24/02: 1.7 Academic Integration Plans and Disability Governance
Chair to set meeting with Terri Mears and Peter Tow and Vicky-Rae Reed to see scope for further development.

Update: It is important to hold this meeting with an aim to close this Action Item by the December Senate meeting. Ian Sharpe may be the best contact as Peter Tow has changed roles.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES REVIEW

Higher Education Standard(s): 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.4, 5.3.6, 5.3.7
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3

Professor Bahman Javadi, Interim Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences relayed to Senate that an action plan had been developed from the recommendations that focused on student performance, first year student advisors, decasualisation of staff and mentorship. Professor Javadi was pleased to be able to advise Senate that work on these recommendations was well underway.

Workshops for staff had been held and announcements to students had been sent out regarding academic misconduct. Further meetings had taken place with the School and Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership and the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education. Some External Advisory Committee (EAC) meetings had also taken place, while others were scheduled for the remainder of 2024.

It was noted that the action plan focused more on learning and teaching and less on research.

Clarification was sought regarding internships for students and whether the School had considered internal and external networks. Professor Javadi noted that one of the challenges the School faces is that most internships are not compulsory and therefore limited resources are available. He said there was a plan to hire a professional staff member to look after internships in 2025.

Professor Kevin Dunn remarked that the cycle of School reviews had been paused for now as it is being considered how school reviews could be used with better effect. He said that the current reviews were small in scope with an emphasis on learning and teaching and less consideration of research and broader issues, with future reviews needing to be more holistic.

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

The Chair drew attention to the upcoming Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate Forum on Wednesday 16 October 2024 at the Bankstown CBD campus on *The Purpose of the University*. He noted that this is a timely topic and that registrations have been received from over 60 academic and professional staff.

Professor Mailhammer also appraised Academic Senate about key points of most recent meeting of the Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates. Academic risk remains a focus of the Committee. The meeting showed the progress the sector has made in monitoring and managing academic risk. However, the Chair pointed out that much remained to be done, including at Western. The Committee discussed approaches and key features of academic risk that need to be accounted for in relevant frameworks, such as multiple risk ownership or episodic vs. inherent risks. The other key topic was how Universities were dealing with the proposed caps on international student enrolments.

The Chair also said that the governance review would be finalised by the December meetings of the Board of Trustees and Academic Senate. Consultations with members and focus groups had taken place and recommendations would be drafted and presented to the Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate, ahead of the respective December meetings.

Professor Mailhammer encouraged members to engage with processes of the strategic plan and the School Review, advising that this was an opportunity to help shape the future of the University.

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

As the Vice-Chancellor had sent his apologies, Professor Kevin Dunn, Provost, spoke to this report. He highlighted that the report was a more parsimonious document, as the Vice-Chancellor intended to reduce the paper documents for all reporting.

Professor Dunn said that international caps would be in place for 2025, and although these caps will allow more students than were enrolled in 2024, available figures were 900 – 1000 students below the targets.

He also reported that the new campus in Surabaya had officially opened in September, with 28 students enrolled. Moreover, the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor attended the graduation ceremony at the Vietnam campus.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, International advised Senate that there had been some developments regarding the position of transnational education in relation to international student caps. The University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), Surabaya campus and any other future transnational campuses would be exempt from the international cap. She also said that international caps would be a year-on-year discussion, which in her view was in contrast with the recommendations in the Accord final report. The Senate was further informed that UEH and our transnational campuses were a serious stream of income and an alternate source of international students not impacted by government caps.

The Senate also noted that academic governance on the transnational campuses is important to monitor quality assurance and academic risk management.

It was also pointed out that the Vice-Chancellor was organising a red tape task force led by his Chief of Staff to look at processes which can be simplified, such as changes to travel processes, student misconduct, procurement, the number of items that come to the VC for approval, and more broadly an examination of delegations.

Associate Professor Liesel Spencer advised Senate that the two of the four research support staff for support provided directly to the schools are vacant. She queried how Western staff are expected to compete for external research funding without these staff members.

New Action:

Professor Kevin Dunn to investigate the research support staffing issues to provide the support needed.

3.3 STUDENT REPORT

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

Mr Ashes Niroula, International Student Representative, relayed to Senate the way in which students are using AI and provided recommendations to promote the ethical use of AI and maintain academic integrity. Mr Niroula also advised Senate of the challenges faced by international students in securing internships and work opportunities and made recommendations to address these.

Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative asked whether there was an update to introducing an expiry date on the Academic Integrity Module (AIM). He continued that international students are using AI to catch up on missed content due to visa delays which see them arriving onshore after the start of semester. Mr Gautam also noted that placements in Social Work were a traumatic experience for international students.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education advised that the University had created a 3-year plan, as part of its AI response to TEQSA, and that an AI taskforce was being convened to implement this plan. The University was implementing a nuanced program on academic integrity and expectations may be different for different subjects. She advised that a new Pro Vice-Chancellor, Quality and Integrity would be announced soon, and they would lead in this area. The University was also looking at students' digital literacy and the ethical use of AI. However, this is also an opportunity for staff professional development to ensure familiarity with current practices. Professor Dever also said that the Academic Literacy Strategy would support AI and digital literacy more broadly. She also informed Senate members that the portfolio of Student Success was joining the Education Division. Going forward, internships and mentoring would be developed as part of the employability framework strategy for enhanced employability for all students.

New Action

Professor Maryanne Dever to talk through the AI Action Plan with Mr Ashes Niroula and Mr Nabin Gautam.

New Action

Mr Ashes Niroula to talk to Professor Brian Stout regarding an end date for AIM.

Responding to the issue raised by Mr Niroula regarding work opportunities, the Interim Dean, School of Business advised that the School of Business has a monthly network café for students to engage with partners. The café is not exclusively for international students, however, 85% of postgraduate cohort are international students.

The Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences advised that the School has tried to tackle the work issue of placements in Social Work by investing in resources.

New Action

Professor Adam Possamai and Mr Nabin Gautam to meet and provide update to Senate on the Social Work, work placement issue at the December 2024 meeting.

3.4 EDUCATION

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2.d-g
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 4 5

Professor Maryanne Dever presented a rationale for a comprehensive review of the program and subject offerings, which is planned for 2025, and which hadn't been carried out previously. She argued the review was an opportunity to free up resources and create space for innovation. The review would also include a look at the lifecycle of programs and curriculum architecture, as well as market research. Professor Dever suggested the review would be able to provide more program coherence.

Senate agreed that this review is an important and timely step, and the review could include looking at offering of multiple programs on multiple campuses, when there is a need to create space. It was also noted that the pressure to attract more students may result in Schools competing in a similar space, which may also contribute to a dilution of resources, staff, and student opportunities.

A member of the Academic Senate queried whether it would be more cost effective to have an archival system for subjects and programs that is not visible to student but is available to Schools should the need arise to re-open these subjects/programs. Senate was advised that there is a facility to suspend a program, which occurs before a program is discontinued.

Senate members suggested aligning the curriculum offerings with research strengths to support distinctiveness and innovation.

Professor Dever noted that to create space for innovation, it was necessary to ensure a sustainable portfolio and not stretching staff too far, as well as to review the lifecycle of programs, and to consider the curriculum architecture. This was also an opportunity to explore further Western's distinctiveness in offerings.

Senate noted that there was a need to be cautious about going too big, such as having subjects with 1500 students. Professor Dever concurred that it was necessary to tailor the suite of offerings to support the student and staff experience.

The Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations advised Senate that work was already underway in the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), providing simpler processes for the management of the curriculum, including curriculum approvals, the source of truth for curriculum matters and replacement of the handbook. She advised Senate on the release schedule and reported on ongoing work towards a simplification of the admission processes, the publication of entry requirements and the product catalogue. This work was designed to improve flexibility and clarity for students cycling through undergraduate to graduate and across degrees.

The Dean, School of Education emphasised how curriculum was driving teaching and the pedagogy sitting behind the curriculum, and how the curriculum supported the diverse needs of students.

3.5 STRATEGIC PLAN | ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3, 4

Professor Robert Mailhammer introduced the Green Paper and advised Senate on the strategic planning process. He noted that this was an opportunity for members and all staff to feed into the process. The Green Paper was unusual in that it didn't lay out options, it was more a visionary plan and thus an opportunity to consider the general direction and priorities. The final version of the strategic plan would be presented to the Board of Trustees and Academic Senate at their respective December 2024 meetings.

It was noted that the Strategic Plan references research quality and world class research using ERA 2018 measure. Given that this metric is no longer available, there would need to be updated indications of research ranking that is based on more current data. In addition, the data informing planning and proposed metrics need to be timelier, as do any reporting and other metrics that come to Senate to be able to effectively influence the planning.

Senate members noted the challenge of presenting a point of differentiation to the Go8 universities but still be aspirational and committed to excellence. There needed to be a balance between agility and rigour to ensure integrity is not compromised. It was also pointed out that there were challenges around activated campuses and building a sense of belonging and coherence versus a need to be flexible, noting that hybrid options have not always provided successful outcomes.

Concern was also raised that the national research priorities may not align with staff research strengths or community expectations. Additionally, it was pointed out that the narrative of expanding dominated against a possible need for consolidation. Senate was assured that the goal in some areas may be to do less and that the external parties putting the Plan together may not be fully across this.

Senate members were pleased to see a positive focus on students, but also a need to attend to the health and wellbeing for staff, students, and the community.

The Strategic Plan was described as generic, and members were advised that this was so that the Plan would be able to be shaped by feedback.

3.6 SCHOOL REVIEW

Higher Education Standard(s): 5.3

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3

Professor Kevin Dunn informed the Academic Senate that the review would incorporate both learning/teaching and research. It focused on supporting Schools and Institutes best structurally and in terms of resources. Professor Dunn made some background remarks:

Schools attract most of the University's revenue, they employ most of the academic staff, and are the core units of the university's operation, but Schools generally receive less than 50% of that revenue for their operations. He also said retention was a key issue in face of declining load more generally with investment required to support Schools.

Professor Dunn pointed out that the University had had a history of impressive improvements in rankings but had stalled in the general rankings in the last year or

two. He asserted that the research strength concentrated in the Research Institutes has taken the University this far, but there was a need now to activate research in the Schools. Professor Dunn noted that the current workload structure was of concern, with 35% of time used in governance, leaving less time to academics to focus on teaching and research. Further, the current model of 12 schools with no middle layer had strengths, which are articulated in the paper, but also significant weaknesses. School and Divisional Town Halls, Focus Groups, 5 Questions for 250 and the Senior Leaders Group meeting would take place in October and November with the report to be finalised in the new year and will include short, medium, and long-term recommendations. Professor Dunn invited all staff and students to participate and provide feedback.

The discussion touched on resourcing and staff shortages, the relationships between and within Schools, the relevance of disciplinary expertise, the large size of some Schools, and the lack of superordinate as well as internal structures as well as a lack of alignment between headcount and EFTL figures, change fatigue as an issue and the importance to include lessons from previous reviews and incorporation of Institutes and the GRS in a holistic review.

3.7 TEQSA RE-REGISTRATION UPDATE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.2

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Education, advised Senate that TEQSA has, in the last two months, further simplified its re-registration process, and the Committee has changed its processes to accommodate this.

3.8 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

A verbal update by the Dean of the School, or Directors of Institutes, on any current academic (research and teaching/learning) initiatives, issues and developments and planned developments or vision.

3.8.1 SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor Catherine Renshaw, Dean, School of Law, highlighted that it was the 30th anniversary of the School of Law and its initial graduates were now becoming partners and barristers. She noted that for smaller law schools having high quality research was challenging but was pleased to be able to advise that the School of Law was on the QS ranking for the first time.

Professor Renshaw advised that law schools were producing graduates in a market that uses AI, and role play and ethical decision making were crucial in preparing students for this situation. Professor Renshaw described the School's profile and noted that there as competition from other universities for students that had traditionally attended Western. She also reported that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court stated that there was an urgent need to diversity the legal system and student body and highlighted Western's Law School as an example.

3.9 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

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

3.10 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

3.10.1 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*

Professor Kevin Dunn, Chair of the Academic Senate Policy Committee noted that the combined HDR suite of policies would be presented at the November meeting and the that the updated Committee membership reflected staffing position changes.

3.11 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY 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

It was resolved (AS 24/05:03):

That Academic Senate approved the revised membership of Academic Senate Policy Committee.

3.12 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

It was resolved (AS 24/05:04):

That Academic Senate reviewed and approved all proposed scholarships and prizes for immediate execution.

New donor scholarship for approval

Julie Evans Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine
Matt Metri Memorial Scholarship
Julie Evans Refugee Scholarship

Amendments to Existing Scholarships

Harvey Norman Young Women's Leadership Academy Scholarships
Heather Peters Scholarship for Refugees
Heather Peters Scholarship – Parramatta High School
Podiatry Professionals Scholarship – Six months
The Matthew Hotchkis Sports Podiatry Scholarship – Six months
Crescent Foundation Leadership Scholarship (current name)

New Donor-Funded Prizes

Dr John Waters Memorial Prize
RedR Australia Humanitarian Training Award
Transurban Excellence Award

3.13 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*

There were no students lists for noting or approval.

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 28 August 2024 to 3 September 2024 (meeting e24/06), and on 9 – 13 September 2024 (meeting e24/07) were appended for noting by members and consisted of the following items:

Meeting e24/06 | 28 August 2024

Research Studies Committee | Senior Researcher - Academic

The Academic Senate Executive Committee endorsed the appointment of Associate Professor Liesel Spencer as Senior Research – Academic of the Research Studies Committee.

Meeting e24/07 | 9 September 2024

Minutes of Previous Minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Senate Executive Committee held on 10 May 2024 (24/02) were confirmed as an accurate record.

August 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.*

Senate Education Committee | Deputy Chair

The Academic Senate Executive Committee endorsed the appointment of Associate Professor Ana Hol as Deputy Chair of Senate Education Committee.

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

Professor Brian Stout, Chair of the Committee, relayed to Senate the three focus areas of the committee:

1. Curriculum Management Program. This new system will change the recording, documentation, and management of programs.
2. Program Monitoring and Curriculum Renewal Cycles.
3. Governance of Postgraduate/HDR Programs. The Offices of the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education, the Graduate Research Schools, Schools and Institutes are working on how the University can offer, govern and quality assure programs across the different structures.

There were no reports of Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) meetings appended.

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 unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 8 August 2024 (meeting 24/03) were appended for noting. Professor Maryanne Dever, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, relayed that non-committee members were welcome to attend Senate Education Committee meetings. Professor Dever's update was postponed until the next meeting of Academic Senate due to time constraints.

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 17 September 2024 (meeting 24/04) were appended 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 17 July 2024 (Meeting 24/03) were appended 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 meetings held on 6 August 2024 (Meeting 24/08) and 26 August 2024 (Meeting 24/09) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 10 September 2024 (Meeting 24/10) were appended for noting by the Senate.

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 4 September 2024 (Meeting 24/02) were appended for noting by the Senate.

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

There were no Third-Party Provider Committee meeting minutes appended 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

4.10 2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

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

4.10.1 Graduate Research School SAC

Higher Education Standard(s): 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 5.3.4, 5.3.7, 6.2.1h
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3

The Graduate Research School SAC 2023 Annual Report was appended for noting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised at the meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (24/05) will be 11 October 2024 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The remaining meetings scheduled for 2024 is as follows:

- 24/05 - 11 October 2024
- 24/06 - 6 December 2024

The meeting formally closed at 12:32pm.