

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

The meeting (**Meeting 24/03**) of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday, 14 June 2024** at, **9:30AM**, at, **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)**.

Present

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright, Vice-Chancellor's Nominee

Professor Clive Baldock, Dean, Graduate Research School and Researcher Development

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

Mr Glenn Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, The College

Professor Dennis Chang, Director, NICM, representing the University's Research Institutes

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)

Dr James Dunn, School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative)

Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon, Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

Mr Prashith Fernando, Undergraduate Student Representative

Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative

Associate Professor Emilee Gilbert, School of Psychology (Level D, E Representative)

Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery

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

Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level A, B or C Representative)

Professor Samantha Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level D, E Representative)

Professor Amir Mahmood, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Surabaya

Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate

Professor Tanya Meade, Dean, School of Psychology

Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level D, E Representative)

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor Educational Partnerships and Quality

Mr Ashes Niroula, International Student Representative

Professor Susan Page, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education

Associate Professor Alexie Papanicolaou, University Research Institutes Representative

Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degree Research Candidate Student Representative

Dr Ben Perry, School of Science (Level A, B or C Representative)

Professor Adam Possamai, Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences

Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Advancement

Dr Margarite Poulos, School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level A, B or C Representative)

Ms Fiona Salisbury, Executive Director, Library Services

Dr Ata Samad, School of Business (Level A, B or C Representative)

Associate Professor Lei Si, School of Health Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Meg Smith, Interim Dean, School of Business
Dr Kylie Steel, School of Health (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching
Associate Professor Chloe Taylor, Vice-Chancellor's Nominee
Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership
Distinguished Professor Anthony Uhlmann, Interim Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts

Apologies

Dr Maria Bhatti, School of Law (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Education
Dr Fran, Doyle, School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Kevin Dunn, Provost
Professor Miroslav Filipović, School of Science (Level D, E Representative)
Ms Jess Gleeson, Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations
Dr Peter Lewis, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Sarah Lewis, Dean, School of Health Sciences
Professor Rod McClure, Dean, School of Medicine
Professor Graciela Metternicht, Dean, School of Science
Professor Clare Pollock, Interim Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor Catherine Renshaw, Interim Dean, School of Law
Ms Tiffany Sharpe, Indigenous Australian Student Representative
Professor Michele Simons, Dean, School of Education
Dr Erika Smith, School of Social Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative)
Associate Professor Liesel Spencer, School of Law (Level D or E)
Professor Corrinne Sullivan, School of Social Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President, Research, Enterprise & International
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Sarah Zhang, Deputy Chair of Academic Senate

Absent

Dr Nathan Berger, School of Education (Level A, B or C Representative)
Ms Treasure Kamuli, Undergraduate Student Representative
Professor Andy Marks, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Government and Alliances
Mx Vicky-Rae Reed, Disability Matters Student Representative

In Attendance

Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director (Secretariat) Office of Governance Services
Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore, Board of Trustees member
Ms Jo Maguire, Manager, Policy & Governance and Privacy Officer
Dr Shantala Mohan, Executive Director Research
Ms Payal Shah, Postgraduate student observer
Ms Christine Sharpe, Executive Governance Officer
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer
Ms Sara Zhou, Manager, Business Improvement, Office of Strategy, Performance and Risk

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer, formally opened the meeting at 9:30am, acknowledging Country and welcoming attendees.

The Chair commented that the number one ranking in the 2024 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking was a testimony to the University's high-quality work and commended everyone involved but pointed to the need for an uplift of the University's position in traditional rankings.

The Chair specifically mentioned new members:
Professor Wendy Hu, School of Medicine, Level D or E representative,
Mr Prashith Fernando, Undergraduate Student Representative
Ms Treasure Kamuli, Undergraduate Student Representative
Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative
Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degree Research Candidate Student Representative

He also acknowledged Board of Trustees member, Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore, and Professor Clive Baldock who was attending his last Academic Senate meeting and thanked him for his contributions to Senate and Western Sydney University.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members were asked which items they wished starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1– Indigenous Research Strategy
- Item 3.1 – Chair's Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor's Report
- Item 3.3 – Student Report
- Item 3.4 – Researchers Future Accelerator Program
- Item 3.5 – TEQSA Steering Committee Update
- Item 3.6 – AI Principles
- Item 3.7 – Update from Schools and Institutes
- Item 3.9 – Real Projects, Real Stakeholders, Real Learning
- Item 4.3 – Senate Education Committee
- Item 4.6 – Research Studies Committee
- Item 4.8 – Third Party Provider Committee

Senate agreed that as the AI Principles were the basis of the AI Policy, *Item 3.6 - AI Principles* would also include a discussion on *Item 3.10.2 - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy*.

It was resolved (AS 24/03:01):

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

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

No re-arrangement of agenda items was made.

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, 12 April 2024, (meeting 24/02) were attached for confirmation.

It was resolved (AS 24/03: 02):

That Academic Senate confirmed the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 12 April 2024, (meeting 24/02) 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.

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: The Chair advised that Mx Vicky-Rae Reed had been unwell, and a meeting had not been possible. An update would be provided at the August Academic Senate meeting.

24/02: 3.1 Chair's Report

EOI email re Deputy Chair of Senate Education Committee.

Update: The Chair confirmed that the EOI had been sent, and EOIs from candidates had been received. A PD for the position of Deputy Chair had been created and circulated.

Item to be closed.

Action: 23/05: 3.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report

Diversity of newspaper subscription.

Update: Interim Vice-Chancellor had sent her apologies. The item was held over. A firm statement for next meeting was requested.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Academic Senate was informed that the Question on Notice regarding ICNS and Thales would be held over until the August meeting, as not all stakeholders were able to attend this meeting. The Chair advised that the author of the question was in favour of this approach.

2.1 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH STRATEGY

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director of Indigenous Research, opened the item by paying his respects to the Burramattagal people.

Professor Bodkin-Andrews advised Academic Senate of the importance of conducting Indigenous research with and by Indigenous people and emphasised the significance of engaging Indigenous perspectives with lived experience. He pointed out that while a standalone strategy was important it was also necessary to consider the context of Western's an Indigenous Futures Decadal Strategy 2023-2032. Professor Bodkin-Andrews gave a brief overview of the strategy, which contains 44 strategic initiatives in the Indigenous Research Strategy spread across five key themes:

- University governance;
- Enhancing Indigenous research capacity;
- Indigenous Australian HDR research;
- Indigenous community engagement;
- Indigenous research protocols.

Members of Senate noted the benchmark status of this strategy and were interested in supporting and collaborating. Professor Bodkin-Andrews advised that Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers who are interested in undertaking Indigenous Research Studies should familiarise themselves with the Indigenous Research Strategy and the other relevant guidance documents and reach out to him. Professional development and ongoing training as well as a diversity of initiatives would further enhance understanding.

Professor Michelle Trudgett pointed out that Elders and Indigenous researchers had endorsed this sector-leading strategy. She also said that the implementation of the strategy will require funding, which will be challenging given that resources were stretched. Professor Trudgett also stated that each School had an Indigenous School Strategy, which would be reviewed by her office.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair took his report as read and offered some observations on the sector in a post-Accord context:

The ability to maintain sufficiently high levels of quality under a funding system that is driven by student numbers with government-determined caps and with overall diminishing support from government and parts of society presents key challenges and opportunities to the sector. This situation creates exciting opportunities to expand the mission of universities and to give more people in very different contexts and locations access to its knowledge and ways to participate in creating new knowledge, in solving problems and in benefiting from the transformational experience of a university education, which also will benefit universities themselves. However, these opportunities are not without challenges. The key challenge is to protect the core of the university – creating and disseminating complex and

theoretical knowledge, especially basic research and researcher training – in the context a market-driven funding model. The Chair’s report highlighted more specific issues:

- quality assurance and academic risk management with new forms of learning and teaching that need rapid deployment and change, student expectations and heterogenous student cohorts and digital capabilities, especially AI, and with an increasingly global footprint;
- research quality and support for basic research and HDR research in a competitive environment with less available public funding: monetising knowledge without compromising its integrity, depth and quality;
- diversified partnership opportunities with challenges around competitive environments and data security;
- time and continuity required to develop and disseminate highly complex and theoretical new knowledge versus the need to be fast, agile and responsive to markets;
- a more regulatory environment, which presents challenges for academic freedom and university autonomy
- create a value proposition that protects the core of the business while expanding its operations to deliver on its social mission and to operate as financially viable business in the interest of the public good.

Members of Senate acknowledged that these are longstanding issues, and pointed to the specific contribution universities make to society. It was raised that a capability map would support our public engagement. Dr Shantala Mohan advised Senate that a visibility project addressing this issue would be brought to Research Committee in due course. Members also wondered about the general conversation in the sector regarding the government plans to limit the international student intake and whether the sector was actively lobbying. Professor Linda Taylor confirmed the sector was actively lobbying, that there was a general lack of clarity and that this was part of a political agenda.

A member queried how the Engaged Teaching Project supported research-led teaching. Professor Brian Stout responded by saying that the project’s main aim was to upskill the academic workforce in methods of engaged delivery. A brief discussion re-affirmed the value of research-led teaching, especially for providing intellectual stimulation to students and to ensure academics stay current in their disciplines, but it was also pointed out that scholarship of teaching was important and that not all kinds of teaching might require research-active academics. There was also a brief discussion about how the colleagues working in the Research Institutes can effectively be integrated in the teaching space.

3.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor’s Report was appended. As the Interim Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education had sent their apologies, Professor Robert Mailhammer read out a message from Professor Maryanne Dever. The message emphasised that it had been a busy period for the Interim Vice-Chancellor and a period of time characterised by external instability connected to the government’s management of international students, especially in relation to visa approvals and the proposed caps on international student numbers. The University would continue to monitor the situation closely and liaise with its counterparts across the sector. One comment noted the student activity on Campus and also the TEQSA requests around guaranteeing students’ safety, while another comment suggested that important information, especially around budget deficits should be emailed to staff directly.

3.3 STUDENT REPORT

A verbal update by a student representative on any issue of interest and importance in their respective field.

3.3.1 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPORT

Mr Prashith Fernando, Undergraduate student representative, informed the Senate of recorded lecture pods with outdated information and incorrect due dates on vUWS. This issue occurred in subjects offered by the School of Business. Students emailed the Subject Coordinator, identifying the issue, whereby the students received an email with the new information or were directed to the Learning Guide, however, the vUWS site was not updated. Another item of concern was that large file size documents cannot be reviewed in Turnitin before they are submitted.

New Action 24/03: 3.3.1: Mr Prashith Fernando to liaised with Professor Meg Smith, Interim Dean, School of Business, regarding vUWS.

A Senate Member advised that there is a disparity in the advice to students about multiple opportunities to look at the similarity report in Turnitin before submitting.

3.3.2 POSTGRADUATE STUDENT REPORT

Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degree Research student representative, noted the recent favourable change to the maximum eligible age for Temporary Graduate visa (TGV). (As of 1 July 2024, Masters (research) and doctoral degree (PhD) graduates will continue be eligible for a TGV if they are under 50 years of age).

He further advised that because doctoral students are strictly monitored to complete their thesis in three years, many students are not able to participate in other activities. In addition, Mr Perera urged the University to review the PhD Stipend as the cost of living had increased, and PhD students were increasingly turning to outside employment to supplement the stipend, which the report identified as a possible risk to the thesis quality.

Moreover, the report observed that the University required that students need only complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM) once. Given the changes in this space, it would be good to have students to do for every course/more regularly to ensure that they have the most current information and University requirements.

As a further issue it was stated that in previous years, SAAF funding was used for free breakfast and other activities that could be utilised by all students. However, there seemed to have been a decline of these activities recently. The report requested that SAAF funding be used in a more equitable manner for the benefit of more students.

Clarification was provided that the scholarship is for three years, not the doctoral course. The doctoral course is for four years and students can request an extension.

SAAF funding would need to be raised at another forum as Academic Senate does not have oversight of this, noting that students can apply for SAAF funding for their Clubs and Societies.

There was a brief discussion about how to maintain currency of the Academic Integrity Module, and it was recommended that Mr Perera contact Professor Brian Stout regarding this issue.

In addition, the Senate noted that the Scholarship stipend was increased but only to the minimum.

New Action 24/03: 3.3.2: Mr Prasad Perera to provide regular updates on the PhD Scholarship Stipend.

3.3.3 DIVERSITY STUDENT REPORT

Mr Ashes Niroula, International student representative apprised Senate that students had signed a petition regarding the reduction of post-study work visa from 5 years to 2 years. He further pointed out that international students are used to 2 -3-day gap between exams but are now expected to do 2 exams in a day. In addition, he stated that Engineering students who have been studying postgraduate engineering degrees in the University had not visited any engineering sites and would not visit any until the end of the course.

New Action 24/03: 3.3.3: Mr Ashes Niroula to talk to Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon regarding engineering site visits.

Senate advised that a list had been distributed of those impacted by the post-study work visa reduction. The University is working on this issue.

Professor Adam Possamai and Professor Linda Taylor exited at 10:54am.

3.4 RESEARCHERS FUTURE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Professor Clive Baldock, Dean of Graduate Studies and Researcher Development, advised Senate that the Researchers Future Accelerator Program had been first designed for the decasualised staff as part of the Academic Staff Enterprise Agreement. The program recognises the diversity of academic biographies, while aiming to setting up for success and a high-quality research program with a detailed and comprehensive framework.

The program has both internal and external facilitators delivering the modules and relies on feedback to make improvements. The modules are amended based on feedback.

Answering a member's question, Professor Baldock informed the Senate about the Researcher Boost Program, an opt in program, connecting researcher development and researcher performance, and accessible through the Researcher Development Portal.

Ms Fiona Salisbury exited at 11:17am.

3.5 TEQSA STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

On behalf of the Chair, Professor Maryanne Dever, Dr Nicolene Murdoch advised Senate that Ms Rose Cutts had been appointed Director, Education, Quality and Policy. Ms Cutts had sent her apologies, and so Dr Nicolene Murdoch spoke to this item. She reiterated that the University's submission to TEQSA is less than one year out, with the University's registration expiring on 21 November 2025 and the concise, links in evidence 10-page submission is due to TEQSA on 25 May 2025.

Dr Murdoch informed the Academic Senate that TEQSA can ask specific questions, ask for more information and make recommendations. She gave an overview of the domains that would be examined by TEQSA and pointed out that this was an opportunity to review processes and standards. A communication plan had also been developed to ensure that all areas are kept informed.

3.6 AI PRINCIPLES

Professor Robert Mailhammer spoke to this item on behalf of Professor Maryanne Dever. He advised to Senate that the AI Principles were the basis of the AI Policy which had been open for comment on the [Policy DDS Discussion Board](#). The principles were of necessity high level and would need to be followed by practical guidelines across key areas of activity. This was also a fast-moving area and so it was anticipated the policy document would need to be updated as the understanding of AI and Generative AI evolves. Further written feedback was welcome and should be received by midday Monday, 17 June 2024, ahead of finalising the document for Executive Committee endorsement and approval by the Interim VC. The Senate was advised that relevant Senate standing committees, such as the Senate Education Committee had reviewed the Principles.

Senate members asked whether the new policy satisfied the TEQSA Request for Information, and were advised that this was not the case, though the Policy would form part of the submission. The TEQSA request was broad and TEQSA wanted to work with the sector regarding AI and academic risk.

Following a news report, a Committee member asked whether there is a risk that Adobe was harvesting user and usage data from Adobe Creative Cloud. This question was taken on notice.

Mr Prashith Fernando exited at 11:45am.

3.7 UPDATE FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES

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.

3.7.1 NICM HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Professor Dennis Chang, Director, NICM Health Research Institute advised Senate that NICM was one of the largest complementary medicine institutes in the world, with great connections with hospitals in Westmead. Over the last 17 years the Institute had developed three research areas:

- Preclinical Research: This area teaches, undertakes pharmacological work, and research and development.
- Clinical Research: This area conducts clinical trial in complementary medicine, and has done so for over 25 years, with a focus on mental health. 10 – 12 trials are conducted per year.
- Translational Health: Only university that has integrative health clinic and works closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and NSW Health, undertaking WHO funded research.

Professor Chang said NICM had recently established a pharmacology plant that would produce and provide training. He pointed out that NICM was the only licenced institutions to undertake studies in medicinal cannabis. Recently the Institute had welcomed Professor Rajagopala Shrikrishna from India to introduce Ayurveda, a system of traditional medicine native to India, and yoga research. The Institute would drive innovation in complementary medicine and would be introducing short courses and microcredentials in this area.

3.7.2 SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery, relayed to Senate that the School had achieved a lot of success, with a global ranking in the top 50 and researchers in the top 2%.

Professor Hatcher advised the Senate that through the recent federal budget, midwifery and nursing would receive paid placements. The School refers to the placements in hospitals as professional education placements, not as paid or unpaid placement nor clinical payment.

Moreover, the School was trialling an undergraduate student pilot with three regional health network that would employ some students while still studying. The students would need to understand the difference between the pilot placements and the professional education placements. These placements gave students opportunities to be paid and reflected the strong partnerships that the School had developed.

Professor Hatcher said that 3.1% of the undergraduate cohort identified as Indigenous. Last year the School had employed an Indigenous professor in midwifery who is supporting two more junior Indigenous staff. The School had also employed one Indigenous staff member through the decasualisation program.

She informed the Senate that retention was a challenge for the School with students aged 18 -23 having the highest attrition. The School held innovative emersion days with students from high schools to increase retention with schools, and these days had been successful. The School also held Graduate Expos where Local Health Districts and non-profit organisations came on campus and talk to graduates.

The School was in a tender process to secure electronic medical record programs software.

In the area of research, Professor Hatcher advised that the School had two co-funded scholarships with Western Sydney Local Health District and two with South Western Sydney Local Health District. The School was focused on increasing HDR students and increasing diversity, and better grant application diversity.

Professor Hatcher also said that the School had a long standing relationship with Hong Kong Baptist for undergraduate study, and were now expanding to a post-graduate program. The School was now expanding to Taipei Medical and is looking forward to expanding with the wider TNE development.

Professor Michelle Trudgett commended the School, noting that it had one of the highest Indigenous student cohorts at 3.1%.

3.8 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

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

3.9 REAL PROJECTS, REAL STAKEHOLDERS, REAL LEARNING

Associate Professor Ana Hol, School of Computer Data and Mathematical Sciences, acknowledged the work of all who were part of this program. She said this program worked in a non-traditional manner, in which the students would be required to identify and solve a problem, in a manner like that that they would face in the real world in a real-life setting. Students received feedback from both academic staff and industry experts. Students were engaged in their presentation which allowed them to experience working within an industry setting. Associate Professor Hol said the program was a good way to engage with industry experts and academics and to build infrastructure.

The Committee queried the scalability of the program, whether this could be rolled out to reach the whole cohort, and whether industry would they be prepared to work with a whole cohort. Associate Professor Hol advised that it was scalable, however advanced planning and organisation was required as there are resources involved. She noted that there were 60 students involved in this project. Ms Sara Zhou pointed out that although there were challenges, students were curious and passionate.

Answering a question, Associate Professor Hol pointed out that students were able to get access to real data in the shape of process rather than data sets, there were no privacy issues.

3.10 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE & POLICY REVIEW

3.10.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

There is no Academic Senate Policy Committee update report for noting.

3.10.2 USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

The new Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy was appended for noting.

3.11 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

That Academic Senate reviewed and approved the proposed changes to Scholarship Continuing Eligibility Criteria for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine) / Doctor of Medicine (MD) for immediate execution.

New donor scholarships

Bankstown Sports Club Scholarship in Social Work

Harvey Norman Young Women's Leadership Academy Scholarships

Amendments to Existing Scholarship

Walter and Eliza Hall Opportunity Scholarship

New Donor-Funded Prizes

Glover-Collins Prize for Mathematics

Laerdal Prize for Bachelor of Nursing

Laerdal Prize for Master of Nursing Practice (Pre-registration)

3.12 GRADUAND LISTS, UNIVERSITY MEDALS AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

It was resolved (AS 24/03: 04):

For April Conferral, that Academic Senate, approved the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction.

Academic Senate approved the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal.

Academic Senate 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 and noted the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.

For June Conferral, Academic Senate, approved the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction.

Academic Senate approved the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal.

Academic Senate 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 and noted the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.

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

The minutes of the meeting of the Senate Executive Committee held on 10 May 2024 (meeting 24/02), and the report of the e-meeting of the Senate Executive Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024 (meeting e24/04) were appended for noting by members and consisted of the following items:

Meeting 24/02 | 10 May 2024

Approval of Gc Start Up Scale Up (Start Up-Help Pilot)

Approval of administrative changes to the delivery of the Graduate Certificate in Start Up Scale Up and participation in the Start Up Year Pilot scheme, including a new program code.

Meeting e24/04 | 21 May 2024

Scholarships for Approval

Review and approval of the proposed university-funded scholarship for immediate execution.

- Barney Glover AO Scholarships for Women in STEM UG

- Barney Glover AO Scholarships for Women in STEM PG

For Noting.

4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The report of the e-meeting of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 22 April 2024 (meeting e24/01) and the report of the meeting of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 2 May 2024 (meeting 24/03), were appended.

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

That Academic Senate noted the reports of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meetings held on 22 April 2024 (meeting e24/01) and 2 May 2024 (meeting 24/03) and approved the recommendations contained therein.

4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 18 April 2024 (meeting 24/01) and the post-meeting slide were appended for noting. Speaking on behalf of the Chair, Professor Maryanne Dever, Professor Mailhammer informed the Senate that the Committee was closely monitoring requests from TEQSA (of which there were many at present). The committee was also actively looking at how it was running, the matters it was tabling for discussion, and the types of reports it was receiving etc with a view to ensuring it is working effectively. A deputy chair would be selected shortly now that a position description for the role had been created.

4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The confirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 30 January 2024 (Meeting 24/01) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 14 May 2024 (meeting 24/02) were appended for noting.

4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes and report from the Research Committee meeting held on 19 April 2024 (Meeting 24/02) were appended for noting.

4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The confirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meetings held on 9 April 2024 (Meeting 24/03) and 7 May 2024 (Meeting 24/04), and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 15 May 2024 (Meeting 24/05) were appended for noting by the Senate. Professor Clive Baldock, Chair of the Research Studies Committee, noted that the Committee was dominated by thesis examination and there had been discussions about the creation of a *Thesis Examination Committee* to free up the Research Studies Committee to talk about other items.

Professor Baldock informed the Academic Senate about a sector snapshot by the Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) comparing RTP PhD stipend base

rates across Australia, which shows that PhD stipends at Western Sydney are among the lowest in Australia and are paid for a shorter maximum duration than at many other universities. To mitigate against adverse impact on the work and wellbeing of PhD students, Professor Baldock argued for an increase of the PhD stipend at Western to at least the average in NSW. The ACGR report can be accessed [here](#). The Academic Senate thanked Professor Baldock for his work for the University and his important contributions.

The Committee discussed funding of stipends, and it was noted that the government funding under the Research Training Program (RTP) was the major source for many universities. At Western, RTP funding is allocated through the Division Research, Enterprise and International. It funds stipends and other measures that support HRD students, such as the Candidature Support Funding. It was suggested that the allocation of RTP funding and candidature support funding should be benchmarked against the sector. Senate was advised that the Board or Trustees has asked for stipend benchmarking as part of sector benchmarking into funding of research to inform the new University's strategic plan.

Attachment 1: Research Studies Committee

4.7 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE

There were no Academic Senate Policy Committee meeting minutes for noting.

4.8 THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 3 April 2024 (meeting 24/02) were appended for noting by the Senate. Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Chair of Third-Party Provider Committee reported to Senate that TESQA is requesting data on our monitoring of Third-Party providers. The Australian Technical and Management College (ATMC) is one of the providers that we have concerns about and that we will be reviewing. The Committee welcomed Dr Alexie Papanicolaou into the role of Deputy Chair.

4.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 6 August 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 were carrying out their functions in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

4.10.1 Graduate Research School SAC | August Academic Senate

For noting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (24/04) will be 9 August 2024 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The remaining meetings scheduled for 2024 is as follows:

- 24/04 - 9 August 2024
- 24/05 - 11 October 2024
- 24/06 - 6 December 2024

The meeting formally closed at 12:30pm.



Australian Council of Graduate Research Sector Snapshot

2024 RTP Scholarship Base Rates

Professor Clive Baldock
**Dean of Graduate Studies and
Researcher Development**

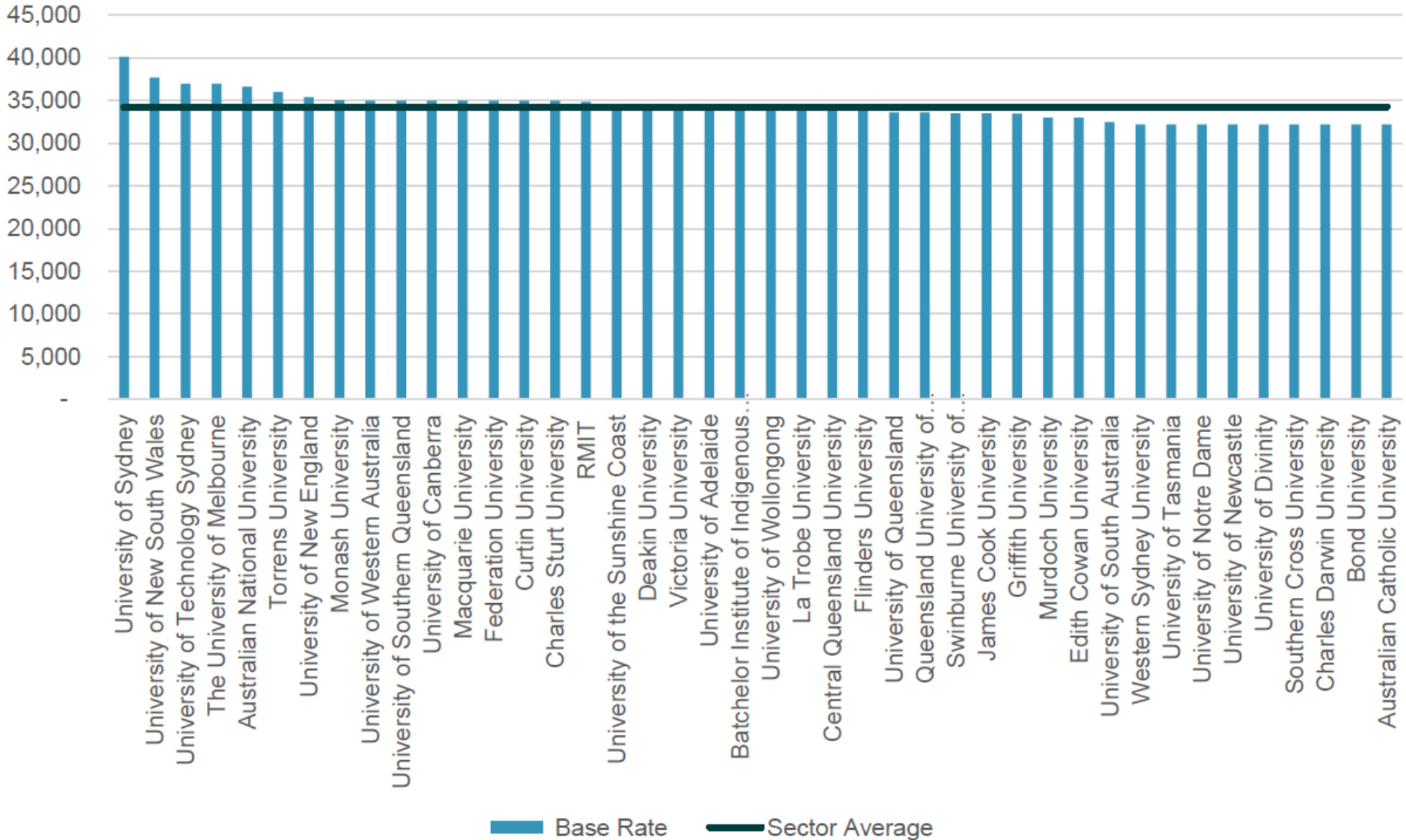


AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF
GRADUATE RESEARCH

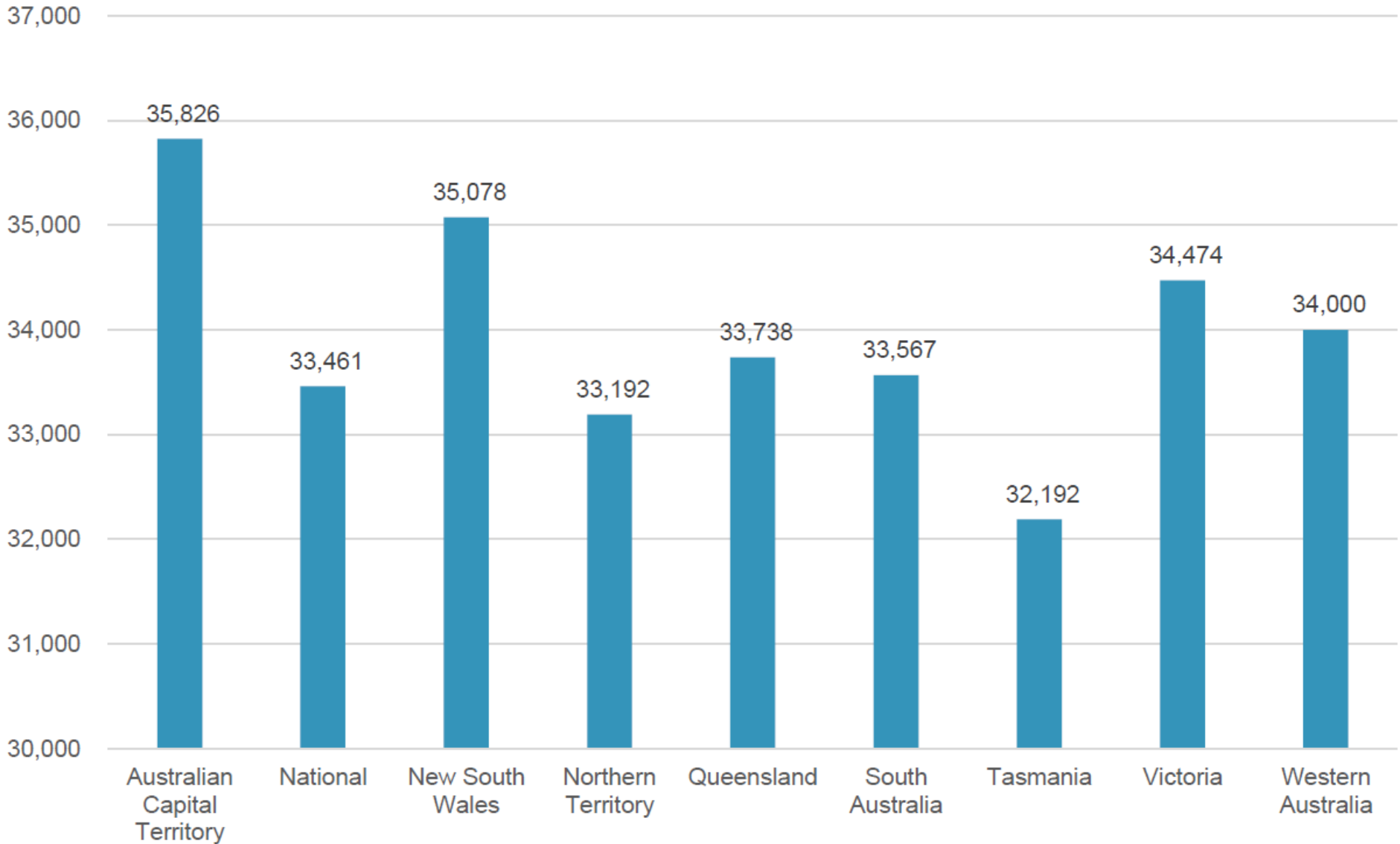
ACGR Sector Snapshot

2024 RTP Scholarship Base Rates

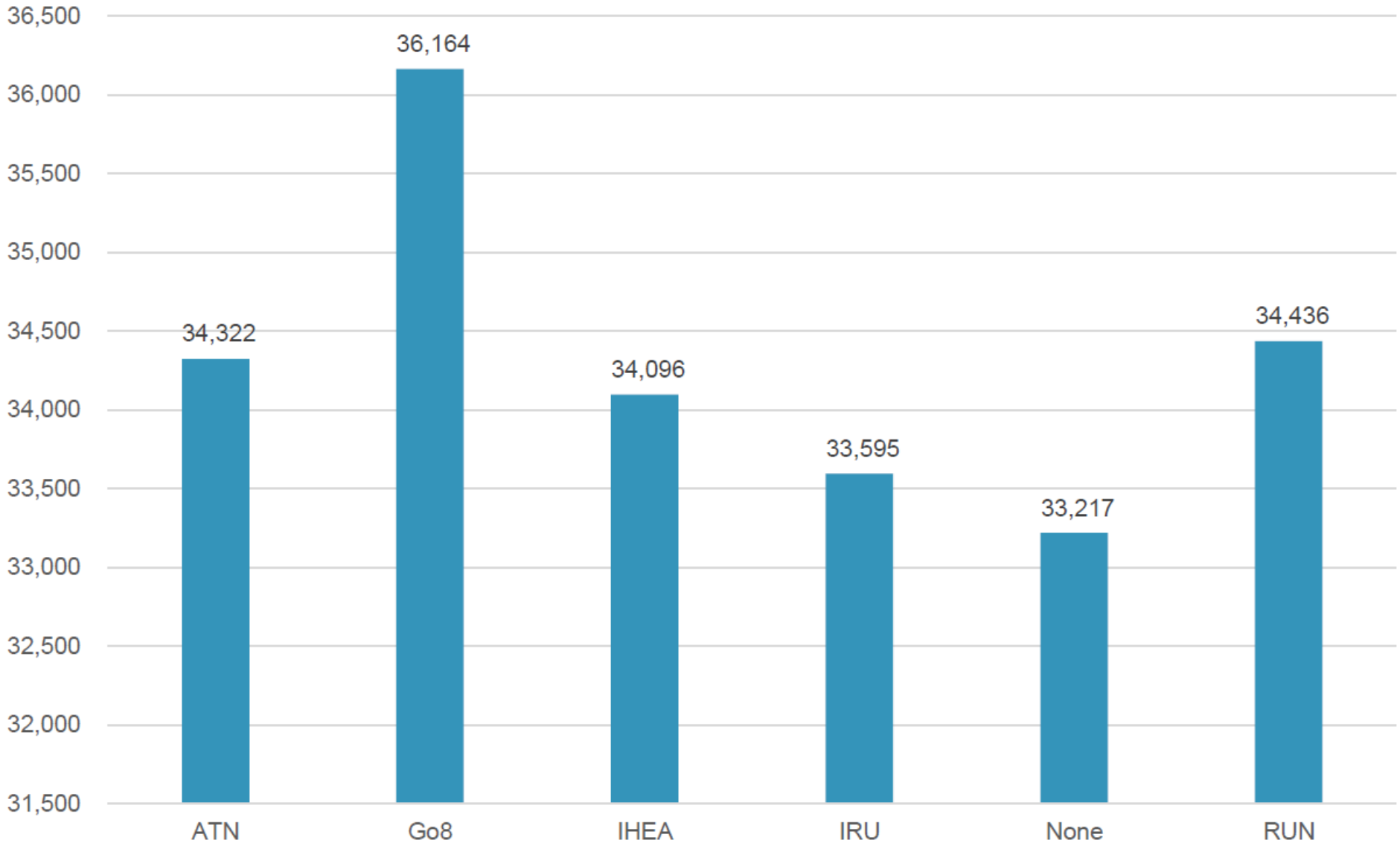
RTP Stipend Base Rates by Institution as at 1 Jan 2024



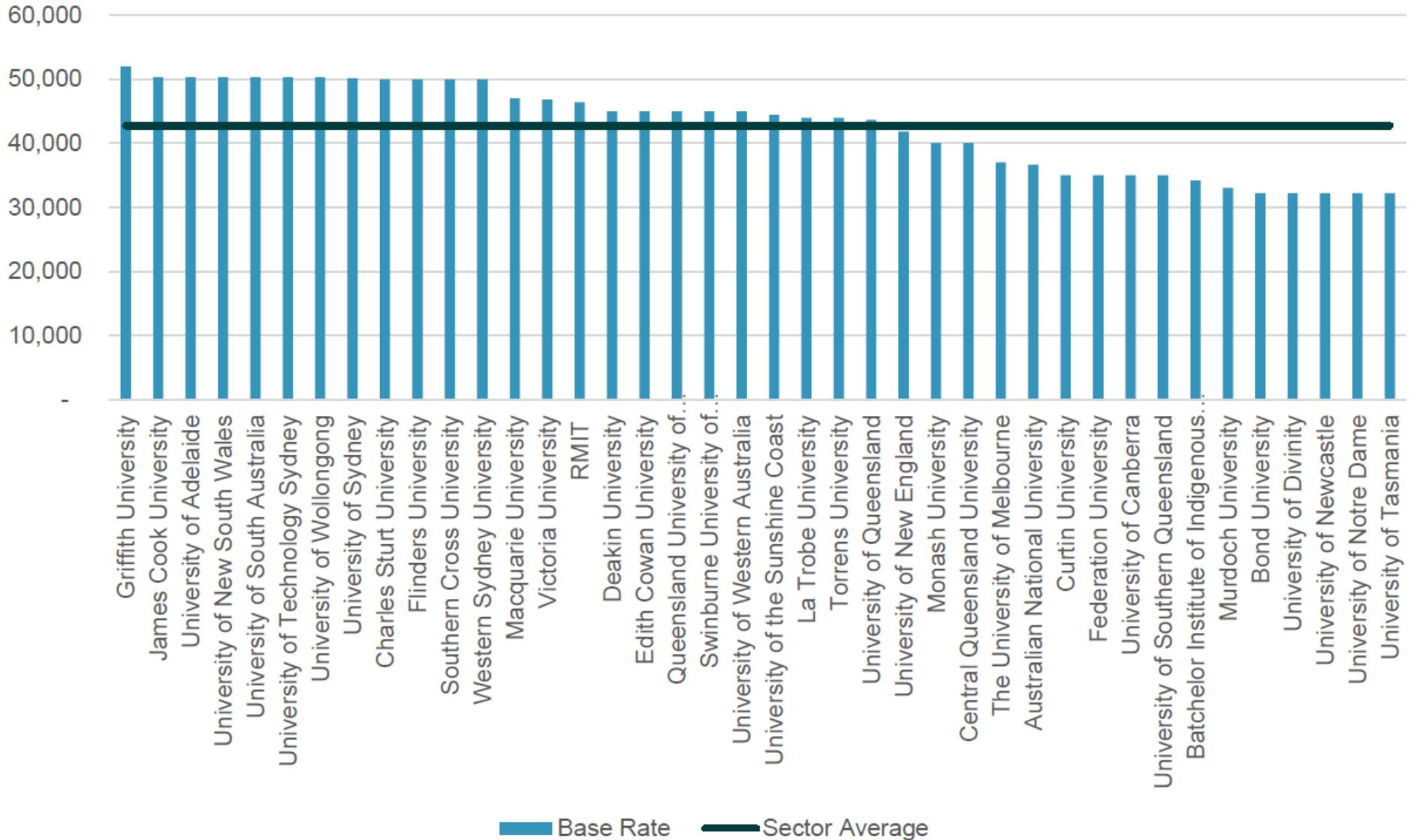
RTP Stipend Base Rate Averages by State as at 1 Jan 2024



RTP Stipend Base Rates by Network



Indigenous RTP Stipend Base Rates by Institution as at 1 Jan 2024



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