

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Meeting 24/04 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday, 9 August 2024 at, 9:30AM, at, Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) and via zoom.

Present

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright, Interim Dean, Graduate Research School
Dr Tuki Attuquayefio, School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative)
Dr Nathan Berger, School of Education (Level A, B or C Representative)
Dr Maria Bhatti, School of Law (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Gawaian 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)
Associate Professor Ann Dadich, School of Business (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education
Dr James Dunn, School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Kevin Dunn, Provost
Distinguished Professor Brian Falzon, Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment
Mr Prashith Fernando, Undergraduate Student Representative
Professor Miroslav Filipović, School of Science (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Jane Frost, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level D, E Representative)
Mr Nabin Gautam, Postgraduate Student Representative
Associate Professor Emilee Gilbert, School of Psychology (Level D, E Representative)
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
Dr Peter Lewis, School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Sarah Lewis, Dean, School of Health Sciences
Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level A, B or C Representative). Exited 11:16am
Professor Samantha Liyanapathirana, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level D, E Representative). Exited 11:16am
Professor Amir Mahmood, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Surabaya campus. Exited 11:16am
Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate
Professor Rod McClure, Dean, School of Medicine. Arrived 9:51am.
Professor Tanya Meade, Dean, School of Psychology
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
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 Student Success.
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
Dr Ata Samad, School of Business (Level A, B or C Representative). Arrived 9:55am
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)
Dr Kylie Steel, School of Health (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching
Professor Corrinne Sullivan, School of Social Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Enterprise and Global
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership. Exited 11:15am.
Distinguished Professor Anthony Uhlmann, Interim Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor Sarah Zhang, Deputy Chair of Academic Senate

Apologies

Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Clare Pollock, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and President
Associate Professor Chloe Taylor, Vice-Chancellor's Nominee
Professor Linda Taylor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International
Associate Professor Jacqueline Ullman, School of Education (Level D, E Representative)

Absent

Ms Treasure Kamuli, Undergraduate Student Representative
Mx Vicky-Rae Reed, Disability Matters Student Representative

In Attendance

Dr Michael Baker, Director, Graduate Research School
Mr Troy Brown, Manager Commercialisation and IP
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Office of Governance Services
Ms Rose Cutts, Director, Education Quality & Policy. Arrived 11:45am
Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services, Secretariat
Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore, Board of Trustee member. Exited 11:16am
Ms Julia Haremza, Director, Risk and Resilience
Dr Amanda Larkin, Appointed Board of Trustees member
Professor Freya MacMillan, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research
Sonu, Board of Trustee member
Professor Kate Stevens, Director, The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development
Professor André van Schaik, Director - International Centre for Neuromorphic Systems (ICNS). Exited 10:12am
Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer
Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Chancellor. Exited 11:15am.

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 specifically mentioned Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President and Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Chancellor Western Sydney University, and new members, Dr Tuki Attuquayefio, School of Psychology, Level A, B or C Representative and Professor Jane Frost, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Level D, E Representative.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members were asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1 – Question on Notice
- Item 3.1 – Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 – Vice Chancellor’s Report
- Item 3.3 – Student Report
- Item 3.4 – Growing Research and Research Quality at Western
- Item 3.5 – Research Commercialisation at Western
- Item 3.6 – School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences Review
- Item 3.7 – TEQSA Re-Registration Update
- Item 3.8 – Update from Schools and Institutes
- Item 4.2 – Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
- Item 4.3 – Senate Education Committee
- Item 4.4 – Senate Assessment Committee

It was resolved: (AS 24/04: 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

The following re-arrangement was made to the Order of Business:

- Item 2.1 Question on Notice
- Item 3.4 Growing Research and Research Quality at Western
- Item 3.3 Student Report
- Item 3.1 Chair’s Report
- Item 3.2 Vice-Chancellor’s Report

The following items were held over until the October meeting of Academic Senate.
Item 3.6 School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences Review
Item 3.8.2 Update from the School of Law
Item 4.2 Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee Update
Item 4.3 Senate Education Committee Update

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, 14 June 2024, (meeting 24/03) were attached for confirmation.

It was resolved (AS 24/04:02)

That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 14 June 2024, (meeting 24/03) as an accurate record, pending the changes noted below.

Item 2.1

Original text: Professor Bodkin-Andrews advised that 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.

Amended text: 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.

Original text: Professor Trudgett also stated that each School had an Indigenous School Research Strategy, which would be reviewed by her office.

Amended text: Professor Trudgett also stated that each School had an Indigenous School Strategy, which would be reviewed by her office.

Item 3.3.1

Original text: Senate Member advised that students would have had multiple opportunities to look at the similarity report in Turnitin before submitting, which is why large file size documents cannot be reviewed in Turnitin before they are submitted.

Amended text: 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.

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 24/03: 3.3.1 Undergraduate Student Report: Mr Prashith Fernando to liaised with Professor Meg Smith, Interim Dean, School of Business, regarding outdated information and incorrect due dates in vUWS.

Update:

Professor Jayne Bye, Interim Deputy Dean, met with Prashith Fernando. Below are the outcomes from the meeting, noting that not all issues experienced were specific to School of Business subjects.

1. Turnitin issues – Prashith noted the utility of the Turnitin preview function which allows students to see a summary of their submission, complete with title and word count. This allows students to check they are uploading the correct file. He noted that files over 100MB cannot be previewed, and this can lead to concern among students as to whether they have uploaded correctly. The School checked Turnitin and this is correct – but it is a feature of the tool rather than an issue with Subject Coordinators (SC) using a particular setting. No obvious outcome here except to include this in submission guidelines in Subject Outlines so students know ahead of time.
2. Assessment deadline confusion – Prashith noted that sometimes the due date in the Subject Outline and the date on the new vUWS ‘assessment due date’ warning to students (a new feature where students are given a countdown to submission) don’t match. The School of Business will provide advice to SCs to ensure that in ‘rolled over’ vUWS sites ensure the alignment of assessment dates in the warning feature is amended.
3. vUWS quiz timer does not reflect actual time left in quiz – timed quizzes on vUWS have a countdown clock, however if a 1-hour timed quiz opens at 12, but students don’t log on until 12.20, the clock starts its countdown at the time, ie seemingly giving them an hour to complete the quiz when in fact they have only 40 mins left. Prashith pointed out that gives students a false sense of how much time they have. The School will advise SCs who use times quizzes, provide clear instructions about how timer function operates.

Item closed.

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

Update: The Vice-Chancellor has agreed for an increase in principle for stipend for 2025.

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

Update: This meeting had not taken place; update to be provided at October meeting of Senate.

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: Mx Vicky-Rae Reed had been unwell, and a meeting had not been possible.

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

Diversity of newspaper subscription.

Update: An announcement was made in early July, advising of a university subscription to the NY Times.

Further concern was raised regarding including ABC news rather than news Corp advertising in the lifts at 1PQS.

New Action:

The Chair to contact Mr Bill Parasiris, Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial, regarding the arrangement of newspaper adverts in the lifts in 1PSQ.

Professor Rod McClure arrived at 9:51am.

Dr Ata Samad arrived at 9:55am.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 QUESTION ON NOTICE

Dr Margarite Poulos reintroduced the Question on Notice, which had been raised at the April meeting of Academic Senate about the nature of the partnership between the International Centre for Neuromorphic Systems (ICNS) and Thales.

Professor André van Schaik relayed that a project funded by Thales Australia with \$200,00 from July 2021 to June 2022 had been a feasibility study for the use of neuromorphic cameras rather than normal cameras when docking in space. Thales had, however, discontinued its space research in Australia. The report from this project was not accessible to the public. Thales' permission would be required to read the report, noting that Thales had not contributed to the research or the report.

Professor van Schaik said that ICNS was currently undertaking a second, 9-month, \$150,000-feasibility study on what was needed to make an infra-red version of a neuromorphic camera. This camera would allow to see through fog and cloud cover. The project was investigating what material would be needed and Thales would own the relevant report.

Professor Kate Stevens pointed out that there were several levels of review for the establishment of a research partnership. She also highlighted that ICNS' partnership is with Thales Australia, which held IP rights and would control access to information via a non-disclosure agreement (NDA).

Senate noted that the confidential nature of the report makes it difficult to ascertain the quality of the research. Future agreements would need to build in quality assurance checks that can be made by peers, especially as they relate to promotion and advancement.

Senate members emphasised the need for transparency regarding research partnerships, especially with respect to research is undertaken, and outcomes and outputs of the work. This is especially important, as the remit of Academic Senate comprises monitoring the University's partnerships. A register where all research partnerships are readily available for review would satisfy this responsibility. It was noted that while the University does not currently have a policy on research partnerships, the Conference Policy explicitly states topics that Western would not engage in. The Vice-Chancellor supported the concept of a register. Although he was reluctant to see non-disclosure agreements (NDA), Professor Williams recognised

their necessity in certain cases. Senate was reminded that the research portal included some information regarding research partners, which raised the question about what value a register would add.

It was also pointed out that, while transparency was necessary, ethical scrutiny was also part of the discussion. Senate was advised that the University has an existing system of ethics approvals, and that an ethical framework of partnerships was in development with participation from the Ethics Committee (Chair: Professor Gabrielle Weidemann). Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Enterprise and Global, noted that consultation had been undertaken through the Research Quality Forum. She emphasised the importance of academic freedom as the overarching principle for the framework.

New Action:

The Chair to send out an EOI to members of Academic Senate to assemble a work group to develop an appropriate and suitable way, e.g. a register, to ensure University partnerships can be monitored as required by the Academic Governance Policy.

Professor Andre van Schaik exited at 10:12am.

2.2 ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD

A paper in response to the question raised on “harvesting user and usage data” and clarity on how the Adobe systems work for the Enterprise agreement with Western Sydney University was appended.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair’s Report was taken as read.

3.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor advised Senate that he had been a member of the Academic Board during his time at UNSW and that he valued the responsibility of Academic Senate for quality assurance and the integrity of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that there had been no clear outcome from the government regarding international caps, but the projected loss of up to \$400 million in 5 years might prompt a change. Equality needs were strong in this region and the aim was for a neutral or positive position. The Vice-Chancellor also pointed to his media presence and problems with the current fee structure, especially the high costs for arts degrees.

Professor Michelle Trudgett exited at 11:15am.

Professor Jennifer Westacott AO exited at 11:15am.

Dr Ranjith Liyanapathirana exited at 11:16am.

Professor Samanthika Liyanapathirana exited at 11:16am.

Associate Professor Alison Downham Moore exited at 11:16am.

3.3 STUDENT REPORT | POSTGRADUATE STUDENT REPORT

Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degree Research student representative relayed four matters to Senate:

1. A need to increase the PhD stipend to attract high quality research students and to support high research quality.
2. The need for extensions of the PhD candidature to be coupled with a fee waiver.
3. University support for the payment of the Overseas Health Cover to be made by the University.
4. Revision of the leave provisions for HDR students so that leave extends the maximum submission time.

A Senate member noted that the University could consider subsidising housing, as rent was one of the biggest problems facing students, while another member suggested using alternative funding to support the research rather than just reviewing stipend amount.

Professor Deborah Sweeney advised Senate that the Vice-Chancellor has agreed for an increase in principle for stipend for 2025. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed this but encourage Senate to look at creative solutions to this issue.

Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright apprised Mr Perera of changes to the leave provisions and Senate of the newly proposed suite of HDR policies for feedback on the [Policy DDS Bulletin Board](#).

3.4 GROWING RESEARCH AND RESEARCH QUALITY AT WESTERN

The Chair spoke to the paper. He advised members that the paper had originated from a conversation with the Chancellor as input to the discussion on how to improve research quality at Western, which was one of the core elements of current strategic planning. Professor Mailhammer said that the document would be developed further, especially with respect to high-level prioritisation. He gratefully acknowledged the input from several senior colleagues.

The Chair emphasised the following key points:

- a) The necessity to improve quality across the breadth of the university, particularly in the Schools, to generate enough momentum and to advance further in research rankings;
- b) The critical nature of ensuring that there is a strong core of basic research, a strong research culture and support in terms of support structures, facilities and time and opportunity for academics to do research to a significant enough degree with a growing pipeline that develops and retains talent from UG to Postdoc stage;
- c) Building our international reputation strategically with a special emphasis on research partnerships in ways that help our rankings through recognition especially also in places like Europe and the US.

The Chair invited the Chancellor to offer introductory background remarks. Professor Westacott relayed to Senate that the Board of Trustees was refreshing the University's strategic planning. She pointed out that there was a concern about performance in research and teaching quality, which would be central for the university to address. She emphasised a bottom-up and staged approach to achieve this, especially that the initiatives and specificities needed to come from academic staff. The Chancellor highlighted that trust would be an additional value and then gave an overview of the planning framework. Building on the excellent analysis tabled for the meeting, she asked Senate for input on the University's research

mission and what can be done in the short term. Professor Westacott specifically highlighted the following points:

- “catapult projects”: Centres of Excellence in Nursing and Primary care as well as Teaching Excellence;
- the current funding allocation had not helped School autonomy and now was the time to make strategic investments;
- the necessity to have PhD scholarships, and, in a second phase, Industry PhDs;
- a workload model that enables academic staff to do research and teaching,
- thinking internationally, such as viewing the School of Business as an international school.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the University’s potential, but pointed to the following areas in need of attention:

- basic settings to support research;
- the core as part of the mission
- HDR scholarships
- workload: academics need enough time to concentrate on teaching and research
- more support and resources for research.

There was a long discussion during which members raised several issues and made proposals.

- A longitudinal study on the University’s research performance over the last 10-15 years to verify that actual progress had been made;
- Workload allocations and stability for research were raised by several members; the administrative load of academics is too high, the research workload too unpredictable to develop long-term programs centred around basic research, which underpins applied research.
- There was a need to incentivise research quality in line with the discipline-specific requirements. A suggestion was made to move away from quantitative measures and have a more qualitative approach that includes peer review, which could increase the researcher’s and the University’s reputation and capitalise on transdisciplinary capabilities in crafting narratives involving the humanities;
- A reform of the Master of Research, especially to guarantee sufficient discipline-specific research training and build a research pipeline; it was proposed to lower the entry requirement for the intake to the MRes with specific discipline-based teaching model.
- Make HDR candidates’ career success a quality mark of supervision and mentoring.
- Contributions raised that the number of PhD scholarships that has been offered was too low in comparison with other institutions.
- It was raised that industry partnership onboarding processes need to be align better with industry timelines, and to involve more collegial cross-school collaboration. Strategic evaluation of partnerships could elevate key partnerships to the level of University partnerships. There was also potential to learn from G8 universities organise their partnerships.
- It was also suggested that more forward planning for funding availability was required. It often seemed that there is no cohesive strategy for research that is planned; often pots of money were found and then researchers needed to turn their research around in a very short period. Additionally, seed money is there, but then there was no additional funding found for further research.
- Similarly, it was pointed out that for Indigenous PhD students there was limitations to retention after completion due to a lack of postdoctoral funding, a situation that applied more generally.
- A request was made for more guidance on how to secure funding and write grants as there is an expectation to procure grants, with no or minimal training

and support. Another member relayed to Senate the limitations set on the amount of grants they could apply for, given that more applications would result in more funding.

Professor Deborah Sweeney commended members on the great ideas and noted she would be working on implementing the next step of changes and having promotions that include substantial research. She also suggested that academic staff to be mobilised to raise the profile of the University and expand the University's engagement with industry opportunities.

Professor Freya MacMillan advised Senate that there was a new grants strategy under development to attract and recruit the best researchers with fellowship programs. The University was looking at ways to incentivise mentoring for senior researchers and building up our researchers rather than looking to bring in external researchers. She also said decasualised staff on a 10% research workload allocation was problematic for research growth, and that the current workload model needed to be amended for better research outcomes. Professor MacMillan also thought there was a need to find a way to incentivise researchers to engage in the researcher training program.

Professor Kevin Dunn told Senate that there was an urgency to this, as performance and rankings have stalled. The ranking agencies have moved to different metrics, which place more emphasis on broader research strength, which was going against the current strategy of selection and concentration.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that investment was required. The Chancellor said that the Board of Trustees would empower the Vice-Chancellor with the resources to achieve and implement the strategy but emphasised that prioritisation would have to occur. Professor Westacott thanked members for their contributions and proposed that a similar discussion should occur about teaching quality.

3.5 RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION AT WESTERN

Mr Tim Horan advised Senate that his team supported academic staff in commercialisation. One of the initiatives, [Western Ventures](#), was designed to support early-stage translation and commercialisation of Western Sydney University's research. The aim was to raise the profile, build capacity and then support the most promising projects.

Mr Horan apprised Senate of some current examples, including the *Neuromorphic Space Domain Awareness* and *Memory Aid*, where his team had supported the research contract and assisted in refining the business model and in applying for external funding. He said there were currently 12 projects in place, acknowledging that there was a long way for Western to go to reach researchers and build requisite skills and mindset.

Mr Horan agreed with Senate members that more work was needed regarding intellectual property rights and Indigenous and cultural property for Indigenous stakeholders.

Professor Bahman Javadi noted that based on his experience with Western Ventures, there was still a gap between the research that is conducted in Schools, which is not designed for commercialisation. Mr Horan agreed that historically there had been a gap between research and having a project commercialisation-ready, but Western

Ventures intended to provide some bridging between the two. Senate members concurred that commercialisation needed to be thought of more broadly and laterally.

3.6 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES REVIEW

This item was rescheduled to the October meeting of Academic Senate.

Ms Rose Cutts arrived at 11:45am.

3.7 TEQSA RE-REGISTRATION UPDATE

Professor Maryanne Dever reminded Senate that the TEQSA re-registration submission comprised a 10-page summary document and a 5-page research document, to be submitted in May 2025. She said that TEQSA had streamlined the process since the University's last re-registration in 2017, and while the work was progressing for re-registration, networking with other institutions that have already gone through this new process was also taking place. TEQSA would review areas such as academic integrity and AI, student well-being and welfare, cybersecurity, and areas of risk such as high rates of casualisation. The Committee was considering the evidence for the submission and Ms Rose Cutts, Director, Education Quality & Policy would reach out to relevant areas.

3.8 UPDATE FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES

3.8.1 THE MARCS INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN, BEHAVIOUR & DEVELOPMENT

Professor Kate Stevens, Director of The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour & Development, relayed the Institute's mission in optimising human interaction across lifespan. She said that both basic research and translational were conducted at the Institute. MARCS also worked collaboratively with other Schools, for example with the School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment on a project on advanced stage mobility. Other examples of MARCS' impactful research are *Memory Aid*, home support for people living with dementia and the work with the School of Humanities and Communication Arts developing a minor on *Indigenous Language Revitalisation*, where the Dharug language is taught at Western. Professor Stevens said that MARCS was looking forward to deepening work in medical space with the appointment of a *Charter Hall Chair in Human Neuroscience* and to welcoming Professor Tobias Delbrück from ETH Zurich in the field of Neuromorphic Engineering, who will be joining ICNS.

3.8.2 SCHOOL OF LAW

This item was rescheduled to the October meeting of Academic Senate.

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

3.10.1 ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

There was no Academic Senate Policy Committee update report.

3.11 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

It was resolved (As 24/04: 03)

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

New donor scholarship for approval
Rachael & David Chin Law Scholarship

Amendments to Existing Scholarships
Revolution - Women in STEM Scholarship
Revolution - Women in Business Scholarship
Dialysis Australia Clinical Placement Scholarship in Nursing

New Donor-Funded Prizes
Dr Jayadev Award for Excellence
Mind Connections Prize for Clinical Psychology
A R Byrne & Associates Award for Criminal Law
Sita Hardikar 3MT Prize
Dr. Mukund Joglekar 3 + 1Q award

Amendments to Existing Prize
Advice Wise award

3.12 GRADUAND LISTS, UNIVERSITY MEDALS AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

There were no students lists.

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 report of the e-meeting of the Senate Executive Committee held on 4 and 5 July 2024 (meeting e24/04), was appended for noting by members and consisted of the following items:

Meeting e24/02 | 4 July 2024

Approval of Scholarships

Approval of the revisions to the six one-off student scholarships for Western Sydney University Indonesia, Surabaya Campus.

1. *Dr. Dra. H. Khofifah Indar Parawansa Scholarship - one Scholarship offered for the September 2024 intake covering three years of study.*
2. *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak Scholarship – two scholarships offered for the September 2024 intake, covering three years of study.*
3. *City of Surabaya Mayor’s Scholarship - two Scholarships offered for the September 2024 intake.*
4. *Australian Consul-General Scholarship - one scholarship offered for the September 2024 intake, covering three years of study.*

4.2 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The report of the meetings of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) held on 4 June 2024 (meeting 24/04) and 9 July 2024 (meeting 24/05), were appended. The update by Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Chair of APCAC, was rescheduled to the October meeting of Academic Senate.

4.3 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 13 June 2024 (meeting 24/02) and the post-meeting slide are appended for noting. The updated by Professor Maryanne Dever, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, was rescheduled to the October meeting of Academic Senate.

4.4 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 30 July 2024 (meeting 24/03) were appended for noting.

Professor Brian Stout, Chair of the Senate Assessment Committee, advised Senate that the Senate Assessment Committee had been focusing on the challenge of responding to AI. There had been an increase in the volume of misconduct, and the inconsistency of approaches taken by Schools had an impact on student wellbeing.

Professor Stout said that the University must investigate all allegations of misconduct, as inadequate responses would risk reputational damage. However, the volume of cases created pressure on staff, while the investigation process would often

lead to student distress. Student responses indicated distress, confusion, and concern. Key observations from support staff showed that students were often confused about the appropriate use of AI and unsure of what evidence to provide to prove that their work was their own. Professor Stout said, that in some cases, students were given contradicting advice about what programs are acceptable, as is the case with disability students. Students were unprepared for the preliminary investigation, the interrogatory nature of the lengthy and inconsistent process posed challenges.

Professor Stout proposed a medium-term reform of assessment and in the short term a renewed emphasis on an educative approach to integrity. Professor Stout was working with Deputy Deans on approaches, especially in improved communication with students, clearly articulating what is not appropriate regarding AI.

A Senate member noted that extenuating circumstance and desperation could lead students to use AI, and the necessity of dealing with that problem rather than just the AI problem. Professor Dever concurred and advised that the University needed to look at the larger problem and why a student's first port of call was to use AI rather than approach relevant academic staff.

Another member noted that Turnitin did not disclose to students the percentage score regarding AI and that the integrity of assessments needed to be ensured. Professor Dever responded that, as guided by TEQSA, there was a shift towards ascertaining learning.

4.5 RESEARCH COMMITTEE

There were no Research Committee meeting minutes for noting.

4.6 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE

The confirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024 (Meeting 24/06) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 9 July 2024 (Meeting 24/07) were appended for noting by the Senate.

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 29 May 2024 (meeting 24/03) were appended for noting by the Senate.

4.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 2 October 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

4.10.1 Graduate Research School SAC | October Academic Senate

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