

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Meeting 25/05 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday 10 October 2025 at, 9:30AM, at, Parramatta South Campus and via zoom.

Attended

Dr	Tuki	Attuquayefio	School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Hind	Benbya	Dean, School of Business
Dr	Nathan	Berger	School of Education (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)
Professor	Maryanne	Dever	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education
Dr	James	Dunn	School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Kevin	Dunn	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Transformation/Executive Dean for the Faculty of Social Science, Arts, Business, Education and Law (SABEL)
Professor	Cath	Ellis	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Quality and Integrity
Professor	Miroslav	Filipović	School of Science (Level D, E Representative)
Professor	Jane	Frost	Interim Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery/School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level D, E Representative)
Mr	Nabin	Gautam	Postgraduate Student Representative <i>Arrived 9:42am. Exited 10:10am</i>
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	Kurt	Langfeld	Dean, School of Computer, Data, and Mathematical Sciences
Dr	Peter	Lewis	School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C Representative)
Dr	Ranjith	Liyanapathirana	School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Samanthika	Liyanapathirana	School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment (Level D, E Representative)
Professor	Amir	Mahmood	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Partnerships Transition, Transnational Education
Professor	Robert	Mailhammer	Chair of Academic Senate
Associate Professor	Jennifer	Mensch	School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level D, E Representative)
Professor	Graciela	Metternicht	Dean, School of Science
Professor	John	Morley	Interim Dean, School of Medicine
Dr	Nicolene	Murdoch	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships and Transnational Education
Professor	Susan	Page	Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education <i>Exited 10:55am; Entered 12:05pm</i>
Professor	Jason	Pandya-Wood	Dean, School of Social Sciences
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	Alphia	Possamai-Inesedy	Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success
Mr	Simon	Potts	Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations and Registrar
Associate Professor	Margarite	Poulos	School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level A, B or C Representative) <i>Exited 11:04am</i>
Professor	Jeff	Powell	Interim Dean, Graduate Research School
Professor	Catherine	Renshaw	Dean, School of Law
Professor	Tony	Rossi	Interim Dean, School of Health Sciences

Professor	Swapan	Saha	Acting Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment
Ms	Fiona	Salisbury	Executive Director, Library Services
Dr	Ata	Samad	School of Business (Level A, B or C Representative)
Dr	Katrina	Sandbach	Acting Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
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 Representative)
Dr	Kylie	Steel	School of Health (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Brian	Stout	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching
Associate Professor	Mourad	Tayebi	Deputy Chair of Academic Senate
Associate Professor	Chloe	Taylor	Vice-Chancellor's Nominee
Professor	Michelle	Trudgett	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership <i>Exited 10:55am; Entered 12:05pm</i>
Associate Professor	Michael	Tyler	Acting Deputy Dean, School of Psychology
Associate Professor	Jacqueline	Ullman	School of Education (Level D, E Representative)
Distinguished Professor	George	Williams AO	Vice-Chancellor and President

Apologies

Professor	Ian	Anderson	Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise
Professor	Saba	Bebawi	Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
Dr	Maria	Bhatti	School of Law (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Ann	Dadich	School of Business (Level D, E Representative)
Ms	Jess	Gleeson	Director, Data Integrity, Quality and Operations and Registrar
Professor	Awais	Piracha	School of Social Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Associate Professor	Lei	Si	School of Health Sciences (Level D, E Representative)

Professor	Deborah	Sweeney	Provost
Professor	Gabrielle	Weidemann	Interim Dean, School of Psychology
Professor	Yang	Xiang	Interim Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

Absent

Associate Professor	Emilee	Gilbert	School of Psychology (Level D, E Representative)
Professor	Geoff	Lee	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney and External Engagement
Ms	Tiffany	Sharpe	Indigenous Australian Student Representative

In Attendance

Ms	Shubha	Devadasen	Associate Director, Office of Governance Services, Secretariat
Distinguished Professor	Brian	Falzon	Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Science (ECS)
Ms	Bianca	Jordaan	Chief Information Officer
Professor	Sarah	Lewis	Executive Dean of the Faculty for Health
Professor	Freya	MacMillan	Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research
Mr	Philip	Maloney	University General Counsel
Ms	Georgia	Vasiliadis	Senior Governance Officer
Ms	Kristin	Wiese	Director Learning Experience

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer opened the meeting at 9:30am and welcomed members and attendees.

An Acknowledgement of Country was provided by Dr Evan Crawford, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (Level A, B or C Representative).

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members were advised that Item 2.3.1 October Conferral of University Awards was withdrawn from the agenda as no lists were submitted.

Apart from procedural items, the items below were starred:

- Item 2.1 Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
- Item 2.6 Selection Criteria for Discipline Experts
- Item 3.1 Question on Notice
- Item 3.2 Revised Academic Capabilities Framework
- Item 4.1 Chair's Report
- Item 4.2 Vice Chancellor's Report
- Item 4.3 Provost Report
- Item 4.4 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students' Report
- Item 4.5 Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise' Report
- Item 4.6 Student Report
- Item 4.7 Engaged Teach Project
- Item 4.9 Student Administration Policy Suite
- Item 4.10 Academic Careers at Western: Towards Trust and Autonomy in Academic Workloads
- Item 4.11 2026-2030 Indigenous Strategy

It was resolved (AS 25/05:01)

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

There was no change to the order of business.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

No items of Other Business were raised.

1.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was resolved (AS 25/05:02)

That Academic Senate confirmed the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 15 August 2025 (meeting 25/04) as an accurate record.

1.7 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Action 25/04: 1.7 | Action Items

Document or presentation with appropriate guidance regarding IT support to be provided when possible.

Update 25/05:

Ms Bianca Jordaan to provide Academic Senate with a paper regarding IT Support in line with the Reset. A working group to be established to review this from a holistic perspective.

Action 25/04: 1.7 | Action Items

Finalise a standard format of reporting for Academic Senate from senior executive by the end of 2025.

Update 25/05:

The Chair is working with the senior executive on Senate reporting to have this item completed by end of year.

Action 25/03: 4.1 | Chair's Report

To provide more visibility around risk assessment, it was requested that an articulation of the risk mitigation strategies against the HESF standards relevant to the Product Review be presented to the Senate.

Update 25/05:

Professor Maryanne Dever confirmed that an update would be provided at the December meeting of Academic Senate.

Action 25/02: 4.6 | Transnational Academic Governance

Update on Transnational Academic Governance to be provided when possible.

Update: 25/05

Academic Senate was comfortable with proposal; Dr Nicolene Murdoch to map Transnational Education and Third-Party Providers to new committee structure.

Action 25/01:4.3 | Student Report

RSC to provide data on PhD completions, fee waivers, reasons for extensions and discipline averages. Chair, RSC to talk to Deans about alternative options.

Update 25/05:

Professor Jeff Powell, Chair of Research Studies Committee (RSC) shared the outcome of the analysis with the Committee.

The data showed completion times, by school, institute and residency since 2022, when the shift to the new management system (Banner) occurred. Professor Powell also pointed out the significant effect of the COVID. He agreed to share the report with Academic Senate and invited questions. Senate was advised that a review of the historical data in Callista was very time-consuming and would not be relevant. Professor Powell noted that the GRS would be in a better position to provide the HDR data requested by the Board of Trustees moving forward.

Senate was advised that the function of Competitive Intelligence and Analytics (CIA) was critical, however, feedback indicated that the data quality had been inconsistent, leading to dissatisfaction. While the CIA team performed well with the resources available, the scope was not broad enough to meet evolving needs.

It was affirmed that this was a key capability, and that changes would be made to achieve delivering high-quality, real-time data that is easily accessible. Details of this function would be outlined in the new change proposal and reflected in the updated organisational chart. The University would revisit this next year to assess the effectiveness of its data capability and ensure delivery as intended.

Responding to a question about the support for international students, Senate was advised that the funding that GRS provides for international HDR students is through

the Research Training Program (RTP) funding and that there was a 10% cap for international students. This funding had already been committed for the next two years.

Item closed.

New Action:

Professor Jeff Powell to share the HDR data document with Academic Senate.

Action 5.10.4 | Senate Education Committee

Senate Education Committee to provide an update on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL).

Update 25/04:

Update to be provided at the December 2025 meeting of Academic Senate.

Mr Nabin Gautam arrived 9:42am.

2. APPROVALS

2.1 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

A suite of new programs was introduced, alongside the discontinuation of others. The new curriculum management system, the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), has proven effective in tracking curriculum changes and their academic governance in an interactive way. Though decisions at this meeting relied on the paper-based system, members will be able to use the affordances of the new CMP for future approvals to assure the Committee that programs meet Standard 5.1 of the Threshold Standards.

No questions or concerns were raised by the committee. Members expressed satisfaction and noted or approved all items in this section, in line with the recommendations provided.

2.1.1 APPROVAL FOR ADDITION OF To45 SPORT MANAGEMENT TESTAMUR MAJOR FOR 4741 BACHELOR OF SPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS

It was resolved (AS 25/05:03)

That Academic Senate approved the field of study variation consisting of the addition of To45 Sport Management Testamur Major to 4741 Bachelor of Sport Development, as listed in the memo, to commence from 2025 onwards.

2.1.2 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES: DISCONTINUATION OF PROGRAMS

It was resolved (AS 25/05:04)

That Academic Senate noted the Provost's approval of the suspension and discontinuation of programs listed in the memo from June 2025, and approved the transition arrangements.

2.1.3 9034 – UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION PROGRAM – APPLIED POLICING

It was resolved (AS 25/05:05)

That Academic Senate approved the introduction of the new program 9034 – Undergraduate Preparation Program – Applied Policing to commence in Spring Block 4 2025 as a fully online program.

2.1.4 UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION PROGRAM - 1947 ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN APPLIED POLICING

It was resolved (AS 25/05:06)

That Academic Senate noted the attached pathway for eligible students who complete the Undergraduate Preparation Program in Applied Policing, articulating into the Associate Degree in Applied Policing 1947 at Western Sydney University.

2.1.5 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE GENERAL FOUNDATION STUDIES PROGRAM

It was resolved (AS 25/05:07)

That Academic Senate noted the new pathway proposal from Western Sydney University International College General Foundation Studies Program, providing articulation into the Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology 3639 or Bachelor of Data Science 3769, comprising of guaranteed entry only.

2.16 GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SONOGRAPHY

It was resolved (AS 25/05:08)

That Academic Senate approved the new program 4807 Graduate Diploma in Sonography.

2.17 SUSPENSION OF 7022 ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN ENGINEERING

It was resolved (AS 25/05:09)

That Academic Senate noted the Provost's approval for the suspension of 7022 Associate Degree in Engineering as listed in the memo from Quarter 1 2026. TRIM reference: D25/2410128

2.2 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 25/05:10)

The Academic Senate review and approve the proposed new scholarships/grants and amendments to scholarships/grants for immediate execution

New Donor-Funded Scholarships

- City Branch of Graduate Women Indigenous Advancement Grant

Amendments to Existing Scholarships

- Scholarship Name: Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP)

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Achievement Scholarship
- Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship
- Western Sydney University Sport Scholarship
- Opportunity Scholarship
- Sydney Zoo Indigenous Scholarship

2.3 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*

2.3.1 OCTOBER CONFERRAL OF UNIVERSITY AWARDS

This item was withdrawn.

2.3.2 POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Higher Education Standard(s) Satisfied: 1.5, 6.2.1h

There were no posthumous awards for noting.

2.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-c, 6.3.2.d-f
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

It was resolved (AS 25/05:11)

That Academic Senate approved the updates to the membership in the Terms of Reference of the Senate Education Committee.

2.5 ACADEMIC SENATE E-MEETING

It was resolved (AS 25/05:12)

Academic Senate noted the reports of the e-meetings of the Academic Senate held on 22 – 29 August 2025 (meeting e25/02) and on 8 – 15 September 2025 (meeting e25/03) which consisted of the following items:

Meeting e25/02 | 22 – 29 August 2025

Revised Academic Senate Charter

It was resolved (AS e25/02):

That the Academic Senate endorsed the Academic Charter and recommended it to the Board of Trustees for approval, to replace the existing and current Academic Governance Policy.

Meeting e25/03 | 8 – 15 September 2025

New Program | 9034 Undergraduate Preparation Program – Applied Policing

The resolution was not carried.

Mr Nabin Gautam exited 10:10am.

2.6 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DISCIPLINE EXPERTS

*Higher Education Standard(s): 3.2.1 - 3.2.4, 4.1.2
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

Members of the Working Group and the Office of Governance Services (OGS) were thanked for their contributions in developing the *Academic Senate Discipline Experts Appointment Procedure*. Speaking to the Procedures, the Chair of the Working Group, Professor Rob Mailhammer said that the criteria and process had been guided by three principles:

- ensure that discipline expertise in research and teaching as well as a commitment to service to the profession - broadly defined - make up the core criteria;
- that Senate has sufficient documentation of the nominees' capabilities against the selection criteria, and
- that the nomination process is as impartial/democratic as possible.

The discussion noted a shift from school-based elections to Academic Senate voting. It was pointed out that under the new procedure, ex-officio members would now be involved in the election of Senate members, although Senate would include fewer ex-officio members. It was also clarified that the inclusion of a recommendation letter was intended to support staff learning and engagement with Academic Senate responsibilities.

Concerns were raised about potential favouritism and lack of equity. It was pointed out that nominations would have to undergo the full process each time (new EOI, new letter). Furthermore, the process would be reviewed annually. The discussion further considered diversity and the addition of a clause to ensure diversity in gender and discipline, an issue that the Work Group had considered but not pursued in favour of a maximally democratic process. However, the Procedure would be reviewed annually and input from SAGE-leads would be sought.

Members made a proposal to change a specific workload allocation to a more general confirmation of availability made by the Dean or Director rather than the relevant line manager.

It was resolved (AS 25/05:13)

That Academic Senate approved the Academic Senate Discipline Experts Appointment Procedure, pending the change to Section 5 Procedures PART A - Nomination 10d listed below:

Current version: Line manager endorsement confirming availability and workload support.

Approved version: Dean or Institute Director endorsement confirming availability.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 QUESTION ON NOTICE

*Higher Education Standard(s): 2.1.2, 4.1, 5, 7.3.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3*

How do we collect feedback from the students and how can we maximise student response rate in Student Feedback on Teaching (SFT) and Student Feedback on

Subjects (SFS)? How can we involve the academics in the SFT/SFS collection process?

Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, reported that response rates were consistently low across most schools, often below 20%, and in some cases in single digits. Schools with low SFS response rates also tended to have low SFT response rates. Survey fatigue and lack of awareness were identified as contributing factors. The College demonstrated higher response rates by reinforcing the importance of feedback, creating tailored videos explaining the purpose, access, and deadlines of surveys, integrating surveys into class completion activities and conducting surveys face-to-face at the end of each subject. It was noted that the involvement of academics played a key role in promoting survey participation. Suggestions for increased student participation included returning to embedding survey links in vUWS, using QR codes in class (not currently feasible due to individualised links), providing in-class time for survey completion, and aligning survey timing with assessment submissions. Academic Senate agreed that surveys needed to ask meaningful and relevant questions. Suggestions for improvement included combining SFT and SFS to reduce complexity and duplication, exploring micro-surveys and real-time feedback mechanisms, and introducing a short Week 4 survey with two questions to allow students to see changes during the subject. Members relayed reasons of survey participation decline included student fear of being identified through comments and being overwhelmed by excessive emails and survey requests. A decline in responses following the removal of paper forms was also noted.

Senate was advised that a major review and redesign of student feedback mechanisms was planned for 2026, with insights from this discussion informing future improvements. Cultural factors and student trust in the process would be key considerations. To improve response rates for SFT and SFS, actions included replicating successful practices from The College, such as tailored communications and in-class survey completion, across other schools; reviewing survey design and timing to reduce fatigue and enhance relevance; increasing academic engagement in promoting surveys; integrating feedback into teaching and assessment workflows; exploring real-time feedback and micro-survey options; and addressing privacy concerns by improving communication around survey anonymity and building student confidence in the process.

3.2 REVISED ACADEMIC CAPABILITIES FRAMEWORK

*Higher Education Standard(s): 3.1.2, 3.2.3-4, 6.3.1.a, 6.3.2.a+h
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

Professor Kevin Dunn relayed that a review of the Academic Capabilities Framework had been undertaken, after wide consultation after the release on 4 August, which had generated substantial feedback that had since been addressed. The revised framework was considered comprehensive, and consisted of four domains, each with three capabilities. Professor Dunn added that while the framework supported inclusion and diversity and applied to fixed-term and permanent staff, it did not currently extend to casual staff. Connections with other institutional developments, such as the Teaching and Learning Framework, were noted. Questions were raised about the framework's purpose, whether it supports promotion, and how capabilities will be mapped. It was clarified that the framework was intended as growth-oriented guidance rather than an attainment standard, with integration into promotion processes to be considered. Suggestions included adding explicit reference to community engagement and reviewing the progression policy, with a broader policy review scheduled for 2026.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 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

Professor Mailhammer reminded Senate of the upcoming Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate Forum on 15 October, which would explore how the professoriate and broader academic community can contribute meaningfully to the university, particularly through academic governance.

The Chair summarised key themes from the most recent meeting of the Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CoCABS).

- a) Academic governance with the key point being the differentiation between corporate and academic governance. One key problem for university councils, which the Interim Commissioner of the Australian Tertiary Commission, Professor Mary O'Kane, also highlighted in her presentation, is having sufficient independent expertise in the core business of the university. The inclusion of external academic expertise on university councils, as seen at the University of Wollongong, with the addition of two external council members, has positively influenced the quality of discussions and decisions.
- b) Update on the Australian Tertiary Education Commission. Professor O'Kane spoke about the as well as the criticality of academic boards in advising councils and partnering with management in the development of university compacts. She explained current developments around the key relationships of the ATEC, positions and legislation. Professor O'Kane said that ATEC load calculations were not likely to be based on disciplines but acknowledged that load caps may lead to perverse incentives and that there was a real risk of academic monoculture, while overall she believed that the Higher Education landscape should be more diverse.
- c) Research Quality Assurance: A presentation by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research, of Macquarie University highlighted the need for a clear framework to assure research quality that is co-designed with academics and the academic governance system in the absence of a national framework.
- d) Academic Governance training and induction: The Committee was presented with a proposal to conduct research in what training and induction might be required for different target groups (council members, management, committee members, university membership).

Professor Mailhammer pointed to a report on academic governance experiences that was part of the meeting papers and the recommendations it makes on improving these experiences.

Professor Susan Page exited 10:55am.

Professor Michelle Trudgett exited 10:55am.

4.2 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

Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, relayed that the university sector was currently under intense political scrutiny, as highlighted during the New South Wales Budget Estimates Process, where adversarial questioning had focused on Indigenous issues, accusations of racism in teaching, and even operational details such as campus square meterage. Cybersecurity remained a critical concern, with recent attacks targeting students, particularly impacting those with mental health challenges and international students, motivated not by financial gain but by intent to cause harm. The Vice-Chancellor said WSU had invested \$26 million in cybersecurity in 2025, with a

similar allocation planned for 2026. Professor Williams informed Senate that the organisational change proposal was to be released at 11am, with implementation expected by the end of the year. The proposal centred on organisational structure, with further changes anticipated in 2027 due to government-imposed student load caps, which will limit enrolments and funding. He said additional funding was expected in 2035, including targeted support for Indigenous students. Despite the challenges, the Vice-Chancellor expressed cautious optimism. Concerns about student fear following cyber breaches were acknowledged, with reassurances that support was available and that perceived threats may exceed actual risks. The *WesternHow* app was highlighted as a secure platform, and collaboration with students and the Student Consultative Representatives (SCR) was welcomed.

Associate Professor Margarite Poulos exited at 11:04am.

☆ 4.3 PROVOST REPORT

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

On behalf of Professor Deborah Sweeney, Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships and Transnational Education, advised that the University continued to manage extensive communications with international partners, with a strategic focus on mutually beneficial delegation visits. Partnerships in medicine and podiatry were being discontinued. AI literacy training, developed by the Digital Education Council, focused on ethical use, was currently available to staff and would be extended to students in 2026. Senate members were encouraged to complete the course once the link was shared.

4.4 DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR EDUCATION AND STUDENTS REPORT

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

Professor Maryanne Dever outlined the division's recent work, including the LMS uplift, Teaching Quality Framework, Western 100 app, Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), and the Institutional Action Plan addressing generative AI's impact on award integrity, with Professor Cath Ellis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Quality and Integrity, Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success, and Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, talking to their portfolios. A proposed roadshow to showcase this work had been paused, with feedback indicating November as the preferred timing, pending further consultation.

Professor Dever said the CMP was launched in September, alongside a Rapid Subject Review to remove inactive or low-enrolment subjects that are not needed for completion. Engagement with Deans continued to align 2026 planning with curriculum architecture and assessment redesign, with a strategic focus on postgraduate growth and program relevance. She also emphasised the importance of flexibility and regular program reviews to ensure relevance and reduce unnecessary staff workload.

Senate was also advised that the University was transitioning to Blackboard Ultra, with full migration required by the end of 2027. Work was underway with internal teams and Blackboard to develop a subject template. The goal was to achieve a meaningful uplift while minimising the burden on individual subject coordinators. Summer subjects were being prioritised for the transition. This shift aligned with

broader efforts to redesign assessment and review subject offerings, ensuring that only actively taught subjects are uplifted.

The Western 100 initiative, supported by the *WesternHow* app, aimed to guide students through their first 100 days and beyond, using a tiered chatbot system and feedback loops to support at-risk students. Sensitivity around data security and the security of personal information in the context of developing Western HOW was discussed, with reassurances about its resilience and ongoing collaboration with students and SCR.

Concerns were raised about curriculum architecture in multidisciplinary schools, with a nuanced approach confirmed and noting a review of curriculum design and approval procedures, starting with the Bachelor of Arts. Questions about program discontinuation were addressed, confirming content consolidation and exit strategies.

4.5 PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE REPORT

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

There was no Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise report.

4.6 STUDENT REPORT

Higher Education Standard(s) :6.3.3

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

Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degrees Research Student Representative, thanked Professor Powell for clarifying the four-year HDR candidature and confirming the associated four-year fee waiver, with a request for policy alignment to reflect this decision. Professor Powell explained that while the previous HDR policy had granted a four-year fee waiver for University scholarship recipients, the updated wording reduced this to three years (clause 72). However, the Graduate Research School (GRS) has been instructed that no fees will be charged for four years also for international students whose stipend has concluded. In response to Mr Perera's question about Generative AI Guidelines, Professor Freya MacMillan noted that a revised version of the AI policy and procedures would be presented to Senate in December and would be housed in a centralised AI webspace, providing HDR candidates with clear guidance on ethical AI use. Senate members to be provided with the link once available.

Professor Susan Page entered 12:05pm.

Professor Michelle Trudgett entered 12:05pm.

4.7 ENGAGED TEACHING PROJECT

Higher Education Standard(s): 3.1.3, 3.2.3b, 6.3.2e+f

Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5

Ms Kristin Wiese, Director of Learning Experience and the Engaged Teaching Project, provided an update, noted that the Engaged Teaching Project (ETP) was one of six transformation projects funded in 2023 as a reaction to QILT results and expanded to all schools in 2024. The initiative centred on the *Five Moments That Matter* framework, designed from the student perspective, and supported by motivational teaching principles and improved connection points in vUWS. Workshops delivered in 2025 were designed for consistency and personalisation, receiving positive

feedback from subject coordinators and tutors, who reported increased confidence and agency in delivering content. The project emphasised collaborative engagement with schools to address discipline-specific challenges. QILT results would be tabled at the next meeting, though ETP was recognised as a broader cultural shift, now integrated with the move to Blackboard Ultra. The Learning Experience Team was centralised to support pedagogy, and the *Moments in Action* document, soon to be published, would offer practical strategies, examples, and an evaluation component, serving as a resource for both SCs and individual educators. Due to time constraints, Senate was advised that questions could be posed directly to the project team.

4.8 TEQSA'S CORPORATE PLAN 2025-29

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3a, 6.2.1a, 6.3.1d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1

The summary of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Corporate Plan 2025–29 was appended for noting.

4.9 STUDENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY SUITE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3.b, 6.3.1.d, 6.3.2.a, 7.2.2.d
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3, 5

Mr Simon Potts, acting Director, Data Integrity, Quality & Operations and Registrar, relayed that the Student Administration Policy suite was the step taken to simplify student operations while ensuring compliance with University requirements, with implementation planned for January 2026. This revised schedule of administrative authorisations, intended to operationalise key policy provisions, presented at the Senate meeting, would be brought to the Senate Executive in the following month, with positions to be reviewed in light of the current change proposal. Consultation on the changes would close on 29 October 2025.

It was resolved (AS 25/05:14)

That Academic Senate noted:

- i. the new Student Administration Policy and associated procedures; and*
- ii. Senate Executive Committee will be asked to approve the policy suite for implementation from 1 January 2026.*

4.10 ACADEMIC CAREERS AT WESTERN: TOWARDS TRUST AND AUTONOMY IN ACADEMIC WORKLOADS

Higher Education Standard(s): 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 4.1.2, 4.2.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5

Professor Kevin Dunn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Transformation told Senate that public consultation would commence Monday 13 October 2025 and members could send their feedback to him. The discussion of this item was postponed until the December 2025 meeting of Academic Senate.

4.11 2026-2030 INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

Higher Education Standard(s): 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 6.2.1g
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership relayed that the Indigenous-led strategy had been developed through extensive consultation

with the Indigenous professoriate group, Elders, staff, students, and broader University stakeholders. Building on the current strategy, the 2026–2030 *Indigenous Strategy* outlines eight strategic initiatives focused on student success, employment, research, learning and teaching, community engagement, cultural knowledge, Indigenous leadership, governance, and self-determination. The strategy had been reviewed by the Elders Committee, SET, and the Indigenous Governance Mechanism, and was now being brought to Senate for noting before progressing to the People and Culture Committee and the Board of Trustees. A formal launch was planned for early February 2026, with Professor Trudgett working closely with Executive Deans to meet success indicators. A request was made for Professor Susan Page to visit schools to support curriculum indigenisation, including sharing resources such as films and novels. Dr Murdoch raised the importance of ensuring local onshore and offshore partners are aware of the strategy, with support expressed for socialising it to Third Party Providers.

4.12 2024 THIRD PARTY PROVIDER ANNUAL QUALITY REVIEW REPORTS PART A - SUMMARY

The 2024 Annual Quality Review Reports (Part A) for the University's third-party partner providers was appended for noting.

4.13 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

There were no Updates from Schools and Institutes.

4.14 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS

Higher Education Standard(s): 2.1.2, 4.1, 5, 7.3.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3

There were no Questions on Notice/Hot Topics.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

5.1 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

There were no reports from the Senate Executive Committee for noting. The Senate Executive Committee has not met since the last meeting of Academic Senate.

5.2 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

The confirmed minutes of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) meeting held on 26 August 2025 (meeting 25/07) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals

Committee (APCAC) meeting held on 30 September 2025 (meeting 25/08) were appended for noting.

5.3 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 confirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 7 August 2025 (meeting 25/05) were appended for noting.

5.4 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 16 September 2025 (meeting 25/05) were appended for noting.

5.5 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 held on 17 September 2025 (meeting 25/04) were appended for noting.

5.6 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 meeting held on 5 August 2025 (Meeting 25/10), and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meetings held on 19 August 2025 (meeting 25/11) and on 2 September 2025 (meeting 25/12), were appended for noting.

5.7 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 were no Academic Senate Policy Committee minutes for noting.

5.8 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*

The unconfirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 13 August 2025 (meeting 25/03) were appended for noting.

For Noting.

5.9 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday 3 December 2025.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised at the meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (25/06) will be Friday 5 December 2025 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The meeting formally closed at 12:30pm