

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE

Meeting 25/04 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday 15 August 2025 at, 9:30am, at, Parramatta South Campus, and via zoom.

Attended:

Professor	Ian	Anderson	Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise
Dr	Tuki	Attuquayefio	School of Psychology (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Saba	Bebawi	Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
Professor	Hind	Benbya	Dean, School of Business
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)
Professor	Rosalind	Bye	Acting Dean, School of Health Sciences
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)
Professor	Maryanne	Dever	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education
Dr	James	Dunn	School of Medicine (Level A, B or C Representative)
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>Exited 11:13am.</i>
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	Kurt	Langfeld	Dean, School of Computer, Data, and Mathematical Sciences
Dr	Peter	Lewis	School of Nursing and Midwifery (Level A, B or C 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
Dr	Nicolene	Murdoch	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships and Transnational Education
Professor	Susan	Page	Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education
Professor	Jason	Pandya-Wood	Dean, School of Social Sciences
Mr	Prasad	Perera	Higher Degree Research Candidate Student Representative <i>Exited 11:47am.</i>
Dr	Ben	Perry	School of Science (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Alpha	Possamai-Inesedy	Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success
Associate Professor	Margarite	Poulos	School of Humanities and Communication Arts (Level A, B or C Representative)
Professor	Jeff	Powell	Interim Dean, Graduate Research School
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	Michele	Simons	Dean, School of Education <i>Exited at 10:56am.</i>
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
Professor	Deborah	Sweeney	Provost
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 10:32am; Entered 11:36am.</i>
Associate Professor	Jacqueline	Ullman	School of Education (Level D, E Representative)
Professor	Gabrielle	Weidemann	Interim Dean, School of Psychology
Distinguished Professor	George	Williams AO	Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor	Yang	Xiang	Interim Dean, School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

Apologies:

Mr	Glenn	Campbell	Chief Executive Officer, The College
Professor	Kevin	Dunn	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Transformation
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	Awais	Piracha	School of Social Sciences (Level D, E Representative)
Ms	Fiona	Salisbury	Executive Director, Library Services

Absent:

Professor	Geoff	Lee	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney and External Engagement
Professor	John	Morley	Interim Dean, School of Medicine
Associate Professor	Alexie	Papanicolaou	University Research Institutes Representative
Professor	Catherine	Renshaw	Dean, School of Law
Ms	Tiffany	Sharpe	Indigenous Australian Student Representative
Ms	Ananta	Vig	International Student Representative

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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

Associate Professor Margarite Poulos, School of Humanities and Communication Arts delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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 Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee
- Item 2.3 Academic Senate Charter
- Item 3.1 Teaching Quality 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 Standing Committees
- Item 4.8 Retention
- Item 4.9 Revised Academic Capabilities Framework
- Item 4.12 Question on Notice/Hot Topics

It was resolved (AS 25/04:01)

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 25/04:02)

That Academic Senate confirmed the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 20 June 2025 (meeting 25/03) as an accurate record pending the change noting Professor Saba Bebawi, Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts as attending.

1.7 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Action 25/03: 3.1 | Questions on Notice/Hot Topics

Professor Ann Dadich and Ms Bianca Jordaan to investigate the IT support issue further and submit an updated report to the next meeting of Academic Senate.

Update: Item 3.3 Extended Hours IT Support.

Senate noted that the current guidance document did not have the comprehensive direction needed to determine how to proceed. The priorities for selecting the preferred option remained undefined. The strategic implications of different options required clarification.

Clear rules of thumb were needed to establish the decision-making process and its rationale. This necessity was heightened by existing resource constraints. Given the collective responsibility for quality assurance, the establishment of a working group warranted consideration. Such a group could develop guidelines for decision-making that prioritised organizational values, including retention, flexibility, and equity, while acknowledging resource constraints and associated risks. This should be revisited once the change process has been completed.

Item Closed.

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

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: Professor Maryanne Dever to provide an update on the risk register of the Product Review/Strategy project, including how risks are identified, and what controls and mitigation strategies are in place, at the October Academic Senate meeting.

Action |25/02: 4.6 | Transnational Academic Governance

Update on Transnational Academic Governance to be provided when possible.

The update to be held over until the ongoing restructure of the Transnational/Third Party Provider Academic Governance structure is completed.

Action 25/01:4.2| Vice-Chancellor's Report

The introduction of a standard report of information in the Vice-Chancellor's Report. Chair to liaise with the University General Counsel to organise this reporting process.

Update: Trialling the dispersion of information via the reports from portfolios – Items 4.3 Provost Report, Item 4.4 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students’ Report and Item 4.5 Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise’ Report. Members invited to provide feedback.

Item Closed.

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

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: Professor Jeff Powell, Chair of Research Studies Committee (RSC) to circulate the report with this data to Senate. Discussion regarding the data to take place at the next RSC meeting.

Action 5.10.4 | Senate Education Committee

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

Some progress had been achieved. Schools had been requested to produce procedure documents outlining their CPL processes for each discipline and program ensuring they align with the University CPL policy. A closing update would be provided at the next Senate meeting.

Update: Progress has been made and is included in the Senate Education Committee minutes. A closing update to be provided at the December meeting of Academic Senate.

Action 24/05: 3.3 | Student Report

Professor Maryanne Dever to talk through AI document with Mr Nabin Gautam.

Professor Cath Ellis to liaise with Professor Dever for an update. A report of this conversation will be provided at Meeting 25/04.

Update: Contact was attempted. Any ongoing queries can be directed to the Chair.
Item Closed.

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

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee Report to Senate for meeting 25/05 held on 23 June 2025 and 25/06 held on 10 July 2025 was appended.

2.1.1 1948 - BACHELOR OF PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING)

Professor Cath Ellis, Chair of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC), advised Senate that the committee had engaged in robust discussions concerning the Bachelor of Performing Arts, which included concerns, conditions, and issues related to NESAs requirements for drama. The discussions addressed discrepancies between certain subjects and PLOs, resulting in conditions

being established for subject reconsideration.

The implementation of the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP) was addressed. After a transition phase to CMP, Senate members would gain access to all information in a self-service manner. The future state would enable exploration of all information transparently through a single source of truth, enabling Senate members to gain assurance that relevant items fulfil the relevant Higher Education Standards.

Senate requested that in addition to all the required documentation for new programs, Senate also be provided with summary of reassurances that the program meets the relevant Higher Education Standards, especially 5.1.

It was resolved (AS 25/04:03)

That Academic Senate approved the introduction of the new program 1948 - Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting) to commence in Autumn 2026 at the Penrith campus.

2.1.2 4741 - BACHELOR OF SPORT DEVELOPMENT

It was resolved (AS 25/04:04)

That Academic Senate noted the Vice-Chancellor's approval of the suspension of 4741 - Bachelor of Sport Development from 2026 and approves the transition arrangements.

2.1.3 4791 - BACHELOR OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PATHWAY TO TEACHING SECONDARY) [OBJ]

It was resolved (AS 25/04:05)

That Academic Senate noted the Vice-Chancellor's approval of the suspension of 4791 - Bachelor of Health and Physical Education (Pathway to Teaching Secondary) from 2026 and approves the transition arrangements.

2.1.4 2+2 INTERNATIONAL PATHWAY 25N0002 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL TOURISM MANAGEMENT AT LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY, ARTICULATING INTO THE BACHELOR OF TOURISM AND EVENT MANAGEMENT 1916 AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

It was resolved (AS 25/04:06)

That Academic Senate noted the new 2+2 International Pathway 25N0002 Bachelor of Science in International Tourism Management at Lyceum of The Philippines University, articulating into the Bachelor of Tourism and Event Management 1916 at Western Sydney University, comprising of guaranteed entry and 80cps of credit for prior learning

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 25/04:07)

The Academic Senate reviewed and approved the proposed new scholarships, reviewed and approved the amendments to scholarships and reviewed and approved the new donor funded grant for immediate execution.

New Donor-Funded Scholarships for Approval

- Medich Future Leader's Indigenous Scholarship
- Medich Indigenous Undergraduate Scholarship

Amendments to Existing Scholarships

- Network Rail Scholarship
- Warwick Cumming Refugee Scholarship
- Harvey Norman Young Women's Leadership Academy Scholarships

New Donor Prizes and Grants for Approval

- Bathurst Regional Council School of Medicine Rural Grant

2.3 ACADEMIC SENATE CHARTER

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3d, 6.3
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate, relayed that the document under discussion represented a draft that required input from the committee. The Board of Trustees was the final approval authority for the document. The committee's input was essential to ensure that proposed changes supported the Academic Senate's functionality, strengthened its oversight role, and enhanced its ability to advise the board regarding academic risk, quality, and monitoring. Professor Mailhammer highlighted the following points:

The proposal aimed at implementing Recommendations 1 and 3 of the External Review on Academic Governance, specifically to bring the number in members closer to the sector average of 45-50 members, to rebalance Senate membership in favour of elected members and discipline experts, include a second deputy and an external member, as well as to align its functions more closely with the Higher Education Standards Framework.

The document's format and label ("Charter") aligned with that of the other standing committees of the Board of Trustees.

The document consolidated approval functions, policy, and conferral of awards. The proposal suggested reducing membership by 37% to 41 members, positioning the size below the average for Australian academic boards. The recommendations for a second deputy chair and external member received acceptance. The structure sought to achieve balance between senior management, senior discipline experts, and elected members, with approximate proportions of one-third each. The committee's primary focus remained on functioning as a working body with necessary expertise.

The Senate discussed the draft Academic Charter. The discussion focused on two primary concerns. First, members addressed the decrease in student representatives.

Second, they examined the rationale behind the Pro Vice-Chancellor selection, specifically noting the inclusion of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Quality and Integrity and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching as ex-officio members. This inclusion was based on the frequency with which these roles would be required to speak to and present items.

Senate members received confirmation that their concerns were noted. The members emphasised the importance of establishing principles for Senate's function, rather than solely focusing on numerical adjustments and proportional representation. The Senate determined that the exact number of members would remain flexible, with greater emphasis placed on functionality and expertise.

Members addressed the challenges in defining the meaning of discipline lead. The discussion emphasised the need for criteria to define a discipline lead and ensure inclusion of academic staff (Levels A - C) who perform teaching duties and have valuable insights. Senate received advice regarding the importance of establishing clear selection criteria with precise descriptions for roles on other committees.

The discussion extended to the Senate's role in academic standard setting, as reflected the Higher Education Standards, specifically Standard 6.3.1.b, sitting within the domain of Academic Governance (Domain 6.3 of the Higher Education Standards Framework).

Senate did not vote on this item. Members were invited to provide feedback.

Attachment 1: Draft Academic Senate Charter

2.4 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*

2.4.1 AUGUST CONFERRAL OF UNIVERSITY AWARDS

It was resolved (AS 25/04:07)

- i. Approved the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction.*
- ii. Approved the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal.*
- iii. Noted the conferral of awards to graduates with pass or honours coursework degrees as listed in Attachment C - Graduates with pass and honours coursework degrees approved within SAC delegation.*
- iv. Noted the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.*
- v. Noted the conferral of the posthumous award as listed in Attachment E – Posthumous graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.*

2.4.2 POSTHUMOUS AWARD

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

Academic Senate noted the approval by the School of Social Sciences of the awarding of 1710 Bachelor of Criminology posthumously.

2.5 SENATE EXECUTIVE 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 25/04:08)

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

2.6 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 25/04:9)

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

2.7 THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS 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 25/04:10)

That Academic Senate approved the updates to the membership in the Terms of Reference of the Third-Party Providers Committee.

2.8 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND CURRICULUM APPROVALS 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 25/04:11)

That Academic Senate approved the updates to the membership in the Terms of Reference of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 TEACHING QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Higher Education Standard(s): 3.1.3, 3.2.1-4, 6.3.1.a, 6.3.2.h
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1,3, 5

Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students, said that the Teaching Quality Framework would support quality teaching. Staff consultation had occurred, and student consultation remained ongoing. Senate received information about the Framework, noting it established clear expectations rather than standards or promotion guidelines. The Framework had been modified based on received feedback, including changes regarding institutional support for teaching quality rather than school-level support. The Framework was designated to serve as an accessible document for recruitment, probation, performance, and promotion processes.

Senate received confirmation that the teaching standards in the Academic Capabilities Framework aligned with the Teaching Quality Framework. Members sought clarification regarding whether the Framework established benchmarks for quality teaching and learning across the institution versus expectations. The response confirmed the Framework focused on expectations, while benchmark standards resided within associated policies.

Attachment 2: Teaching Quality Framework

3.2 TEQSA RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AND SELF-ASSURANCE

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.2
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1

Academic Senate noted the update on the University's (1) renewal as a TEQSA registered Australian University provider, (2) renewal as a provider on the CRICOS register, and (3) post-renewal approach to self-assurance.

3.3 EXTENDED HOURS IT SUPPORT

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a, 6.3.2e
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5

Senate noted the document with three options for extending IT support hours across Western Sydney University campuses.

3. 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

The Chair highlighted that there is a focus on academic and university governance, and that this afforded the opportunity to reset and recalibrate.

Professor Michelle Trudgett exited at 10:32am.

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*

The Vice-Chancellor's Report was appended. Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, addressed changes in federal government policy regarding university funding, specifically the Managed Growth Scheme and needs-based funding. He discussed possible adverse effects and reported on his advocacy on the University's behalf.

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on international student recruitment, announcing 25,000 additional international student positions for the sector and ongoing government policy discussions. He also advised Senate that the University had established a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft. This partnership focused on developing the Western 100 application for student and staff digital products to enhance academic experiences while maintaining intellectual property rights.

Updating on the University Reset process, the Vice-Chancellor reported having received 381 voluntary redundancy applications. No involuntary academic redundancies were anticipated. Distinguished Professor Williams acknowledged the need to manage workload distribution and indicated plans for casual staff hiring over subsequent years. Senate discussed the prudence of accepting academic redundancies given the projected decrease in student numbers and revenue in 2026. The administration indicated additional redundancies could be accepted with the provision that staff remain past 31 December 2025, to maintain teaching continuity. The Senate emphasised the importance of academic reinvestment.

Distinguished Professor Williams mentioned the Product Review alignment with the Reset process. He said a recruitment round was planned for February or March 2026 to address teaching needs and casual staff increases. Senate noted opportunities in China's health and medicine sectors. The international recruitment team were working on addressing the gap between 3,100 filled international student places and the 3,400 international student cap. Interest from Hong Kong for overseas study collaborations was noted.

The Product Review identified courses for closure, suspension, or review. This data assisted in evaluating voluntary redundancy requests in relation to future course offerings. The Vice-Chancellor addressed concerns about the federal Managed Growth Scheme's impact on less affluent universities, noting design issues that contradicted its redistributive purpose. This matter had been raised with Minister Jason Clare.

Professor Michele Simons exited at 10:56am.

☆ 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

Professor Deborah Sweeney reported significant developments in two key areas: The College and TNE operations. The College had experienced a 15% increase in enrolments compared to previous years. She said that following the implementation of block mode, retention rates between semester one and semester two had increased by 20%. The College focused on student transition strategies to maintain these improved retention rates for students continuing their education at Western.

Professor Sweeney informed Senate that the Board of Trustees had approved the India campus initiative. The University received a letter of intent from the University Grants Commission in Delhi, enabling the commencement of preparatory work for the campus opening, which is scheduled for August 2026. A material change notification had been submitted to TEQSA. Project governance structures had been established to manage this university-wide initiative.

The Provost said that the India campus initiative built upon established research and engagement activities in India, particularly through the School of Science and Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment in food and water security areas. Market research was conducted to determine initial program offerings, with discussions already initiated with various schools. The establishment of appropriate legal frameworks for operations in India remained a priority.

Regarding student accommodation, the selected campus location provided strategic advantages. The site was situated opposite a metro station, with suitable student accommodation available in the vicinity. While the University would not directly provide housing, it planned to offer accommodation recommendations and support services similar to those provided at the Surabaya location.

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 relayed that the report outlined key programs of work for the division, encompassing various activities. The primary initiatives included the product strategy, the Institutional Action Plan (IAP), which emerged from the July TEQSA RFI, addressing award integrity in relation to generative AI, as well as an assessment review led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Quality and Integrity.

Professor Dever said the new Curriculum Management Platform (CMP) would provide a significant modernisation of curriculum management. The ingestion of curriculum data into the platform was a significant milestone. The implementation of CMP was expected to bring workflow and workload improvements, complementing the product strategy work.

The report included additional ongoing initiatives: the Teaching Quality Framework, and the Western 100 work, led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success. These projects were conducted in partnership with Schools.

Further, Professor Dever highlighted the library's new strategy, indicating forthcoming announcements regarding the reimagining of the library's role in supporting teaching and research.

Professor Dever mentioned the Commonwealth prac payments and reported that \$477,000 in support had been distributed to students on placement. While the process faced time constraints, the financial support was noted as crucial for affected students on placement.

Mr Nabin Gautam exited at 11:13am.

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

Professor Ian Anderson relayed that immediate process challenges were being addressed. Ethics emerged as a significant bottleneck, with staff working to clear the backlog. Plans in collaboration with the Graduate Research School included enhancing HDR student support systems.

Professor Anderson, pointed out that a new research strategy development was planned to commence in Q4, aimed to align with the strategic plan goals while incorporating existing frameworks, including the Indigenous Research Strategy. The strategy development process was designed to be collaborative across the University. The resulting document would serve as a five-year guideline for institutional direction. The strategic plan provided the broad framework, with the research strategic plan intended to build on this foundation.

The process aimed to ensure alignment with other institutional plans, including the new Indigenous Strategy being developed. The consultation process is scheduled to begin mid-Q4 or earlier, with implementation planned for the following year. The initiative sought institutional-wide participation in the development of this strategic document.

Professor Michelle Trudgett entered at 11:36am.

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, proposed an improvement in awareness of read and publish agreements and their associated opportunities. Mr Perera indicated experiencing challenges when contacting the library regarding publication matters, noting that library staff appeared unfamiliar with read and publish agreements, instead focusing on traditional open access publication agreements.

In response, it was acknowledged that the HDR student community lacked sufficient awareness of open access opportunities. The response highlighted a communication gap regarding the University's support for read and publish agreements and open access. It was noted that the University had transitioned to a new system, and improving community awareness was suggested as necessary.

In relation to PhD completion times, Mr Perera expressed interest in receiving a report from the Research Studies Committee regarding HDR timeline solutions.

Mr Prasad Perera exited at 11:47am.

4.7 STANDING COMMITTEES

Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3d, 6.3

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

The discussion addressed the proposed structure peak standing committees of Academic Senate. The external review of academic governance recommended four committees aligned with Senate's primary roles. Statistical context was provided indicating the average number of academic board committees in Australian universities was 5.6, according to OZCAB's benchmarking from 2024. The review aimed to reduce committee numbers, remove functional overlap, separate management from monitoring functions, align committees with fundamental Senate functions, focus on quality and risk, and strengthen academic oversight.

A variation proposed by the Chancellor suggested three standing committees: Education, Research and Research Training, Program Approval Committee, and Academic Senate monitoring academic quality/performance and risk management.

The arguments presented for the three-committee structure included concerns about dilution of responsibilities with four committees and the view that quality should be integrated across all committees. The independence of the monitoring function at Academic Senate level was emphasised as critical.

The discussion addressed two specific procedural matters requiring resolution: oversight of assessment and HDR thesis examination. Regarding thesis examination, which was not extensively covered in the Minter Ellison report, options discussed included establishing University-wide committee as a subcommittee of the proposed Research and Research Training Committee or delegating the function entirely to faculties.

The Dean, GRS reported that a work group of the Research Studies Committee had been working on a range of scenarios. While both a faculty-based and a University-based solution found support, in particular the Executive Deans present at the meeting advocated for thesis examination at faculty level, citing concerns about examination timeframes and the need to trust established processes. The discussion acknowledged the requirement to align any structural changes with broader organisational developments, including the Graduate School restructure.

The discussion of this item concluded with agreement to develop the three-committee architecture further, with continued discussion needed regarding thesis examination arrangements. The proposed structure would maintain Academic Senate's primary role in monitoring quality and academic risk management, as suggested by the Chancellor. Concerns were raised about the workload for Academic Senate and the reduced amount of committees under this structure.

No final decisions were made during this discussion. Senate agreed to develop the three-committee structure proposal for further consideration at the next meeting, focusing initially on peak-level committees while acknowledging that other structural elements required additional discussion.

4.8 RETENTION

Higher Education Standard(s): 1.3.5, 5.3.3, 5.3.4.a, 5.3.7, 6.3.1b, 6.3.2e, 6.3.2.g
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy presented a concept for student success. She noted that the higher education sector struggled with designing systems around students' actual lives as opposed to assuming an idealised student model from the past. As Australia's most multicultural university with 65% first-in-family students, the institution faced challenges in communication effectiveness. Students received multiple, often contradictory messages that were not personalised, leading them to ignore important communications including emails and learning management system notices. The university's multi-campus nature created varying student experiences. A student at Hawkesbury campus faced different realities compared to those at Parramatta South or Parramatta City campuses. Based on extensive student focus groups and stakeholder consultations, Professor Possamai-Inesedy worked on redesigning the ecosystem to align with actual student lives and experiences. Student experience outcomes showed improvements, though satisfaction rates remained below peer institutions like University of Newcastle, University of Wollongong, and UTS. Students particularly sought enhanced support services and peer engagement opportunities.

Professor Kurt Langfeld, Dean, School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences, presented data on retention drivers, noting that stress levels (41%) ranked as the primary factor, followed by mental health and financial difficulties. Course workload balance and paid work responsibilities also significantly impacted retention. The data indicated stable school performance patterns over the two previous decades when excluding students who departed without failing subjects. The business case for retention initiatives included a proposed investment of \$5.5 million for the first year, totalling \$21 million through 2030. While projecting a benefit-cost ratio of 2.1, the investment showed negative returns through the end of the horizon period. A particular risk was that the business case on retention primarily addressed academic reason for student attrition, whereas the key drivers were non-academic.

The discussion emphasised the multifaceted nature of retention challenges, including assessment design impacts on student stress. Members agreed on the need for regular tracking of retention initiatives and their effectiveness. The discussion concluded with acknowledgment that retention extended beyond purely academic factors to encompass broader student experience considerations, and that tackling key drivers instead of concentrating on academic drivers was of pivotal importance.

4.9 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

This item was postponed until the October 2025 meeting of Academic Senate.

4.10 ACADEMIC DECASUALISATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Higher Education Standard(s): 3.2.1-2, 6.3.1.a, 6.3.2.e
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6

Academic Senate noted the progress of the University's Academic Decasualisation Program.

4.11 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.

4.12 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

This item was postponed until the October 2025 meeting of Academic Senate.

4. 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.

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 23 June 2025 (meeting 25/05) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Approvals Committee (APCAC) meeting held on 10 July 2025 (meeting 25/06) 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 biannual Delegation Report for the Senate Education Committee was appended for noting.

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 26 June 2025 (meeting 25/04) 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 15 July 2025 (meeting 25/04) 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 confirmed minutes of the Research Committee held on 30 April 2025 (meeting 25/02) 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 17 June 2025 (Meeting 25/07), and the unconfirmed minutes of the Research Studies Committee meetings held on 1 July 2025 (meeting 25/08) and on 8 July 2025 (meeting 25/09), were appended for noting by the Senate.

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*

A summary and the biannual Delegation Report for the Third-Party Provider Committee was appended for noting.

The confirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 2 April 2025 (meeting 25/02) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Third-Party Provider Committee meeting held on 16 July 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 Friday 12 September 2025.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

If raised at the meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Academic Senate Committee (25/05) will be Friday 10 October 2025 at 9:30am at Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02).

The meetings scheduled for 2025 is as follows:

- 25/05 - Friday 10 October 2025
- 25/06 - Friday 5 December 2025

The meeting formally closed at 12:38pm.