

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ACADEMIC SENATE OUTCOMES Meeting 26/01

Meeting 26/01 of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University was held on Friday 6 March 2026 at 9:30 am, via zoom.

INTRODUCTION

Academic Senate is the peak academic body of the University, as a forum for academic debate, policy development and decision-making. It is a standing committee of the Board of Trustees and reports to and advises the Executive and the Board on academic matters. It monitors academic standards, values, academic risk management and quality assurance as well as collaborations and partnerships. Senate also accredits and approves courses, programs and subjects and approves the conferral of academic awards. **For more information, agendas and minutes of Senate meetings:**

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/academic_senate.

Following is a list of outcomes and key topics for information and discussion within your organisational unit.

STRATEGIC ITEMS

Research Strategy

The Academic Senate discussed feedback on the Research Strategy Green Paper and provided advice for the development of the University's Research Strategy.

Expert Council on University Governance Final Report

The Academic Senate noted the principles governing bodies of universities are expected to follow and how these principles map to the recommendations of the External Review of University and Academic Governance, risks, current and future state.

TEQSA Re-registration action plan and self-assurance cycle

Senate was presented with a plan for continuous improvement and self-assurance preparing the Universities future re-registration submissions.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Student Report

Mr Prasad Perera, Higher Degrees Research Student Representative highlighted the need for increased awareness of read and publish and HDR AI tool, it was highlighted that Microsoft Copilot is being positioned as the University's official AI tool, however, it was noted that HDR students using AIMS accounts currently experience restricted access to key Copilot functionalities. These limitations significantly reduce the effectiveness of Copilot for core HDR research workflows, and it lacks some advanced research-specific capabilities available in specialist tools.

Educational Quality

The Academic Senate was presented with and endorsed proposed quality indicators and a reporting cadence on educational quality, which will enhance academic oversight and the advisory capabilities of Senate, as recommended in the external review recommendations.

APPROVALS

4749 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ACUTE AND CRITICAL CARE NURSING

It was approved: (AS 26/01:03)

That the Academic Senate approved the program variation to 4749 – Graduate Certificate in Acute and Critical Care Nursing, consisting of the changes to Hawkesbury and Parramatta City locations from Autumn 2026. TRIM reference: D25/2439941

PROPOSAL-20607 GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HUMAN SERVICES

It was approved: (AS 26/01:04)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal, and approved the new programs and program discontinuation, and approved associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19536 SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION OF GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MIDWIFERY

It was noted: (AS 26/01:05)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19536, and noted the program discontinuation, and approved associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19362 DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE FAST TRACK

It was noted: (AS 26/01:06)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19362 and noted the program/s have been identified and approved for discontinuation by Provost.

PROPOSAL-19212 SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROGRAMS

It was noted: (AS 26/01:07)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19212, noted the program/s have been identified and approved for discontinuation by Provost, and approved the associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-18960 SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION OF 2501 BACHELOR OF LAWS (GRADUATE ENTRY) FROM 2026

It was noted: (AS 26/01:08)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 18960, notes the program/s have been identified and approved for discontinuation by Provost, and approved the associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19171 3762 BACHELOR OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT (HONOURS)

It was approved: (AS 26/01:09)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19171 and approved the program offering.

PROPOSAL-19168 3692 BACHELOR OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

It was approved: (AS 26/01:10)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19168 and approved the program offering.

PROPOSAL-19063 BACHELOR OF SPORT DEVELOPMENT

It was noted: (AS 26/01:11)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19063 and noted the School of Health Science programs for discontinuation.

PROPOSAL-19065 MULTIPLE SOE PROGRAMS FOR SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION FROM AUTUMN 2026

It was noted: (AS 26/01:12)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19065, noted the School of Education Programs for suspension and discontinuation from Autumn 2026, and approved associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19049 MULTIPLE SOM PROGRAMS FOR SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION FROM AUTUMN 2026

It was noted: (AS 26/01:13)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19049, noted the School of Medicine Programs for Suspension and Discontinuation approved for discontinuation from Autumn 2026, and approved associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19064 MULTIPLE SOSC PROGRAMS FOR SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION FROM AUTUMN 2026

It was noted: (AS 26/01:14)

That the Academic Senate considers proposal 19064, noted the School of Science Programs for Suspension and Discontinuation approved for discontinuation from Autumn 2026, and approved associated transition arrangements.

PROPOSAL-19503 BACHELOR SPORT AND PERFORMANCE SCIENCES

It was approved: (AS 26/01:15)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19503 and approved the new programs.

PROPOSAL-19502 BACHELOR OF CLINICAL EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

It was approved: (AS 26/01:16)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19502 and approved the new programs.

PROPOSAL-19501 BACHELOR OF EXERCISE SCIENCE

It was approved: (AS 26/01:17)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19501 and approved the new program and program discontinuation.

PROPOSAL-19166 MULTIPLE SONM PROGRAMS FOR DISCONTINUATION

It was noted: (AS 26/01:18)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19166 and noted the Program/s that have been identified and approved for discontinuation.

PROPOSAL-19047 MULTIPLE SOEDBE PROGRAMS FOR SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION – PROVOST APPROVED

It was noted: (AS 26/01:19)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19047 and noted the program/s have been identified and approved for discontinuation

PROPOSAL-19355 APPLIED FINANCE AND FINTECH, TESTAMUR MAJOR

It was approved: (AS 26/01:20)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19355 and approved the major variation.

PROPOSAL-19265 BACHELOR OF BUSINESS

It was approved: (AS 26/01:21)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19265 and approved the program offering

PROPOSAL-19356 BUSINESS ANALYTICS, TESTAMUR MAJOR

It was approved: (AS 26/01:22)

That the Academic Senate considered proposal 19356 and approved the major variation.

APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

New Donor-Funded Scholarships for Approval

- Redox Chemistry Scholarship for Women
- Elizabeth Dibbs Law Scholarship
- Brian Schwartz AM - Scenter Group Scholarship for Excellence 3
- Elizabeth Dibbs Performing Arts Scholarship
- Elizabeth Dibbs Law & Social Justice Scholarship

Amendments to Existing Scholarships

- GO Foundation Environmental Scholarship

It was approved: (AS 26/01:24)

The Academic Senate reviewed and approved the proposed new scholarships and amendments to existing scholarships for immediate execution.

JANUARY CONFERRAL OF UNIVERSITY AWARDS

It was approved: (AS 26/01:23)

The Academic Senate:

- i. *approve the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction*
- ii. *approve the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal*
- iii. *note 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. note the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation*
- v. note the conferral of the posthumous award as listed in Attachment E – Posthumous graduates with research degrees approved within RSC delegation.*

Prepared by: Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair, Academic Senate, and Ms Jane Marshall, Governance Officer

Date: 10 April 2026

If you require any further information on any of these items, including relevant papers, or if you would like to attend a meeting of Academic Senate as an observer, please contact the Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer
(R.Mailhammer@westernsydney.edu.au)