ACADEMIC SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of Academic Senate held on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 at 9.30 am in the Senate Room, Lincoln Building C8A, Level 3.

PRESENT

Professor Dominic Verity
Dr Ayse Bilgin
Dr Wylie Bradford
Dr Yvonne Breyer
A/Professor David Coutts
A/Professor Pamela Coutts
Professor Linda Cupples
Dr Kate Fullagar
Professor Mark Gabbott
Professor Simon George
Professor Norma Harrison
Professor Mariella Herberstein
Professor Mike Jones
Nicholas McGuigan
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Barbara Messerle
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Peter Nelson
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Professor Jacqueline Phillips
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Professor Peter Radan
Cathy Rytmeister
A/Professor Ian Solomonides
JoAnne Sparks
A/Professor Estela Valverde
Vikas Veerareddy
Professor Sherman Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Clare Clendinning
Hayley Harris
Ainslee Harvey
Dr Marina Harvey
Ann-Marie Heinrich
Professor Kirsty Forrest
Professor Catriona Mackenzie
Kerri Mackenzie
Desla McLean
Amanda Phelps
Sonia Saddiqui
Kathryn Whittingham
Zoe Williams
Professor Leigh Wood
Jonathan Wylie

APOLOGIES

Deidre Anderson
Professor Amanda Barnier
Professor Bruce Downt
Professor Alex Frino
Professor Lesley Hughes
Professor Jim Lee
Professor Nick Mansfield
Professor Martina Mollering
Professor John Simons
Professor Lucy Taksa
1. APOLOGIES / WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair began the meeting with an acknowledgement of country.

The Chair noted that a quorum had been reached and welcomed members to the meeting; noted that apologies have been received from Deidre Anderson, Professor Amanda Barnier, Professor Bruce Dowton, Professor Alex Frino, Professor Lesley Hughes, Professor Jim Lee, Professor Nick Mansfield, Professor Martina Mollering, Professor John Simons and Professor Lucy Taksa.

The also welcomed Dr Marina Harvey, Sonia Saddiqui, Professor Leigh Wood and Ann-Marie Heinrich to the meeting.

2. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

2.1 Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were recorded.

2.2 Adoption of Unstarred Items

The following additional items were starred for discussion:

6.5 Outside Studies Program Policy

Resolved 15/37
That the items not starred for discussion be noted and, where appropriate, be adopted as recommended.

Kathryn Whittingham attended the meeting from 9:37 am.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 3 MARCH 2015

Resolved 15/38
That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 be signed as a true and correct record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Academic Senate items requiring action

The Chair noted that some of these action actions would be discussed during the course of this meeting.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The written report of the Chair of Academic Senate was taken as read.

6. STRATEGY AND POLICY

6.1 Placement Co-ordination Policy

Resolved 15/39
That Academic Senate approves the Placement Co-ordination Proposal.

6.2 Review of Assessment and Grading Policies

An Assessment and Grading Policy Summary of Issues document was circulated to Senate members and provided a snapshot of the current issues in this area.

A short presentation was given by Dr Marina Harvey on the “History of Assessment”.

The Chair of Senate provided a summary of the work to date of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee working group tasked with reviewing the operation of the Assessment, Grading and Final Examination policies. The working group has consulted widely with staff and students and has conducted broad benchmarking.

The Festival of Assessment held in 2015 identified a number of conceptual and operational issues with current policies, including problems with group work and hurdle assessments. The recent MyMaster issue also highlighted another area of main concern around academic integrity and how to instill ethical study practices in students of Macquarie University.

It was noted that the Learning and Teaching Framework Green Paper had recently been released. Members discussed the merits of delaying ongoing work on the Assessment Policy until such time as the consultation on the Green Paper has progressed. The Chair suggested that the ultimate aim is to have alignment with the Green Paper and the review of the Assessment Policy and that both were flagged for implementation in 2016 and therefore was no reason to delay continuing discussions.
Ms Sonia Saddiqui a PhD student with the School of Education gave a brief presentation to Academic Senate and focused on the link between assessment policy and academic integrity. The three main points and questions raised from the literature include:

1. One reason cited for cheating is time pressure. Is this a matter of being stressed by a culture of over assessment? Could this be contributing to increase in the use of assignment mills?

2. Adopting a greater variety of assessment practices and developing an understanding of a topic through other mechanisms (e.g. problem based learning and assessment). Designing assessments that reduce the opportunity for copy & paste assignment construction.

3. Integrating assessments by building a cumulative sequence of tasks, for example larger projects divided into smaller segments.

The Chair of Senate introduced six draft Principles of Assessment (refer to Attachment 2 to item 6.2 of the 21 April 2015 Academic Senate Agenda) and welcomed feedback from the members of Senate about these proposed principles.

The members had a robust discussion in relation to the reasons why students might be motivated to purchase assessment solutions. The views expressed included students making a tactical decision to cheat and those that are experiencing extreme circumstances and panic. The use of hurdle assessments, of the form “you must pass the formal exam to pass this unit”, was identified as a key stressor for students. There was also discussion around the ongoing need for program based assessment as a means to coordinate all of the assessments of students within a program. There was overall acceptance that there is a need for more than just coordination, but of integrated assessment, across units within a major and noted that it will require concerted program leadership on the part of program convenors to reach the desired outcome of integrated program level learning and assessment.

A number of members expressed their support for compulsory academic integrity training for first year students.

Professor Kirsty Forest attended the meeting from 10:01 am.

Supplementary assessments were also discussed in detail and one member noted their ongoing objection to repeated supplementary assessments being provided. The Chair acknowledged that there are currently issues with the use of supplementary assessments. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) commented that some universities in the United Kingdom do not provide special supplementary examinations, but instead allow students to sit for an examination on the next occasion that unit is taught.

Professor Jacqueline Phillips attended the meeting from 10:14 am.

The Chair acknowledged recognition of workload issues associated with implementing the high level principles articulated in this document. The conversations around this topic will be ongoing and involved and will be discussed at both Senate Learning and Teaching Committee and at Academic Senate.

Professor Mark Gabbott departed the meeting at 10:21 am.

**Resolution 15/40**

That Academic Senate approves the following six Principles of Assessment:

1. Assessment is consistent and reliable
2. Assessment and feedback is designed to enhance learning
3. Program based approach to assessment
4. Assessment is valid, transparent and equitable
5. Assessment promotes academic integrity
6. Assessment practices are continuously improved and updated.

**Action:**

The Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to provide a progress update to every second Academic Senate meeting on progress in this area.

Dr Marina Harvey and Sonia Saddiqui departed the meeting at 10:28 am.

6.3 Academic Progression and Students at Risk

Professor Leigh Wood from the Faculty of Business and Economics spoke briefly to the submitted paper which provided an update and highlighted the current lack of identification and progression policy to support students prior to the point of exclusion from the University. The overall goal of improving students’ success rates was highlighted.

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to amending the current Academic Rules around exclusion and to
consider a period of suspension from the University for students; who would in the current model be excluded from the University for a period of two years. The University wide strategic commitment to student retention and support for the development of a systematic approach to students at risk was reinforced by the Chair who noted that any implementation would be phased in over a 1-2 year period.

The members discussed the impact of implementation of a new approach on the work load of academics.

**Resolution 15/41**

*That Academic Senate approves the following course of action:*

1. Identify amendments to the General Coursework Rules to allow for a graduated system of intervention based upon a nuanced measure of academic standing, the introduction of a suspension process and the reservation of the notion of exclusion for exceptional cases only.

2. Introduce an Academic Progression Policy (and associated procedures) which will detail:
   - the structure of a graduated system of academic progression interventions,
   - the methodology underpinning the computation of the academic standing measure,
   - the conditions under which probation, suspension, and exclusion will apply,
   - the standards to apply to the timely communication of academic standing information to students, via iLearn for example.

3. Ratify immediate process changes to the re-admission after the exclusion process to allow for routine re-admission on the advice of Campus Wellbeing.

Desla McLean and Professor Leigh Wood departed the meeting at 10:47am.

6.4 **Strategy update: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences**

Professor Patrick McNeil gave a presentation to Academic Senate titled the “Academic Health Enterprise” and a full copy of his presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The presentation provided background to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences restructure noting that the Australian School of Advanced Medicine (ASAM) has now been disestablished, existing staff have transitioned to the new Faculty and three new departments have been created together with the appointment of the leadership group.

The plans for the new educational programs were highlighted noting the two year Bachelor of Clinical Science program due to commence in 2016 and the discussions around the creation of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Masters of Public Health. The Chair of Senate confirmed that Academic Senate was being asked to consider approval of the Bachelor of Clinical Science at the current meeting.

The importance of the engagement of clinicians in the new Faculty and the Macquarie University Hospital was raised as a matter of great complexity.

Nicholas McGuigan departed the meeting at 11:09am.

Academic Senate thanked Professor McNeil for his presentation.

6.5 **Outside Studies Program Policy**

Professor Sakkie Pretorius spoke to this item and noted the five main differences between the old and new policy and highlighted the extensive consultation process that had been undertaken. He acknowledged the work of Ann-Marie Heinrich, Manager, Research Policy and Contracts as the key person involved in the revisions to the Outside Studies Program (OSP) policy.

The minimum time allowed for external OSP has been reduced to one month and this reduction was provided as an example of increased flexibility as extended periods away does not suit academics with family responsibilities. Further clarification was sought regarding the length of time that would need to elapse between periods of OSP in cases where only a month was used.

The Senate members discussed the implications of the revised policy for female academics, or more broadly those with primary care responsibilities. It discussed the time lag experienced between the OSP period and the publication of any resulting outputs, and expressed the view that this needed to be taken into account when framing the way that performance during periods of OSP was assessed. It also sought to clarify how the policy would apply to academics that were working towards doctoral qualifications.

Furthermore the Senate members discussed the uncertainty for academics who may have already obtained approval for OSP prior to the amended policy being approved and sought clarification around how this is to be managed. It was reassured by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) that these changes would only apply to periods of OSP approved after the beginning of July 2015.

Minor drafting amendments were suggested and one minor change to the “research active” paragraph on page 3 of the revised policy was suggested, to change “and” to “or”.

Professor Pretorius noted that it is hoped that the revised policy will make applying for OSP as easy as
possible and will monitor the operation of this policy.

The Chair of Senate noted that the proposed Senate Research Committee will monitor the implementation of this policy and will advise Senate on the appropriate approval authority for any ongoing changes to this policy.

Resolution 15/42
That Academic Senate approves the Outside Studies Program Policy subject to minor amendments.

A/Professor Ian Solomonides departed the meeting at 11:29 am.

7. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Nil received.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Bachelor of Engineering with Honours

Resolution 15/43
That Academic Senate approves the introduction of the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours with the degree of Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours with the degree of Bachelor of Science with effect from 1 January 2016.

8.2 Master of Banking and Finance

Resolution 15/44
That Academic Senate approves the introduction of Master of Banking and Finance (MBkgFin) with effect from 1 January 2016 subject to the submission of a Business Case with final confirmation by the Academic Senate Standing Committee.

8.3 Bachelor of Clinical Science

The Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, Associate Professor Pamela Coutts spoke to this item and noted that a further minor amendment had been recently been considered and approved. It was also acknowledged that the impact on the Bachelor of Human Sciences had been considered.

The University Librarian noted that the Library would be open extended hours during December and on Sundays to accommodate the intensive mode teaching structure of the Bachelor of Clinical Science.

Resolution 15/45
That Academic Senate approves the introduction of Bachelor of Clinical Science subject to the submission of a Business Case with final confirmation by the Academic Senate Standing Committee.

Hayley Harris and Professor Kirsty Forrest departed the meeting at 11:18 am (After the Bachelor of Clinical Science item was approved)

8.4 Amendment to the 2016-2017 Academic Year Plan

Resolution 15/46
That Academic Senate endorses the amendments to the 2016 – 2017 Academic Year Plan (incorporating the Bachelor of Clinical Science) and recommends this for approval by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic).

8.5 Emeritus Professor nomination – Professor John Lechte

Resolution 15/47
That Academic Senate recommends the nomination of Professor John Lechte for the Award of the title of Macquarie University Emeritus Professor to University Council.

9. ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

9.1 Items approved by the Chair
The following matters were approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on 4 March 2015:

Resolution 15/48
That Academic Senate approves the two students listed in the report (refer to item 9.1 of the 21 April 2015 Academic Senate Agenda) as having satisfied the requirements of the Macquarie Foundation program qualifications.

Resolution 15/49
That the two Master Coursework students listed be awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation (refer to item 9.1 of the 21 April 2015 Academic Senate Agenda).
Resolution 15/50
That the one Bachelor degree student listed be awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation (refer to item 9.1 of the 21 April 2015 Academic Senate Agenda).

10. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

10.1 Academic Senate Standing Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of 1 April 2015.

10.2 Academic Standards and Quality Committee
Academic Senate considered the matters requiring approval arising out of the 17 March 2015 Academic Standards and Quality Committee meeting; refer to items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

10.3 Curriculum Standards Framework Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of 18 March 2015.

10.4 Higher Degrees Research Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of 20 March 2015.

10.5 Quality Enhancement Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meetings of 12 February and 26 March 2015.

10.6 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of 9 March 2015.

10.7 University Medals Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of 27 March 2015.

11. REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDS

11.1 Faculty of Arts
Academic Senate noted the tabled report of the 31 March 2015 Faculty of Arts Faculty Board meeting.

11.2 Faculty of Business and Economics
Academic Senate noted the report of the 6 March 2015 Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board meeting.

11.3 Faculty of Human Sciences
Academic Senate noted the tabled report of the 7 April 2015 Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board meeting.

12. OTHER BUSINESS
Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

13.1 University Discipline Committee
The minutes of the University Discipline Committees held on 4 March, 18 March, and 26 March 2015 were tabled.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday 2 June 2015.
Agenda Items are due by Friday 22 May 2015.
There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11:38am.