ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 16 February 2016

Overview

The minutes and agenda are published on the Academic Senate website. Key agenda items, outcomes and resolutions are highlighted in this brief report and are not intended to replace the full minutes.

Recommended to University Council

- **Increasing the term of Student Representatives on Academic Senate** (Res 16/7)
  
  The Chair spoke to a paper recommending that the terms of student representatives on Senate be extended from one to two years. Academic Senate resolved to approve the proposed change and tasked the Academic Senate Standing Committee with the review of Academic Senate Rules. The Academic Senate Standing Committee recommended amongst other changes, an extension of the term of student representatives from one to two years to the University Council meeting of 7 April.

Matters resolved

Academic Senate passed 13 resolutions at this meeting. Information on outcomes of specific agenda items may be found in this report or within the minutes.

NEW PROGRAMS

There were no new programs approved at this meeting.

POLICY

- **Student Discipline Procedure – Implementation Progress Report** (Res 16/4)
  
  Academic Senate resolved to note the Student Discipline Procedure – Progress Report and the implementation of the Student Discipline Framework for Session 1 2016.

- **Academic Progression: Update and Support Model** (Res 16/5)
  
  Members noted that Macquarie does not currently have a policy that governs the identification of students at academic risk, or an early intervention and remedial action plan to support and improve students’ performance. The working party on Academic Progression was formed to address this approach and consider what support may be provided to identify and proactively support students at risk of exclusion.

- **Assessment Policy and Schedules: Update**
  
  Academic Senate approved the principles of the Assessment Policy in December 2015 and the associated schedules were distributed to the Faculty Boards for feedback. Since that time, individual Faculty meetings have taken place and the schedules have been further refined. Members noted that the Policy will not be accompanied by detailed procedures, and Faculty Boards will be responsible for determining what and how procedures will apply. Broad direction will be provided and ASQC will be responsible for ensuring that individual Faculty procedures meet threshold standards.

- **Student Experience Surveying Policy and Procedure** (Res 16/12)
  
  Academic Senate approved the Student Experience Surveying Policy, Procedure, Schedule and Flowchart.

- **Learning and Teaching Awards and Grants Policy and Procedure** (Res 16/13)
  
  Academic Senate approved the Learning and Teaching Awards and Grants Policy, Procedure and Flowchart. As a result of this approval, seven (7) Policies and Procedures have now been rescinded from Policy Central.
FRAMEWORKS AND SCHEDULES

- **Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework** (Res 16/6)
  
  The Pro Vice-Chancellor spoke to the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework: White Paper and advised that a website will be launched within the next few months. The Chair advised members that the White Paper signifies a substantial change in direction for the academic governance of the University, and that it would therefore form part of a renewed focus for SLTC. The Chair confirmed that Academic Senate, through the ASQC, would be closely engaged in developing the processes outlined in the White Paper for regular review and evaluation of curricula and programs.

- **University Library: Future Directions**

  The Library had recently engaged in a facilitated workshop, which had included the involvement of Faculty staff, coursework students, MRes candidates, central administration staff and research officers, to plan for the next five years. The Library’s plan and role is to align and support the Research and Learning and Teaching Strategies.

GOVERNANCE

- **Academic Senate Membership**

  The final meeting of Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, Professor Mark Gabbott was noted. The Chair acknowledged Professor Gabbott’s contributions to Academic Senate.

  Following the appointment of Dr Mitch Parsell as the Chair of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Academic Senate resolved to co-opt Dr Parsell as a member of the Academic Senate.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- **Academic Senate resolved to award the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation to the 19 Bachelor degree graduands and to the 52 Master Coursework graduands identified in the report.**

Committees of Academic Senate and Faculty Boards

- **Committees of Academic Senate**
  
  Academic Senate noted the reports of the meetings held by the Academic Senate Standing Committee, the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee throughout February 2016. The minutes for all Committees of Academic Senate are available on the Academic Senate website.

- **Faculty Boards**
  
  Academic Senate noted the reports of all five Faculty Board meetings held in December 2015. These meetings largely focussed on the ratification of examination results for Session 2, 2015.