ACADEMIC SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Academic Senate, held at 9.30 am on Tuesday 15 December 2015, in the Senate Room, Lincoln Building C8A, Level 3.

PRESENT

Professor Dominic Verity
Deidre Anderson
Professor Amanda Barnier
Dr Yvonne Breyer
Associate Professor David Coutts
Associate Professor Pamela Coutts
Professor Linda Cupples
Professor Bruce Dowton
Dr Kate Fullagar
Professor Mark Gabbutt
Professor Simon George
Professor Simon Handley
Professor Norma Harrison
Professor Mariella Herberstein
Professor Mike Jones
Professor Nick Mansfield
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Peter Nelson
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Professor Jacqueline Phillips
Professor Peter Radan
Professor John Simons
Professor Lucy Taksa
A/Professor Estela Valverde
Julia Yang

IN ATTENDANCE

Fiona Burton
Ellen Carlson
Ainslee Harvey
A/Professor Shane Hearn
Kerri MacKenzie
Alex Swain
Ian Robertson
Zoe Williams
Kathryn Whittingham
Jonathan Wylie

APOLOGIES

Dr Trudy Ambler
Dr Ayse Bilgin
Dr Wylie Bradford
Harry Dang
Professor Alex Frino
Anna Glen
Jeremey Gunter
Gabrielle Hardy
Professor Lesley Hughes
Jinji Kong
Nicholas McGuigan
Professor Barbara Messerle
Professor Martina Mollering
Simon Populin
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Cathy Rytmeister
A/Professor Ian Solomonides
JoAnne Sparks
Cheryl Ware
Professor Sherman Young
Minutes

1. **APOLOGIES / WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chair opened the meeting, and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

The Chair noted that apologies had been received from Dr Trudy Ambler, Dr Ayse Bilgin, Dr Wylie Bradford, Harry Dang, Professor Alex Frino, Anna Glen, Jeremy Gunter, Gabrielle Hardy, Professor Lesley Hughes, Jinji Kong, Nicholas McGuigan, Professor Barbara Messerle, Professor Martina Mollering, Simon Populin, Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Cathy Rytmeister, Associate Professor Ian Solomonides, JoAnne Sparks, Cheryl Ware and Professor Sherman Young.

The Chair noted A/Professor Trudy Ambler’s appointment as the interim Head of the Department of Indigenous Studies and her appointment as an ex-officio member of Academic Senate.

The Chair noted the contributions of Professor Ian Solomonides as a member of the Academic Senate and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the past seven years and thanked him for his work.

Professor Peter Radan joined the meeting at 10.45am
Julia Yang joined the meeting at 10.46am.

2. **ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA**

Members requested that items 5, 10.3, 10.6, 11.6 and 12.1 be starred for discussion.

2.1 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair requested that Senate members declare any conflict of interest. No conflicts were declared.

2.2 Adoption of Unstarred Items

**Resolution 15/121**

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

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolution 15/122**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015 be signed as a true and correct record.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

4.1 Academic Senate items requiring action.

The outstanding action items were noted. The DVCA advised that the item relating to an outstanding Question on Notice had been resolved as a consequence of the University's decision to retain the Chiropractic program.

5. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

In addition to the report contained within the agenda, the Chair of Academic Senate advised members of his recent decision to resign from the position of Chair effective from the end of April 2016. The Chair cited a range
of personal and professional pressures and a desire to rebalance priorities as contributing to this decision. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for his report and advised members that a future opportunity would be provided for the University community to acknowledge, thank and farewell the Chair.

The Academic Senate noted the report from the Chair.

6. **VICE-CHANCELLOR ORAL UPDATE**

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the Innovation Agenda launched by the Commonwealth Government and outlined the opportunities that this presents for the University. Members were advised that together with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement and Advancement), the Vice-Chancellor would continue to strengthen the developing relationships with the business corridor to support the strategic directions of the University. These strategic directions align closely with the Innovation Agenda.

In terms of internal matters of the University, the Vice-Chancellor updated members on:
- enrolment data as at the close of 2015 almost achieving the September forecast which informed budget and planning for 2016;
- the capital works project being undertaken in E7A, which is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2016, and plans for the refurbishment of W6A;
- planned work to review and remEDIATE information management systems, including the student information and finance systems; and
- the recruitment process for a Chief Operating Officer which is nearing completion.

The Vice-Chancellor reflected on the many significant achievements of 2015, noting the launch of the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework 2015-2020 and the exceptional results in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ratings which positioned Macquarie amongst research intensive universities in several fields. All staff who participated in the submission of the ERA data were commended by the Vice-Chancellor.

In closing, the Vice-Chancellor thanked members for their participation in Senate and also more broadly for their contributions to the many convergent initiatives taking place across the University.

7. **QUESTION TIME**

The Chair reminded members of the trial introduction of Question Time and invited members to ask any questions of the Vice-Chancellor and the Chair.

In light of the resignation of the Chair of Academic Senate and the reasons cited for his resignation, a Faculty-elected member asked the Vice-Chancellor how the role could become more sustainable. The Vice-Chancellor responded that the creation of Faculty Boards and the increased responsibilities being carried out by the Committees of Senate would result in a reduction in the workload of Senate and the Chair of Senate. The Chair of Senate noted that the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor had asked him a similar question when he had discussed his resignation with them.

8. **STRATEGY AND POLICY**

8.1 Indigenous Strategy Green Paper

A/Professor Shane Hearn, Director of Walanga Muru, the Office of Indigenous Strategy (OIS), introduced the Indigenous Strategy Green Paper with particular reference to the alignment between the Green Paper and Our University: A Framing of Futures, the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework and the Research Strategic Framework. Members were informed of the challenges facing the University in improving Indigenous access and participation and the proposed strategies to respond to those challenges.

Members discussed Strategic Direction 5: Develop a cross-University Indigenous curriculum in detail with A/Professor Hearn advising that this strategy would require Indigenous case studies and perspectives being incorporated into existing curricula, expanding the focus of PACE and ensuring that proposed trans-disciplinary units contain Indigenous perspectives and knowledge. There was general discussion around the expertise required to achieve this and agreement that this would require ongoing collaboration between academic staff and the OIS. The Chair requested that the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee provide feedback on the Green Paper and consider how best support the OIS in achieving stated goals.

Members discussed the role of the OIS in the delivery of programs and A/Professor Hearn confirmed that the
OIS has remit for the development of strategy whereas the Department of Indigenous Studies in the Faculty of Arts, was responsible for the delivery of programs. The Chair noted that he was in discussions with A/Professor Hearn about the most appropriate approach to Indigenous representation on Senate in terms of how effective it has been and whether it has represented Indigenous perspectives across campus.

**Resolution 15/123**  
That Academic Senate resolve to refer the Indigenous Strategy Green Paper to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to:

i. provide constructive feedback to the Office of Indigenous Strategy on the academic related components and;

ii. work with the Office of Indigenous Strategy to support and encourage debate and engagement across the University.

8.2 Academic Governance: Progress Report on Workshops and Priorities for 2016

Academic Senate noted progress on the recommendations from the Academic Governance Workshops held in late 2014 and the priorities identified for 2016, in particular:

- the confirmation, by the Academic Senate Standing Committee at its first meeting of 2016, of a timeline for the development of Terms of Reference and membership for the Senate Research and Research Training Committee;

- the review of Academic Senate membership;

- the finalisation of the Chair, membership and Terms of Reference for the external review of the Master by Research was nearing completion; and

- devolution of responsibilities to Faculty Boards.

**Resolution 15/124**  
That Academic Senate resolve to endorse the priorities for Academic Senate in 2016 as presented in Item 8.2.

8.3 Approval to Proceed: Student Experience Surveying

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) briefed members on the need for the University to have a more coordinated, coherent and considered approach to surveying students about their academic experience to prevent survey fatigue and to increase response rates.

The Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Students and Registrar) advised members that currently a student will receive up to 200 requests to respond to a survey during their life cycle, with little information being circulated back to them about how the University has listened to, and responded to that feedback.

Academic Senate engaged in broad discussion relating to the need for informal feedback on teaching and how it could be captured, as well as how this requirement might align with objectives in the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework. There was also detailed discussion on the need to provide students with results from survey tools and outcomes demonstrating how the University has responded to feedback. It was determined that as part of the development of this policy, tools for providing results and outcomes from surveys to students be developed.

**Resolution 15/125**  
That Academic Senate resolve to endorse the development of the Student Experience Surveying Policy, Schedule and Procedure to proceed.

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Members are requested to submit Questions on Notice to the Chair two days in advance of the meeting. There were no questions received.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Academic Freedom Working Group: Progress Report

Academic Senate noted the update from the Academic Freedom Working Group and the request for feedback on exemplar statements on Academic Freedom provided with the agenda papers. A Faculty-elected representative from the Faculty of Business and Economics noted that the working group did not include a representative from the Faculty of Business and Economics or the MGSM. The Chair reminded members that a call for nominations had been made and advised that no nominations had been received from a number of Faculties. He confirmed
that late nominations would be accepted and that representatives from the identified areas would be welcome to join the working party.

**Action**

*That members consider the exemplar statements on Academic Freedom and provide feedback to the Academic Freedom Working Group.*

*That the ex-officio and elected members of the Faculty of Business and Economics and the MGSM nominate participants to join the Academic Freedom Working Group.*

10.2 Academic Progression Working Group: Progress Report

This item was held over until the next meeting.

10.3 Policy changes required as a result of the establishment of Faculty Boards

After some discussion, the Chair determined that this item would be reviewed further and presented to a future meeting.

10.4 Academic Senate Membership Attendance Report

The report on Academic Senate members’ attendance was noted. This information was referred for consideration as part of the review of the Senate membership and Academic Senate Rule to be completed during the first half of 2016.

10.5 University Medal Committee of Academic Senate: Membership

**Resolution 15/126**

*That Academic Senate resolve to elect Dr Yvonne Breyer and Professor Peter Radan to serve on the University Medal Committee of Academic Senate.*

10.6 University Medal Nominations: Timeline

The Committee noted the need to ensure that Session 3 results are included in the consideration of the University Medal nominations.

**Resolution 15/127**

*That Academic Senate note the timeline for University Medal nominations.*

11. **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL FROM ASQC, HDRC AND SLTC**

11.1 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Schedule of Minimum Requirements: Amendment to Schedule B: Postgraduate Awards and FHS Exception (ASQC)

**Resolution 15/128**

*That Academic Senate resolve to:*

i. approve the amendment to the Schedule of Minimum Requirements under Schedule B – Postgraduate Awards to specify that 50% of the 800 and/or 900 level units of the Award must be completed at Macquarie University; and

ii. approve the exception to the RPL Schedule of Minimum Requirements to allow students who have completed one of the Macquarie Masters level 9 Translating and Interpreting (T&I) awards (under which they will have completed either 40, 48 or 64 credit points of T&I units at 800 level or above), to be exempt from the requirement to study 32 credit points to gain the award Master of Advanced Conference Interpreting.

11.2 Approval of a new Postgraduate Award 2017 – Master of Public Health (ASQC)

**Resolution 15/129**

*That Academic Senate resolve to approve the academic case for the new award Master of Public Health (MPH) commencing 2017, noting that the admission requirements as specified in the academic case will be simplified.*
11.3 Renaming the Bachelor of E-Business (ASQC)

**Resolution 15/130**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the renaming of the Bachelor of e-Business to the Bachelor of Digital Business effective 2017.

11.4 Examinations Review Working Group: Recommendations (ASQC)

**Resolution 15/131**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve:
- i. amendments to the Ratification of Results Quality Assurance Framework to identify that Faculty Boards should report summaries of results to the Academic Standards and Quality Committee rather than to Academic Senate; and
- ii. the use of Pro-Forma D; and
- iii. that the timeframe for each Faculty to present the completed Pro Forma to the Academic Standards and Quality Committee will be within seven (7) days of the release of student results.

11.5 Recognition of Prior Learning Procedures (ASQC & SLTC)

**Resolution 15/132**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve:
- i. the Procedure for assessing RPL;
- ii. the proposal to amend the Procedure for Development of International Articulation Agreements; and
- iii. the proposal that the RPL Policy be amended to reflect that the granting of unspecified credit for formal learning is not subject to a currency requirement.

11.6 Disruption to Studies Policy Suite (SLTC)

Members discussed the need for the policy to reflect assessment items which take place in the final examination period and the need for the Outcome Schedule to reflect that where students submit outside the 5 day timeframe the outcome is less likely to be an alternative assessment task.

Members noted the need for flexibility and for discretion to be applied by Faculty Boards and their Chairs. It was determined that an appropriate approach would be to incorporate the discretionary power into the roles of Faculty Boards as described in their Terms of Reference, rather than noting in individual policies.

**Resolution 15/133**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the:
- i. Disruption to Studies Policy subject to the amendment above;
- ii. Disruption to Studies Procedure;
- iii. Disruption to Studies Outcome Schedule subject to the amendment above; and
- iv. the Professional Authority Form.

11.7 Master of Research Examination Process for 2015 Cohort (HDRC)

**Resolution 15/134**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the proposed examination process for the MRes for 2015 as an interim arrangement subject to the outcome of the external review of the MRes.

11.8 Amendments to Higher Degree Research Rules (HDRC)

**Resolution 15/135**
That Academic Senate resolve to recommend to University Council the amendments to Part 14:
11.9 Approval to Proceed: Review of HDR Supervision Policy (HDRC)

**Resolution 15/136**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the conduct of a review of the Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy.

11.10 Proposals for Joint PhD Programs (HDRC)

**Resolution 15/137**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the establishment of Joint PhD Programs with the:

i. University of Toronto, Canada;

ii. Pierre and Marie Curie University, France; and

iii. Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands.

11.11 Amendments to Admission Requirements – BPhil/MRes (HDRC)

**Resolution 15/138**
That Academic Senate resolve to approve the amendments to the admission requirements for the BPhil/MRes in the Department of Philosophy to be increased to a GPA of 3.0 overall and 3.25 at 300 level or equivalent.

12. **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

12.1 Academic Standards and Quality Committee

The report of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee meeting of 17 November 2015 was noted.

12.2 Higher Degree Research Committee

The report of the Higher Degree Research Committee meetings of 3 November 2015, 13 November 2015 and 4 December 2015 were noted.

12.3 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee

The report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee meetings of 9 November 2015 and 24 November 2015 was noted.

12.4 Quality Enhancement Committee

The report of the Quality Enhancement Committee meeting of 26 November 2015 was noted.

12.5 Higher Degrees Research Appeals Committee

The report of the Higher Degrees Research Appeals Committee meeting of 15 September 2015 was noted.

13. **REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDS**

13.1 Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The report of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences meeting of 2 November 2015 was noted.
14. OTHER BUSINESS
   There was no Other Business raised by members.

15. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
   15.1 University Discipline Committee (Tabled)

      The minutes of the University Discipline Committee meetings held on 4 November and 15 December 2015 were tabled.

16. NEXT MEETING
   The next meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Monday 16 February 2016. Agenda Items are due by Tuesday 2 February 2016.

   There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.21am.