Minutes of a meeting of the Academic Senate held at 9:30 am on Tuesday 26 July 2016 in the Academic Senate Room, Level 3, Lincoln Building (C8A), 16 Wally’s Walk.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Professor Jacqueline Phillips (Acting Chair)
Deidre Anderson
Tim Beresford
Dr Wylie Bradford
Dr Yvonne Breyer
Professor David Coutts
Associate Professor Pamela Coutts
Professor Linda Cupples
Soujanya Datta
Professor Jim Denier
Professor S Bruce Downton
Professor Simon Handley
Professor Norma Harrison
Thomas Hedl
Professor Lesley Hughes
Professor Kevin Jameson
Brayden Jones
Professor Mike Jones
Budhaditya Majumdar
Professor Nick Mansfield
Paris Manson
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Barbara Messerle
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Dr Mitch Parsell
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Professor Peter Radan
Cathy Rytmeister
Professor John Simons
JoAnne Sparks
Professor Lucy Taksa
Professor Sherman Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Ainslee Harvey
Megan Kemmis (Secretariat)
Dr Kevin Lowe
Judith McKay-Tempest
Sue Pinckham
Dr Margaret Raven
Kathryn Whittingham
Zoe Williams

APOLOGIES

Professor Mariella Herberstein
Dr Trudy Ambler
Professor Amanda Barnier
Associate Professor Ayse Bilgin
Nicole Brigg
Professor Enrico Coiera
Professor Catherine Dean
Dr Kate Fullagar
Professor Simon George
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Martina Möllering
Professor Peter Nelson
1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
A meeting of the Academic Senate chaired by Professor Phillips commenced at 9:33 am. The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
The Chair welcomed Tim Beresford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer to his first meeting of Academic Senate; and Professor Jim Denier, Faculty of Science and Engineering, noting that his nomination as a Faculty-elected member of Academic Senate is to be confirmed under item 5.1. The Chair welcomed Soujanya Datta, Braydon Jones, Budhaditya Majumdar, Paris Manson and Thomas Hedd as newly elected student members. The Chair also welcomed a group of indigenous staff members who had been invited to observe the meeting, and introduced Dr Kevin Lowe, Judith McKay-Tempest, Sue Pinckham and Dr Margaret Raven. Lastly, the Chair introduced Megan Kemmis, the newly appointed University Committee Secretary and Manager of the Secretariat Services.

The Chair noted apologies had been received from Professor Mariella Herberstein, Dr Trudy Ambler, Professor Amanda Barnier, Associate Professor Ayse Bilgin, Nicole Briggs, Professor Enrico Coiera, Professor Catherine Dean, Dr Kate Fullagar, Professor Simon George, Professor Kathryn Millard, Professor Martina Möllering, Professor Peter Nelson, Samuel Palmer, Simon Populin, Cissy Shen and Professor David Wilkinson.

The Chair advised members that Cathy Rytmeister, who was elected in 2014 as the non-faculty representative but who has now commenced a professional role in the office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching has tendered her resignation. The Chair thanked Ms Rytmeister for her contributions as a very active and valuable member of Academic Senate (and other governance committees) for many years and acknowledged that her knowledge of governance matters and keen enthusiasm to get involved in Academic Senate projects has been greatly appreciated. The Chair led members in thanking Ms Rytmeister for her service to Academic Senate and its committees.

The Chair advised that Nicholas McGuigan has resigned from Macquarie University to take up an Associate Professor position at Monash University. Mr McGuigan had been a member of Academic Senate since 2013, and also served as a member of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, and his contributions to both forums was greatly appreciated. In light of his resignation, a casual vacancy will exist in the Faculty of Business and Economics and the standard process as, prescribed in the Academic Senate Rules 8 (5) will be followed:

Where a casual vacancy occurs in the office of an elected member of the Academic Senate the remaining members of the Academic Senate must proceed to fill the vacancy by co-opting to membership an eligible member from the relevant electorate, as the case may be.

3. **ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA**

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

3.2 **Adoption of unstarrred items**
The following items were starred for discussion:

- 5.1 Casual Vacancies: Faculty Elected Representatives
- 5.2 Student Representatives to the Academic Senate
- 5.3 Research and Research Training Committee and Thesis Examination Subcommittee
- 9.1 Academic Freedom: Revised Statement and Summary from Working Group

**Resolution 16/184**
Academic Senate resolved that the items not starred for discussion (Items 9.2; 9.3; 9.4; 9.5; 9.6; 9.7; 9.8; 9.9; 9.10; 9.11; 9.12; 9.13; 9.14; 9.15; 12.1; 12.2; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.4; 13.5; 14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 15.1; and 15.2) be noted and, where appropriate, be adopted as recommended.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held 24 May 2016
The following amendments to resolutions 16/175 and 16/176 were identified, appearing on page 9 of the
minutes (page 13 of the agenda) to correct dates of effect for each resolution:

Item 12.3 2017 Change to Award: Bachelor of Engineering Honours Criteria and Offerings – Update, page 9 of the Minutes

Resolution 16/175
Academic Senate resolved to approve:

i. graduating students of the four year Bachelor of Engineering program do so with the award Bachelor of Engineering with Honours from 1 January 2017 (2016);

ii. to retain the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours, and its associated double degree programs; and

iii. the introduction of a Class 3 Honours grade (with grading awarded to each student to be determined by a Weighted Standard Numerical Grade calculation).

Resolution 16/176
Academic Senate resolved to approve the deletion of following programs from 31 December 2016 2015:

i. Bachelor of Engineering;

ii. Bachelor of Engineering with the Bachelor of Arts;

iii. Bachelor of Engineering with the Bachelor of Commerce; and

iv. Bachelor of Engineering with the Bachelor of Science.

Resolution 16/185
Academic Senate resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held 24 May 2016 as a true and correct record subject to the amendments identified.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
(not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

5.1 Casual Vacancies: Faculty Elected Representatives
The Chair advised that Professor Jim Denier has been nominated to fill the casual vacancy in membership from the Faculty of Science and Engineering as a result of Professor Mariella Herberstein’s election to the role of Chair of Academic Senate. The Chair moved that Academic Senate resolve to approve the co-option of Professor Jim Denier to a term of membership expiring 31 December 2016. Members approved his co-option to membership.

Resolution 16/186
Academic Senate resolved to approve the co-option of Professor Jim Denier, nominated in accordance with Academic Senate Rule 8 (5) to fill a casual vacancy of a Faculty elected representatives in the Faculty of Science and Engineering for a term of membership to expire 31 December 2016.

5.2 Student Representatives to the Academic Senate
The Chair advised members that Thomas Hedl has been nominated to fill the vacant student representative position from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The Chair moved that Academic Senate resolve to approve the co-option of Thomas Hedl to a term of membership expiring 31 May 2018. Members approved his co-option to membership.

Academic Senate also noted the results of the student representative elections held just after its last meeting. The students elected are Paris Manson (undergraduate student representative from the Faculty of Arts), Soujanya Datta (postgraduate student representative) and Brayden Jones (postgraduate student representative).

Resolution 16/187
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. note the results of the recent election of student representatives to the Academic Senate and congratulate Paris Manson, Soujanya Datta and Brayden Jones on their election; and

ii. approve the co-option of Thomas Hedl, nominated in accordance with Academic Senate Rule 8 (4) to fill a casual vacancy of a student representative to Academic Senate from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for a term of membership expiring 31 May 2018.

5.3 Research and Research Training Committee and Thesis Examination Subcommittee
The Chair invited the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Sakkie Pretorius, to speak to the meeting on this issue. Professor Pretorius reminded members that Academic Senate had approved the terms of reference for the Research and Research Training Committee (RRTC) and the Thesis Examination Subcommittee at its meeting of 24 May 2016. Since then, nominations have been received for membership of the two committees, and these details have been presented in the agenda for Academic Senate’s information. Academic Senate was advised that the representation on the Committee was based on discussions between...
Professor Pretorius, Professor Herberstein and the research active members of Academic Senate. Formal invitations will be issued to the new members of the committees with the first meeting of RRTC to be held on 30 August 2016. One of the Committee’s first tasks will be to scope and prioritise projects, and members were advised that there will be opportunities for Academic Senate to participate in projects undertaken by the RRTC. Once RRTC has met, the previous Higher Degree Research Committee will be formally disestablished.

The Chair thanked Professor Pretorius for his work in establishing the two committees.

**Resolution 16/188**

Academic Senate resolved to note the membership of the Research and Research Training Committee and Thesis Examination Subcommittee based on the nominations of the Academic Senate, the Executive Deans and Faculty Boards.

**6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

**6.1 Prioritisations of Academic Senate Projects**

Professor Herberstein presented via an online video and reminded members of their responsibilities and obligations as members of Academic Senate and of the role and function of Academic Senate. The Chair provided an overview of the methodology used to prioritise the Academic Senate projects. She introduced the prioritised list of projects and outlined the discussions held at Standing Committee, noting that the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee and new RRTC will go through similar processes to identify projects and priorities. Once Academic Senate has endorsed the list of its projects, work will be undertaken to scope the projects and establish working parties as necessary.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the members, and asked them to contact Secretariat if they wished to be involved in any specific project.

**Resolution 16/189**

Academic Senate resolved to note the prioritisation of Academic Senate projects as endorsed by the Academic Senate Standing Committee at its meeting of 5 July 2016.

Professor Young joined the meeting at 9.48am

**7. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ORAL UPDATE**

The Vice-Chancellor reflected on the outcome of the Federal election and the challenges resulting from a lack of control in the upper house. He welcomed the appointment of the Hon. Greg Hunt MP as the new Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the consultation relating to the Higher Education Standards was accelerating in the approach to the January 1 2017 implementation date. Members were advised that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will be leading the work in this area.

The Vice-Chancellor provided members with an update on the appointment of senior staff including Professor Mary Ryan as the Head of Educational Studies and the recruitment of a new Director of the Macquarie University International College and a new Chief Financial Officer.

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that John Shi-Nash had been appointed as the Director of Strategy for the Macquarie Park Innovation District (MPID), an initiative which would realise the partnership between the University and a coalition of companies within Macquarie Park.

Members were advised that since arrival of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement and Advancement) it had been clearly identified that the University had no comprehensive understanding of the companies located in the Macquarie Park. Concerted efforts have been undertaken by the Corporate Relations team to forge stronger ties with larger corporations in Macquarie Park, with impressive outcomes being achieved, including the multi-tier education agreement with Johnson and Johnson and the cyber security-partnership with Optus.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the innovation districts which have emerged around the world in the past 20 years and the prescriptions for success and failure based on physical, financial and relationship attributes. In this arena success was defined by deep, engaging and sustainable relationships.

Through the work undertaken by the DVC (CEA), the University now has a greater understanding of the 22 companies located in buildings on the University campus. This will help to move away from the traditional landlord and tenant relationship, to one which is more comprehensive, coherent and ingrained. This work has supported the development of the MPID, of which the University is a crucial element bringing world-class research to the district.

In addition to forging relationships with larger corporations, the Vice-Chancellor reported that MPID enables the University to distinguish itself from others and position itself in an environment where the ARC and Federal Government are increasingly focused on innovation and the impact of research.
8. **QUESTION TIME**

The Chair reminded members that Academic Senate was trialling question time to provide members with an opportunity to raise questions arising from matters covered in the update from the Vice-Chancellor and the report from the Chair. Members were invited to raise questions with either the Vice-Chancellor or the Chair. The following questions were raised:

- The Acting Dean of the MGSM commented on the Vice-Chancellor’s update regarding the Macquarie Park Innovation District (MPID), adding that one of the reasons the Australian Technology Park had not been successful was due to a lack of formal and informal relationships with corporate tenants, and that the MGSM would be interested in contributing to the MPID. Professor Harrison also commented on the work to align the Faculty of Business and Economics with the MGSM, and recommended that professional staff be involved in this project. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged Professor Harrison’s feedback on the MPID and particularly thanked her for her feedback on the staff consultation with the MGSM/FBE alignment project.

- An elected member from the Faculty of Arts noted press reports on a possible government proposal for universities to deregulate fees for specific degrees, and asked if the Vice-Chancellor could provide further advice on this. The Vice-Chancellor advised that he had not seen the details of the proposal but that it appears to be a reiteration of the “flagship programs” concept. The federal government is suggesting that it will fund qualifications with a strong community need, such as education and nursing, but decrease funding for other qualifications. He added that it also touches on the concept of earning power across various professions, and qualifications leading to higher paid professions might also receive less funding. The proposal would probably be expressed as an amendment to the existing HECS funding bands but would most likely be resisted by the sector and face challenges in passage through the upper house of parliament.

9. **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

9.1 **Academic Freedom: Revised Statement and Summary from Working Group**

The Chair reminded members that Academic Senate had discussed the outcomes of the working group at its previous meeting, adding that feedback from Academic Senate and other sources as outlined on pages 34 to 36 of the agenda had been taken into account. The main issues identified by the working group were:

- Speaking within/outside ones area of expertise and definition of academic standards
- Stronger connection between rights and responsibilities including obligations of staff to the University
- Context & Scope of the Statement
- Teaching
- Standing of the Statement
- Alignment with the Academic Staff Enterprise Agreement and the Public Comment Policy
- Communication Strategy

The revised statement was included with the agenda with tracked changes to show the proposed amendments. The Chair invited comment and members responded as follows:

- an elected member from the Faculty of Business and Economics sought clarification on “the organisational context of the university” (dot point two on page 33 of the agenda). The Chair advised the working group had discussed aligning the rights of individual staff members with their responsibilities with respect to the position they hold at the university. In response to a request for an example of how this would operate, it was noted that staff employed to teach do not have the freedom to refuse to teach in a particular session, i.e. academic freedom is not to be interpreted as being able to do what you like. It was suggested that any concerns about “brand compliance” were a separate matter and should be debated further.

- the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) noted that Dr Paul Formosa, a contributing member of the Academic Freedom Working Group, had provided some interesting case studies to Academic Senate’s previous meeting, and had suggested the revised statement be tested against the cases. The Chair advised that the revised statement had not been assessed against those specific cases, but the working group would provide some examples when communicating the statement to the university community.

It was moved that Academic Senate:

1. recommend to the Vice-Chancellor to rescind the current Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom; and
2. endorse the revised Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom and provide it to the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with its responsibility to advise University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on “measures to safeguard the academic freedom of the University”.

Members endorsed the motion, and the Chair thanked the members of the working group and the various consultees for their efforts in developing the revised Academic Freedom Statement.
Resolution 16/190
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. note the amendments made to the Academic Freedom Statement in response to feedback;

ii. recommend to the Vice-Chancellor to rescind the current Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom; and

iii. endorse the revised Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom and provide it to the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with its responsibility to advise University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on "measures to safeguard the academic freedom of the University" (Academic Senate Rules, Clause 10(1)(b))

9.2 English Language Policy (ASSC)
Resolution 16/191
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. note that the Academic Senate Standing Committee has resolved to establish a 'Principles of English Language' statement; and

ii. rescind the English Language Policy as originally approved (Resolution 14/194) at the Academic Senate meeting of 4 November 2014.

9.3 Recognition of Prior Learning Exemption - Master of Professional Psychology (ASQC)
Resolution 16/192
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve an exemption to the requirement to study 32 credit points to gain the award Master of Professional Psychology according to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Schedule of Minimum Requirements at Macquarie, effective 1 January 2016; and

ii. note that this exemption will apply to students under the following two scenarios for eligibility for 4cp RPL:

a. where a student admitted to the Master of Professional Psychology program has completed an MRES, MPhil or PhD, meets the admission criteria to their program, and subsequently wishes to progress to registration as a psychologist, or partially completed APAC accredited AQF level 9 program, and no longer wishes to proceed with study in that specialisation, but has completed the dissertation for that program; and

b. where a student may have completed study within an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited AQF Level 9 course with the last 10 years and no longer wishes to proceed with study in that specialisation. Studies undertaken at a Non- Australian institution may be considered.

9.4 2017 Schedule: Amendments to Postgraduate Admission Requirements – Master of Biotechnology and Master of Chiropractic (ASQC)
Resolution 16/193
Academic Senate resolved to approve changes to postgraduate admission requirements for the following programs:

i. Master of Biotechnology
   • Australian level 7 bachelor's qualification or recognised equivalent with at least two units of Chemistry or equivalent
   • GPA of 4.50 (out of 7.00)

ii. Master of Chiropractic
   • Australian level 7 bachelor's qualification or recognised equivalent in a relevant discipline
   • GPA of 4.0 (out of 7.0)
   OR
   • Macquarie University Bachelor of Chiropractic Science or Macquarie University Graduate Diploma of Chiropractic Science

9.5 2017 Schedule – New Award and Specialisations: Master of Disability Studies and Specialisations (ASQC)
Resolution 16/194
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve the Master of Disability Studies for implementation from 2017; and

ii. subject to the approval of the Master of Disability Studies by Academic Senate, note that the Academic Standards and Quality Committee have approved the following specialisations for implementation from 2017:

   • Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing
   • Education: Vision Impairment
• Sensory Disability.

9.6 2017 Schedule of Programs, Majors or Specialisations For Deletion: Environmental Studies Specialisation and Master of Environmental Planning (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/195**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the deletion of the following from 1 January 2017:

- Environmental Studies Specialisation
- Master of Environmental Planning

9.7 Retrospective Changes –2015 and 2016 Schedules: Master of Environmental Planning (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/196**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the retrospective application of amendments to the Master of Environmental Planning for continuing students as outlined in the paper, effective immediately.

9.8 Bachelor of Engineering – Honours Criteria and Offerings (amended resolution) (ASQC)

This matter was considered at item 4.1, *Minutes of previous meeting of 24 May 2016*. The Academic Standards and Quality Committee has subsequently confirmed that the implementation date should be retrospectively from 1 January 2016 (not 2017), and deletion of the former programs from 31 December 2015 (not 2016).

9.9 Proposed Amendments to the Principles of Shared Teaching (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/197**

Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve the following changes to the Principles of Shared Teaching:
   a. the approval of co-taught units that are compliant with the Principles of Shared Teaching to be devolved from the Academic Standards and Quality Committee to the Faculties, effective immediately; and
   b. all units seeking exemption to the categories of the Principles of Shared Teaching will continue to be provided to the Academic Standards and Quality Committee for approval; and

ii. subject to approval of the updated Principles of Shared Teaching by Academic Senate, note that ASQC will monitor and note the annual Schedule of Co-taught Units provided by the Curriculum and Planning unit for the following year’s offerings as part of its meeting cycle of business.

9.10 2017 Schedule – Resting of KOR01 Korean Studies Major (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/198**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the resting of KOR01 Korean Studies major in 2017.

9.11 2017 Schedule – Media and Technology Law Specialisation for deletion (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/199**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the deletion of the Media and Technology Law specialisation from 1 January 2017.

9.12 Program Name Change – Master of Advanced Conference Interpreting to be renamed Master of Conference Interpreting (ASQC)

**Resolution 16/200**

Academic Senate resolved to approve in-principle that the Master of Advanced Conference Interpreting be renamed as the Master of Conference Interpreting.

9.13 Master of Public Health (MPH) Research Specialisation (HDRC)

**Resolution 16/201**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the Master of Public Health with a Research specialisation in the second year as an AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Research) award.

9.14 PAL/PASS – Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Policy, Procedure and Schedule

**Resolution 16/202**

Academic Senate resolved to approve for implementation effective immediately:

i. PAL/PASS - Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Policy;

ii. PAL/PASS - Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions; and
iii. PAL/PASS - Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Schedule.

9.15 PACE: Early Commencement Procedure (SLTC)

**Resolution 16/203**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the amendments to the PACE: Early Commencement Procedure.

10. **FOCUSED DISCUSSION**

10.1 Academic Progression

The Chair invited the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Professor Sherman Young, and the Head of Student Administration, Ms Kathryn Whittingham, to present this item. Professor Young advised that this issue has been under discussion for some time and referred members to draft policy and procedure documents included in the agenda. Professor Young advised members that the overall concept had received support across the University, but questions remained about how faculties will undertake the proposed interventions and other actions with students, and how to deal with some offerings that don’t align with the proposed policy.

Ms Whittingham provided a detailed overview of the steps outlined on page 167 of the agenda, and stressed the need for the model to be simple and accessible to both students and staff, and compatible with the University's student system. The Chair noted that the model had been revised since Academic Senate endorsed the draft model in February of this year, and Ms Whittingham advised that the amendments arose from discussions with staff and students across the University and as a result of benchmarking with other institutions. In response to the Chair’s query on how the proposed policy might affect other University policies, Ms Whittingham advised that the minimum rate of progress and some rules regarding double fails in the same unit of study may be superseded by the new policy.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) noted that it is critical that the policy reflect that students return to the current version of the curriculum following a period of suspension.

Members provided the following comments:

- An elected member from the Faculty of Human Sciences raised some concerns regarding the impact of the proposed policy on double fails in the same unit in Professional Programs, and Professor Young offered to discuss this further with the member;
- The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics suggested that part-time students be treated as a separate cohort, and expressed concern at how the proposed policy might affect such students. Professor Young agreed but stressed the need to define this cohort carefully. Professor Young added that modelling of the policy has been done using data from previous sessions, and the results had been provided to Associate Deans Learning and Teaching to give them some concept of the numbers of students that might be involved;
- An elected member from the Faculty of Science and Engineering suggested some of the wording in the policy was vague, and further suggested using a term other than “good standing” for those students who only just meeting the minimum pass rate;
- The Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee noted that the wording in the model should align more closely with that used in the policy;
- An Academic Senate member stressed the need to develop appropriate strategies and intervention, and taking into account the workload implications for staff;
- An elected member from the Faculty of Arts queried how the policy would work in situations where students received a withdrawal without penalty, and another member suggested that the use of withdrawal without penalty should be reviewed;
- A student member asked if the two weeks between the release of results for session 1 and the start of session 2 provided enough time to work with students who might be facing conditional enrolment in session 2, and Ms Whittingham agreed that this needed further thought, adding that the sessions used by MUIC and some of the programs in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences created similar tight turnaround times;
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar) pointed out that the impact on international students needs further thought, given the time limitations imposed by student visa requirements.

Professor Young invited members to contact himself or Ms Whittingham with further feedback.

Professor Handley departed the meeting at 10.50am

10.2 Recommendations from Prizes and Awards Working Group

The Chair invited Dr Breyer to present the report from the Prizes and Awards Working Group in the context of the current University Medal Policy and Procedure. Dr Breyer advised that the working group had reviewed the current policy and recommended amendments as outlined in the paper included with the agenda. The key recommendations are:

- Purpose and eligibility criteria of the University Medal: eligibility to be limited to undergraduate students and students in the MRes; alignment of eligibility criteria with the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy with respect to terminology;
• Evidence Requirements: results from 100 level units of study in first year may be excluded from the GPA calculations;
• Nomination procedure for the award of the University Medal: standardising the process and removing the letter of support from the Head of Department as a requirement; nominations to be approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), consistent with the delegations of authority;
• University Medal Committee: no changes are recommended to how this committee currently operates;
• Recognition and visibility of Medallists: Medallists to be publicised on the University’s website and contacted individually to encourage them to continue their relationship with the University;
• Replace Vice Chancellor’s Commendations for Academic Excellence with Executive Dean’s Commendation for Academic Excellence: the working group has highlighted that this change will require a detailed student-facing communication strategy;
• Other issues considered by the working group, but not resolved, included the scope for recognising leadership, community engagement and innovation in the student body; recognition of academic excellence in postgraduate coursework programmes for both those programmes which include a significant piece of research or scholarship, and those that do not.

Members raised the following points in discussion of the report:
• An elected member of the Faculty of Business and Economics expressed concern that MRes students who did not undertake undergraduate study at Macquarie University would be eligible for the University Medal and suggested the award be renamed. Dr Breyer advised that renaming the award would potentially disadvantage the University’s students when applying to other institutions for postgraduate scholarships and programmes;
• The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) noted the recommendation to alter the GPA calculation to exclude 100 level units of study taken in first year, and suggested this should apply to all GPA calculations at the University;
• There was broad discussion around the need for the University’s approach to the Award of University Medals to be re-designed so as to include high achieving undergraduate programs. In particular, a student member expressed concern that students in various arts and sciences disciplines could be disadvantaged if eligibility is limited to students in the remaining undergraduate honours programmes and those who have undertaken the MRes;
• The Executive Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences suggested the proposed recommendations represented a temporary arrangement for current students at the University and recommended a thorough redesign of the award, which could be given to the top student in each programme or discipline.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the working group for its recommendation regarding Vice Chancellor’s Commendations for Academic Excellence, and asked for information on benchmarking with other institutions regarding the award of University medals. The Chair advised that other institutions which have moved away from undergraduate honours were experiencing similar problems with amending the criteria for this sort of award. The Vice-Chancellor suggested researching the requirements of elite international postgraduate scholarship programmes, such as those offered by Harvard and Columbia universities, to ensure the university’s high-performing students are not disadvantaged by the proposed amendments.

The Chair advised members that the working group will be meeting again, and would be asked to focus on the eligibility for awarding the University Medal, and to look at how the award can be improved for future student cohorts. She urged members to discuss the report and recommendations within their faculties.

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Members may submit questions on notice to the Chair two days in advance of the meeting. The Chair confirmed that no questions had been received.

12. ITEMS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
12.1 Vice Chancellor Commendations: Special Cases
Resolution 16/204
Academic Senate resolved to ratify the award of Vice Chancellor commendations to graduates from the Faculty of Human Sciences, as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on 8 July 2016.

12.2 Vice Chancellor Commendations: List of Recipients
Resolution 16/205
Academic Senate resolved to approve:
  i. that the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation be awarded to the three Bachelor degree graduands listed in agenda item 12.2; and
  ii. that the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation be awarded to the thirty two Master coursework graduands listed in agenda item 12.2.
13. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

13.1 Academic Senate Standing Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Academic Senate Standing Committee meeting of 5 July 2016.

13.2 Academic Standards and Quality Committee
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee meetings of 31 May and 21 June 2016.

13.3 Higher Degree Research Appeals Committee
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee meetings of 6 June and 4 July 2016.

13.4 Higher Degree Research Committee
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Higher Degree Research Committee meeting of 10 June 2016.

13.5 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee meetings of 6 June and 4 July 2016.

14. REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDS

14.1 Faculty of Arts Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report Faculty of Arts Faculty Board meeting of 12 July 2016.

14.2 Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board meeting of 11 July 2016.

14.3 Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board meetings of 24 May and 11 July 2016.

14.4 Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board meeting of 12 July 2016.

14.5 Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board meeting of 12 July 2016.

15. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

15.1 University Hearing Committee
A confidential report of the University Hearing Committee meeting held on 8 June 2016 was tabled.

15.2 Review of Foundation Student Performance and Proposal for Standards in Foundation Program Recognition (ASQC)

Resolution 16/206
Academic Senate resolved to:
   i. approve the framework for the recognition of overseas foundation programs; and
   ii. note that this will enable the Associate Director (Academic Programs) Macquarie International to:
       a. approve the recognition of overseas foundation programs; and
       b. provide an annual reports to ASQC on approved programs and the performance of students who have been admitted via these programs.

16. OTHER BUSINESS
There were no other items of business.

17. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday 13 September 2016. Agenda Items are due by Tuesday 30 August 2016.
The meeting closed at 11:10 am.