Minutes of a meeting of Academic Senate held on Tuesday 25 August 2015 at 9.30 am in the Senate Room, Level 3, Lincoln Building.

PRESENT
Professor Dominic Verity
Professor Amanda Barnier
Dr Ayse Bilgin
Dr Wylie Bradford
Dr Yvonne Breyer
A/Professor David Coutts
A/Professor Pamela Coutts
Professor Linda Cupples
Harry Dang
Dr Kate Fullagar
Professor Mark Gabbott
Professor Simon George
Gabrielle Hardy
Professor Mariella Herberstein
Professor Lesley Hughes
Jinji Kong
Professor Jim Lee
Professor Nick Mansfield
Nicholas McGuigan
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Barbara Messerle
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Martina Mollerling
Professor Peter Nelson
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Professor Jacqueline Phillips
Simon Populin
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Cathy Rytmeister
Professor John Simons
Professor Ian Solomonides
JoAnne Sparks
Professor Lucy Taksa
A/Professor Estela Valverde
Cheryl Ware
Julia Yang
Professor Sherman Young

IN ATTENDANCE
Professor Charles Areni (attending for Professor Norma Harrison)
Hayley Harris
Kerri Mackenzie
Amanda Phelps
Shirley Sorensen
Zoe Williams
Jonathan Wylie

APOLOGIES
Deidre Anderson
Professor Bruce Dowton
Professor David Wilkinson
Professor Alex Frino
Anna Glen
Jeremy Gunter
Professor Norma Harrison
Professor Richard Henry
Professor Mike Jones
Professor Peter Radan
1. **APOLOGIES / WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY**

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

The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting, including Professor Charles Areni (attending for Professor Norma Harrison) and new student member from the Faculty of Human Sciences Julia Yang.

Academic Senate noted that apologies were received from: Deidre Anderson, Professor Bruce Dowton, Professor Alex Frino, Anna Glen, Jeremey Gunter, Professor Norma Harrison, Professor Richard Henry, Professor Mike Jones and Professor Peter Radan.

The Chair confirmed the approval of Kate Roth as the representative of Macquarie International on the Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

The Chair reported the passing of Edwards Watts in June 2015, a former Faculty of Business and Economics elected representative on Academic Senate (2012 – 2014), and extended condolences to his family and friends. The Chair also extended best wishes to long serving Academic Standards and Quality Committee member Sue Spinks who is recovering after a period of ill health.

2. **ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA**

   2.1 The Chair requested that Senate members declare any conflicts of interest.

   No conflicts were recorded.

   2.2 Adoption of Unstarred Items

   The Chair reported that further discussions relating to implementing a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 7 are taking place and this matter will be presented to a future meeting.

   **Resolution 15/72**

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

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

   3.1 The minutes of the 2 June 2015 meeting were approved by flying resolution on 22 July 2015, with all business arising now actioned.

   **Resolution 15/73**

   *That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015 be ratified and signed as a true and correct record.*

   Gabrielle Hardy arrived at 9:40am

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

   4.1 Academic Senate items requiring action

   The Chair noted that a number of action items would be discussed in the course of the meeting.

5. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

   5.1 The Chair spoke to his report, noting the following matters:

   - **Academic Integrity Project Update:** Dr Tracey Bretag (University of South Australia) and Dr Teddi Fishman (Director of the International Centre for Academic Integrity, Clemson University) will join a 2 day Academic Integrity workshop to be held at Macquarie on the 19th and 20th November 2015. SLTC will shortly form a working party to scope the details the parameters of the project.

   - **Member-led business:** Following discussions with elected Faculty representatives, the Chair has approved the introduction of this permanent standing item for future meetings, allowing staff and student members to bring forward business to be included on the agenda from the floor. The Academic Governance Workshops also identified this opportunity to assist more pro-active engagement by members. Governance Services and Human Resources will consider an appropriate training package for members of Senate and its committees.

   - **TEQSA Registration:** The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic’s office has commenced preparations for TEQSA reregistration in 2016. Membership of the Steering Group includes the Chair of Academic Senate. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic noted the reregistration process is being viewed as an opportunity for the University to reflect on current practices and identify areas for improvement.
Academic Senate noted the report from the Chair of Academic Senate.

6. STRATEGY AND POLICY

6.1 Context for Change – Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework

The Chair introduced a background paper, included with the Agenda, addressing the implications of the external environment in the University's Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework. Cathy Rytmeister addressed the meeting, providing a comprehensive summary of the report that articulated the external and internal factors contextualising the change in approach to learning and teaching at Macquarie. Ms Rytmeister’s presentation is available with the Agenda. Ms Rytmeister detailed the current challenges and opportunities facing the University and referred to key statistics detailed in the paper, including the University's position nationally, performance, student cohort and staff profile.

Members thanked Ms Rytmeister for her contribution.

Resolution 15/74
Academic Senate resolved to note the report Context for Change – Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework.

6.2 Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework (White Paper)

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching provided an overview of progress with the Learning and Teaching Strategy. Professor Young’s presentation is available with the Agenda. Professor Young outlined the governance and operational implications of the targets and supporting strategies described in the draft Learning and Teaching framework. Utilising an online e-poll, Professor Young demonstrated the cultural shifts that would be required to in order to successfully implement the proposed Learning and Teaching Strategy. Specific topics canvassed included the notion that students would become collaborators and co-creators of their learning, the concept of an open learning commons, and the proposed shift to a program-based approach to curriculum.

There was broad discussion of some of the challenges in implementing the Strategic Plan, including a reliance on casualization, working across discipline boundaries, the problems of implementing effective curriculum review and renewal, and a cultural reluctance to share content. It was noted that the strategy envisaged a gradual process of curriculum renewal, taking place over a regular and predictable 5-year cycle of review and re-accreditation, rather than a punctual process of wholesale revision of all programs in one go.

Members asked specific questions in regard to the provision of resources, both of time and money, to implement this strategy, and the key question of the workload balance between teaching and research. It was recognised that these bigger questions were a substantial challenge and that answers to those questions were still subject of significant uncertainty and discussion. The DVC-A, Professor John Simons, explained that the strategy had been designed to alleviate workload stress in certain areas, such as in assessment practice, and that the time saved would be re-directed to implementation of the learning and teaching, and research strategies.

Resolution 15/75
Academic Senate resolved to note the report on the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework (White Paper).

Professor Kathryn Millard departed the meeting at 11.10am

6.3 The University of Sydney's Taskforce on Academic Misconduct

The Chair provided a brief overview of the first report of the University of Sydney’s Taskforce on Academic Misconduct, “An Approach to Minimising Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism at the University of Sydney”. The report may assist Academic Senate in developing the direction of how it will face this challenge. The Chair spoke to recent trends in cases presented to the University Discipline Committee and reflected upon its experience.
with the introduction of an Academic and Workplace Ethics (AWE) module to provide (compulsory) educative support to those receiving penalties for academic integrity breaches.

Members questioned the focus of the University of Sydney paper on detection and discipline. The Chair agreed that this should not be the focus of Macquarie’s approach to tackling these issues, although he acknowledged that a continual improvement in the use and effectiveness of detection mechanisms would always be an important “hygiene” factor. Members expanded upon the view that academic integrity was primarily an issue of good values and evidence based practice, in assessment and curriculum design for example, and that the most effective mechanisms we had to tackle it were educative. In particular, student communication skills and certain kinds of assessment practice were identified as key factors leading students into engaging in forms of un-ethical behaviour. The Chair reiterated the view that the University should adopt a holistic, institution-wide approach to academic integrity. This would ideally include a more carefully articulated and positive policy on academic integrity, systemic changes to assessment practices and curriculum design, better information at orientation with frequent reminders (on campus and online), targeted embedded support at all levels of every program, professional development for staff, academic integrity champions (students and staff) and use of new technologies for detection and education.

**Resolution 15/76**
Academic Senate resolved to note the report of the University of Sydney’s Taskforce on Academic Misconduct.

Professor Mariella Herberstein departed the meeting at 11.27am

6.4 Student Disability Support Policy

**Resolution 15/77**
Academic Senate resolved to approve the Student Disability Support Policy.

7. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Members may submit Questions on Notice to the Chair two days in advance of the meeting.

*Nil received.*

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Revisions to the General Coursework Rules

The Chair spoke to the paper outlining proposed amendments to the General Coursework Rules.

**Resolution 15/78**
Academic Senate resolved to recommend to University Council the proposed amendments to the General Coursework Rules 2015 with effect from 26 October 2015.

8.2 Revisions to the Academic Senate Rules

The Chair spoke to the paper outlining proposed amendments to the Academic Senate Rules.

**Resolution 15/79**
Academic Senate resolved to recommend to University Council the proposed amendments to the Academic Senate Rules 2015 with effect immediately.

8.3 Issuing of Qualifications

**Resolution 15/80**
Academic Senate resolved that the scope of the Working Party drafting policy and related procedures on the issuing of qualifications be expanded to include recommendation to Academic Senate appropriate delegations for the approval of the development and delivery of non-AQF academic activities.

8.4 Governance of Research and Research Training

Academic Senate considered the Draft Terms of Reference for the Research & Research Training Committee, and the Thesis Examination Subcommittee.

**Resolution 15/81**
Academic Senate noted the Draft Terms of Reference for Research & Research Training Committee and requested that the draft be circulated to all Faculties for feedback.

**Resolution 15/82**
Academic Senate noted the Draft Terms of Reference for Thesis Examination Subcommittee and requested that the draft be circulated to all Faculties for feedback.
8.5 University Council and Academic Senate dates for 2016

Members noted the 2016 University Council and Academic Senate meeting dates. Planning for the 2016 Committees of Senate meeting dates is being scoped to ensure greater alignment with Faculty Standards and Quality Committee and Faculty Board meeting dates.

**Resolution 15/83**
Academic Senate noted the 2016 University Council and Academic Senate meeting dates.

8.6 Vice-Chancellor Commendations - Undergraduate

**Resolution 15/84**
Academic Senate endorsed that the Vice Chancellor’s Commendation be awarded to the 8 Bachelor degree graduands listed at item 8.6 of the 25 August 2015 Academic Senate Agenda.

8.7 Vice-Chancellor Commendations - Postgraduate

**Resolution 15/85**
Academic Senate endorsed that the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation be awarded to the 32 Master Coursework graduands listed at item 8.7 of the 25 August 2015 Academic Senate Agenda.

8.8 Transition Admission Scheme for SIBT Students

**Resolution 15/86**
Academic Senate approved the proposed Transition Admission Scheme for SIBT Students.

9. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

9.1 Academic Senate Standing Committee

The reports of the 14 July 2015 and 4 August 2015 meetings were noted.

9.2 Academic Standards and Quality Committee

The reports of the 19 May, 16 June and 21 July 2015 meetings were noted. A report on the Admission Transition Scheme for SIBT students resulting from the conclusion of the University’s contract with SIBT was considered at Agenda item 8.8 of these minutes.

9.3 Higher Degree Research Appeals Committee

The minutes of the 30 July 2015 meeting were noted.

9.4 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee

The reports the 15 June, 13 July and 10 August 2015 meetings were noted. The Student Disability Support Policy was considered at item 6.4 of these minutes.

10. REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDS

10.1 Faculty of Arts

The minutes of the 7 July 2015 meeting were noted.

10.2 Faculty of Business and Economics

The minutes of the 7 July 2015 meeting were noted.

10.3 Faculty of Human Sciences

The report of the 2 June 2015 meeting and the minutes of the 7 July 2015 meeting were noted.

10.4 Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The minutes of the 6 July 2015 meeting were noted.

10.5 Faculty of Science & Engineering

The minutes of the 7 July 2015 meeting were noted.
11. OTHER BUSINESS

12. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

12.1 University Discipline Committee

The minutes of the University Discipline Committee meetings held on 3 June, 22 July and 5 August 2015 were tabled and noted.

13. NEXT MEETING

13.1 The next meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday 6 October 2015.

Agenda items are due by Tuesday 22 September 2015.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11.40am.