ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF
An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 26 July 2016

Overview
The agenda of matters considered at this meeting is available on the Academic Senate website. The resolutions and minutes of the meeting remain subject to change and will be published on the website following ratification at the next Academic Senate meeting, scheduled 13 September 2016.

Key agenda items, outcomes and resolutions are highlighted in this brief and are not intended to replace the full minutes.

Matters resolved
Academic Senate passed 24 resolutions at this meeting. Information on outcomes of specific agenda items may be found in this report or within the minutes.

PROGRAMS: NEW AND CHANGES
Amendments to Postgraduate Admission Requirements (Res 16/193)
Amendments to the Master of Biotechnology, and Master of Chiropractic, commencing 2017.

New Awards and Specialisations
• Master of Disability Studies approved for implementation from 2017, with the following specialisations – Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Education: Vision Impairment; and Sensory Disability (Res 16/194).
• Approval of the Master of Public Health with a Research specialisation in the second year as an AQF level 9 Masters Degree (Research) award (Res 16/201)

Program Name Change (Res 16/200)
Master of Advanced Conference Interpreting approved in principle to revert to previous name of Master of Conference Interpreting, commencing 2017.

Programs, Majors or Specialisations for deletion or resting
• KOR01 Korean Studies major rested in 2017 (Res 16/198).
• Media and Technology Law specialisation deleted from 31 December 2016 (Res 16/199).
• Environmental Studies specialisation deleted from 31 December 2016 (Res 16/195).
• Master of Environmental Planning deleted from 31 December 2016 (Res 16/195).

Retrospective Changes to 2015 and 2016 Schedule (Res 16/196)
Retrospective amendments to the Master of Environmental Planning for continuing students, effective immediately.

Recognition of Prior Learning Exemption (Res 16/192)
Exemption to the requirement to study 32 credit points to gain the Master of Professional Psychology according to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Schedule of Minimum Requirements at Macquarie, effective 1 January 2016.

FRAMEWORKS AND SCHEDULES
English Language Policy (Res 16/191)
The Academic Senate Standing Committee has resolved to establish a ‘Principles of English Language Statement’, and rescind the English Language Policy as originally approved by Academic Senate in November 2014.

Amendments to the Principles of Shared Teaching (Res 16/197)
Approval of co-taught units which are compliant with the Principles of Shared Teaching was devolved from the Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC) to the Faculties, effective immediately. All units seeking exemptions to the categories detailed in the Principles of Shared Teaching will continue to be provided to the ASQC for approval.
PAL/PASS – Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Policy, Procedure and Schedule (Res 16/202)

Academic Senate approved the implementation of the PAL/PASS – Peer Assisted Learning and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Policy, Procedure and Schedule.

PACE: Early Commencement Procedure (Res 16/203)

Academic Senate approved amendments to the PACE: Early Commencement Procedure.

Review of Foundation Student Performance and Proposal for Standards in Foundation program Recognition (Res 16/206)

Academic Senate approved a framework for the recognition of overseas foundation programs, enabling Macquarie International to approve overseas foundation programs. Annual reports will be provided to ASQC on approved programs and the performance of students who have been admitted via these programs.

STRATEGY

Prioritisation of Academic Senate Projects (Res 16/189)

The Chair of Academic Senate presented via an online video, introducing the concept and approach of identifying and prioritising a list of projects for Academic Senate and its committees.

Academic Freedom (Res 16/190)

In accordance with its responsibilities to advise the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on measures to safeguard the academic freedom of the University, Academic Senate has endorsed a revised Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom, and will recommend to the Vice-Chancellor that he rescind the current version.

Academic Progression

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) and the Head of Student Administration presented on the status of the Academic Progression model and further developments of the policy and procedure, and encouraged any additional feedback to be provided directly to them.

Recommendations of the Prizes and Awards Working Group re: University Medal Policy and Procedure

Academic Senate considered a wide range of recommendations including the purpose and eligibility criteria of the University Medal; evidence requirements; nomination procedures; recognition and visibility of medallists. The Working Group will benchmark the sector on the award of a University Medal and eligibility criteria.

GOVERNANCE

Casual Vacancies Faculty Elected Representatives to Academic Senate (Res 16/186)

Academic Senate approved the co-option of Professor Jim Denier from the Faculty of Science and Engineering to membership of Senate.

Student Representatives to the Academic Senate (Res 16/187)

Academic Senate approved the co-option of Thomas Hedl from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to membership of Senate and noted the election of Paris Manson (undergraduate student representative from the Faculty of Arts), Soujanya Datta (postgraduate student representative) and Brayden Jones (postgraduate student representative).

Research and Research Training Committee and Thesis Examination Subcommittee (Res 16/188)

Academic Senate noted the update on the establishment of the Research and Research Training Committee and Thesis Examination Subcommittee, including details of the membership for both committees.

OTHER MATTERS

Items approved by the Chair of Academic Senate (Res 16/204 and 16/205)

Academic Senate ratified executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate in relation to the list of recipients and special cases for Vice-Chancellor’s commendations.

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, the Higher Degree Research Appeals Committee, the Higher Degree Research Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee throughout May, June and July 2016.

Faculty Boards

Academic Senate noted May and/or July 2016 reports from all Faculty Boards, noting the July meetings included the ratification of Session 1, 2016 examination results.