ACADEMIC SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Academic Senate held from 9:32 am to 11.34 am on Tuesday 18 July 2017 in the Senate Room, Level 3, Lincoln Building (C8A), 16 Wally’s Walk.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Professor Mariella Herberstein (Chair)
Professor Jacqueline Phillips (Deputy Chair)
Professor Amanda Barnier
Professor Stephen Brammer
Professor Sean Brawley
Nicole Brigg
Professor Bronwyn Carlson
Professor Enrico Coiera
Associate Professor Pamela Coutts
Soujanya Datta
Professor Judith Dawes
Professor Catherine Dean
Professor S Bruce Dowton
Dr Paul Formosa
Associate Professor Barbara Griffin
Professor Simon Handley
Professor Antonina Harbus
Professor Norma Harrison
Professor Lesley Hughes
Professor Kevin Jameson
Professor Lisa Magnani
Audrey Markowskei
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Barbara Messerle
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Martina Möllering
Dr Mitch Parsell
Simon Populin
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Professor Neil Saintilan
Cissy Shen
JoAnne Sparks
Professor Lucy Taksa
Professor Leigh Wood
Professor Sherman Young

APOLOGIES

Tim Beresford
Associate Professor Ayse Bilgin
Dr Florence Chiew
Professor Jim Denier
Andy Dong
Thomas Hedl
Brayden Jones
Dr Timothy Kyng
Paris Manson
Professor Peter Nelson
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Dr Peter Roger
Professor David Wilkinson

IN ATTENDANCE

Benjamin Dougall
Neil Durrant
Esther Frazer
Ainslee Harvey
Megan Kemmis (Secretariat)
Dr Catriona Lavernicocca
Sarah Rosen
Kylie Shorrock
Zoe Williams
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

A meeting of the Academic Senate commenced at 9:32 am. JoAnne Sparks acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, and acknowledged her own ties to the Cherokee people of North America.

The Chair invited members to volunteer to give the acknowledgement of country at the next meeting of Academic Senate.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair noted the apologies listed above and reminded those present of their role and purpose as members of the Academic Senate and encouraged members to engage with and discuss the items on the agenda. The Chair welcomed Professor Bronwyn Carlson, the new Head of the Department of Indigenous Studies, and Dr Catriona Lavermicocca as Deputy Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee. She noted that Neil Durrant and Nicole Brigg would attend later in the meeting to speak to specific items.

ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

Disclosure of conflicts of interest
No conflicts of interest were declared.

Adoption of unstarred items
The following additional item was starred for discussion: 13.

Resolution 17/58
Academic Senate resolved that the items not starred for discussion (Items 5, 10.1 10.2, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.11, 11.14, 11.6, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 15.2 and 16) be noted and, where appropriate, be adopted as recommended.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution 17/59
Academic Senate resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held 30 May 2017 as a true and correct record.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair advised that she had delivered reports on the Senate meetings held in April and May to the most recent meeting of Council on 29 June. Council had accepted the reports and approved the recommended change to the Academic Costume Rules. She also spoke briefly regarding Senate’s projects, noting that the working and steering parties were delivering items for feedback with some projects due to provide final reports and recommendations at upcoming meetings. She concluded by expressing her thanks to Judith McKay-Tempest for her work as the indigenous academic representative on Academic Senate, advising that Ms McKay-Tempest has departed the University to take on a new challenge.

VICE-CHANCELLOR ORAL UPDATE

The Vice-Chancellor updated members on the following issues:

- the commencement of a new Chief Marketing Officer, Elizabeth Horbach (from the University of Newcastle) and appointment of the inaugural Dean of the Engineering School, Professor Darren Bagnall (from the University of NSW);
- the results of the survey undertaken by the Australian Human Rights Commission commissioned by Universities Australia on student experiences of sexual assault and harassment will be released on 1 August. The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for the University to be prepared to support students and staff dealing with these issues, noting that the University has ensured that its support services, policies and procedures, and arrangements with external referral services are appropriate. He emphasised his deep commitment and the University’s duty of care to its students both on and off campus. Information sessions will be held for staff over the next few weeks, with activities and information sessions planned for students in Session 2 O-Week;
- following significant lobbying from Universities Australia and individual institutions, the Federal government has agreed to reinstate certain employment categories related to academic, scientific and technical positions for the 457 visa, and has agreed that time spent studying towards a PhD can be considered as work experience for skilled visa applications;
- Professor Jameson is leading a project on the nature and size of the University, starting with a modelling of its current state. The Vice-Chancellor noted that this project will span some time and will deliver a model for the University for the future, in terms of the most appropriate blend of student cohorts and programs;
• the Federal government’s Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) website (https://www.qilt.edu.au/) has recently been updated;
• the University has had some pleasing results from recent research grant applications but he noted the University’s performance in obtaining external and industry research funding still needs to improve and will be the subject of Executive Group discussions later this week;
• Professor Sakkie Pretorius has recently been appointed as the Australian representative to the International Genome Project, and Professor Peter Nelson has been appointed as the co-lead on the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Partnership on Mercury Control from Coal Combustion; and
• NHMRC has given the University’s report on its gender equity review an excellent grading, which is a credit to the University’s work on this issue.

8. QUESTION TIME
No questions were raised.

9. STUDENT LED BUSINESS
There were no items of student-led business.

10. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL
10.1 2018 Schedule: Change of name of program (ASQC)
Resolution 17/60
Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve the academic case to rename the following programs effective 1 January 2018:
   a. from the Master of Future Journalism to the Master of Media; and
   b. from the Master of Creative Industries with the Master of Future Journalism to the Master of Creative Industries with the degree of the Master of Media; and
2. note that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Registrar has advised that a business case is not required for the change of name of these programs.

10.2 2018 Schedule: Programs for Disestablishment (ASQC)
Resolution 17/61
Academic Senate resolved to approve the disestablishment of the following programs from 31 December 2017:
• Master of Future Journalism
• Master of Creative Industries with the degree of the Master of Future Journalism.

10.3 2019 Academic Program: Procedures and Timeline for Handbook Deadlines (ASQC)
Professor Jameson provided members with the background to this proposal. He particularly emphasised that the intention is not to stifle strategic change, but to stop the significant number of small changes in the absence of strategic justification and explicit Executive Dean support, noting that around half of all the University’s programs were changed in 2016 during a period when there was no major review of curricula. Where the Executive Dean supports a program change on strategic grounds, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) would approve submission of the proposal, as envisaged in 2(b)(ii) of the resolution below. He also expressed support for faculties developing their own internal processes for proposed changes. The University needs to respond to changes to UAC’s process timelines, and also needs to engage in a review of its size and shape, and minimising changes to programs is necessary for the University to undertake these tasks. The Chair added that the constant changes to programs are confusing to both staff and students. Members unanimously approved the proposal.
Resolution 17/62
Academic Senate resolved to:
1. note the proposed 2019 Academic Program Procedures and Timeline for Handbook Deadlines;
2. consider the following proposals in the discussion paper on the 2019 Curriculum Guideline:
   a. that only new programs and units and deletions be accepted for the 2019 schedule; and
   b. that no changes to the existing program schedule be allowed unless:
      i. they address issues of accreditation or student disadvantage, or
      ii. have been approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Registrar following consultation with the relevant Executive Dean.

10.4 Proposal for a Simplification of General Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees (ASQC)
Resolution 17/63
Academic Senate resolved to approve all undergraduate general requirements include the following requirements for all undergraduate awards with effect from 1 January 2018:
Planet Requirements for Macquarie OUA Undergraduate degrees (ASQC)

Resolution 17/64

Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve that current and new students enrolled in Macquarie OUA programs be exempt from completing Planet unit requirements for a period until 31 December 2018; and
2. recommend that a future review of the concept of People and Planet requirements address this issue in their considerations.

Exemption from Assessment Policy: Publication of Examination Papers (ASQC)

Resolution 17/65

Academic Senate resolved to approve an exemption from the requirement of Schedule 4 of the Assessment Policy to publish final examination papers on the University Library website for the following units:
- SPH308, The Science of Speech Production; and
- SPH399, The Acoustics of Speech.

Macquarie University College (MUIC) Subcommittee Terms of Reference and Membership (ASQC)

Resolution 17/66

Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve that the position of Deputy Director of the Macquarie University International College be included in the MUIC Subcommittee Terms of Reference as ex-officio category of membership, noting that Dr Pamela Humphreys is the current occupant of this position;
2. approve the re-appointment of Associate Professor Michael Hitchens and Dr Phillip Chappell as academic staff members appointed by Academic Senate to the MUIC Subcommittee for a further two year term of office; and
3. request that the membership section of the MUIC Subcommittee Terms of Reference be updated to reflect these changes.

Bachelor of Philosophy/Master of Research: AQF Compliance (ASQC and RRTC)

Resolution 17/67

Academic Senate resolved to approve that the Master of Research meets the threshold standards for an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 9 qualification, and that the Bachelor of Philosophy issued as an exit qualification meets the threshold standards for an AQF level 8 qualification.

Amendments to Terms of Reference and Membership of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)

Resolution 17/68

Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve the inclusion of the Deputy Director of the Macquarie University International College/ Director of the English Language Centre as an ex-officio category of membership to the SLTC Terms of Reference; and
2. note that Dr Pamela Humphreys is the current occupant of this position.

Disestablishment of the Learning Technologies and Spaces Subcommittee (LTaSCo) (SLTC)

Resolution 17/69

Academic Senate resolved to approve the disestablishment of the Learning Technologies and Spaces Sub-Committee (LTaSCo) with immediate effect.

Amendments to Terms of Reference and Membership of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)

Resolution 17/70

Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve the inclusion of the Deputy Director of the Macquarie University International College/ Director of the English Language Centre as an ex-officio category of membership to the SLTC Terms of Reference; and
2. note that Dr Pamela Humphreys is the current occupant of this position.
Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Professor Dawes provided members with some background information on the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia (BCA), noting the involvement of the University and the current Head of the Department of Statistics, Professor Gillian Heller.

Resolution 17/71
Academic Senate resolved to endorse Macquarie University’s participation in the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia, noting that the Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Registrar has given approval for the renewal of the underlying Memorandum of Agreement.

Establishment of Executive Dean Commendations and MUIC Director Commendations
Professor Phillips reminded members that this proposal was originally recommended in 2016 by the working group reviewing prizes and awards (particularly the University Medal). A revised working group has considered the criteria for and naming of the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation for Academic Excellence and recommended the changes outlined in the agenda paper. She added that the first criterion listed on page 118 of the agenda should read “be an undergraduate or postgraduate student…”

Members expressed some concern that the new names appeared to lower the status of the award from the University level to the Faculty level, with a perceived loss of prestige. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his support for renaming the awards, and it was agreed that the working party would be asked to submit an alternative recommendation. Members unanimously agreed to approve the disestablishment of the Vice-Chancellors Commendation for Academic Excellence and the introduction of a new award with the recommended criteria, subject to a new name being proposed.

Resolution 17/72
In accordance with the Delegation of Authority Register, delegation 5.15, Academic Senate resolved to:
1. approve the disestablishment of the Vice Chancellors Commendation for Academic Excellence effective 14 December 2017;
2. approve the establishment of a new Commendation for Academic Excellence (subject to submission of a new award title by the working group), effective 14 December 2017;
3. approve the recommended eligibility criteria for new Commendation for Academic Excellence.

Nicole Brigg and Neil Durrant joined the meeting at 10:20 am

Emeritus Professor nomination
Resolution 17/73
Academic Senate resolved to endorse the nomination of Professor John Simons for the title of Emeritus Professor and recommend his nomination to University Council for its approval.

At this point in the meeting it was agreed that items 12.2, 11.4, 11.3, 13 and 11.1 would be dealt with (in that order) with the remaining starred items (11.2, 11.5 and 12.1) to be held over to the next meeting.

11. ACADEMIC SENATE PROJECTS

11.1 Academic Integrity Steering Group: Progress Report
Dr Parsell advised that the Academic Integrity Steering Group is seeking approval to review the Academic Honesty Policy as part of this project. Members unanimously approved the request.

Resolution 17/74
Academic Senate resolved to approve the review of the Academic Honesty Policy.

11.2 Developing a Model for Shared Responsibility of Academic Governance: Progress Report
This item was held over to the following meeting.

11.3 Partnership with and Recognition of Student Members: Progress Report
Simon Populin introduced the report, particularly highlighting the range of options for recognising student members considered by the working group. Members praised the work of the student-led working group and the Academic Senate student members were asked to express their preferences for methods of recognition. Student members agreed acknowledgement is a first step, and that the time students put into being a member of a committee or body needs to be recognised, with professional development and some student senators preferred the networking opportunities to an honorarium.

Members affirmed the suggestion of professional development and more support for student members, and noted that PACE is not an appropriate option for postgraduate student representatives. It was also agreed that Senate would work with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) to extend the scope of the project to all levels of student representation.
Resolution 17/75
Academic Senate resolved to note the progress report on the Partnership With and Recognition of Student Members project.

Professor Barbara Messerle left the meeting at 11:29 am.

11.4 Establishing Principles of Program Review: Progress Report
The Chair of the working group, Neil Durrant, gave members an overview of the process used to develop the three position statements and seven principles, and outlined some of the themes and issues identified by the group. Members commended the working party for their efforts, and noted a range of issues, including balancing external accreditation requirements with an internal program review schedule, developing an annual system for faculty risk audits of their programs, aligning reporting requirements to prevent duplication of work and ensuring the University's systems can provide relevant data. Members noted that further consultation is occurring and the final version of the principles will be submitted to the August meeting of ASQC before submission to the next meeting of Senate for final approval.

Resolution 17/76
Academic Senate resolved to note the progress report on the Establishing Principles of Program Review project.

11.5 Purpose and Composition of Academic Senate: Progress Report
This item was held over to the following meeting.

11.6 Academic Senate Projects: Progress Report

Resolution 17/77
Academic Senate resolved to note the summary of projects scheduled to commence in the second half of the year.

12. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

12.1 Program Lifecycle: Presentation from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Programs and Pathways)
This item was held over to the following meeting.

12.2 International Engagement Strategy: Presentation from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)
Nicole Briggs provided members with an overview of Macquarie International, including its structure, data on admissions, the performance of international students at the University, and its approach to minimising risk (the presentation is available on Truth). The Chair advised that Ms Briggs would provide a further presentation on strategy later in the year.

Members noted that the University's risk rating is very good, with the University amongst the top four Australian universities in this area. Ms Briggs suggested Academic Senate review recognition of prior learning, particularly for sub-bachelor degrees, MOOCs and micro-credentials to provide better clarity for potential students.

Resolution 17/78
Academic Senate resolved to note the presentation on the International Engagement Strategy from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that a question on notice was received regarding the status of Big Units. Professor Jameson advised that this project is on hold pending the resolution of other issues such as the nature and size of the University, and its curriculum architecture.

14. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

14.1 Academic Standards and Quality Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC) meeting of 20 June 2017.

14.2 Research and Research Training Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Research and Research Training Committee (RRTC) meeting of 5 June 2017.

14.3 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) meetings of 5 June 2017.
15. REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDS

15.1 Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board meeting of 4 April 2017.

15.2 Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board meeting of 30 May 2017.

16. UNIVERSITY HEARING COMMITTEE

16.1 University Hearing Committee
Academic Senate noted the summary report of the University Hearing Committee meeting of 7 June 2017.

17. OTHER BUSINESS
No other business was raised.

18. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday 5 September 2017.
Agenda items are due by Tuesday 22 August 2017.

The meeting closed at 11:34 am.