ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 23 February 2021.

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 for 6 April 2021.

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 14 resolutions at this meeting. Information on outcomes of specific agenda items may be found in this report or within the minutes.

COURSES: NEW AND CHANGES

Proposals approved by Executive Action (Res 21/12)

In addition to the matters outlined under Other Matters below, members ratified the approval of a number of late, urgent changes to courses with effect from 1 January 2021.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Assessment Policy and Procedure (Res 21/03)

Academic Senate approved the revised Assessment Policy and new Assessment Procedure and Appendices, and rescinded the Grade Appeal Policy, Grade Appeal Procedure, Final Exam Procedure and Unit Guide Procedure, with effect for all units with a teaching date from 1 July 2021.

Policies Under Review/Development (Res 21/06)

Academic Senate noted a list of policies under review/development as at 17 February 2021, and noted that the new policy development and management system has been launched.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Academic Senate Annual Agenda Plan for 2021 (Res 21/05)

Academic Senate approved the final version of its Annual Agenda Plan for 2021.

2020 Annual Report of Academic Senate (Res 21/07)

Academic Senate approved the annual report of its activities in 2020 for submission to Council.

Savings Cases: Report on Cases Approved by the Chair of Academic Senate (Res 21/09)

Academic Senate ratified the savings cases approved by the Chair of Academic Senate under executive action since November 2020, and noted the analysis of data related to these cases. Senate particularly noted the approval of a savings case to allow the posthumous award of the Bachelor of Biodiversity and Conservation to Neil Pillai (SN 43318916).

Other matters

Members noted an update report on the Post Implementation Review of Shared Academic Governance (Res 21/08). Members also noted a report on the results of the 2020 survey of Academic Senate members (Res 21/10).

OTHER MATTERS

- The Vice-Chancellor spoke to members on matters including the appointment of the new Federal Minister for Education and Youth, prospects for the return of international students, trends for enrolment numbers for Session 1 2021, the Federal Government’s Australia’s Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 and the return of some student activities to campus;
- The Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) provided a report on matters in her portfolio, including an update on TEQSA re-accreditation activities and the review of the Curriculum Policy;
• Academic Senate endorsed three nominations for the title of Professor Emerita/Emeritus for recommendation to Council (Res 21/04);
• The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) gave a presentation on the cohort monitoring implementation plan and the Student Outcomes Group (Res 21/11);
• An annual report on Student Discipline matters was presented by the Executive Manager, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (Res 21/13);
• Members noted a report on the upcoming election for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair on Academic Senate (Res 21/14); and
• Members ratified executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate (Res 21/12) to approve:
  o an appointment to the membership of Academic Senate;
  o two appointments to the membership of the University Medal Committee;
  o the award of the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence to coursework and MUIC graduands;
  o the rescission of the Glossary Procedure with effect from 15 February 2021;
  o the amendment of the title of clause 5.3.1 in the Curriculum Architecture Policy with effect from 16 February 2021; and
  o the amendment of teach-out plans for the pre-2020 curriculum version of the Master of Environment.

COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC SENATE AND FACULTY BOARDS

Committees of Academic Senate
Academic Senate noted the reports of the meetings of the Academic Senate Standing Committee (including a matter dealt with by circular resolution), the Academic Standards and Quality Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee held in December 2020 and February 2021. Members also received an oral report from the new Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee on a report regarding online examination arrangements in Session 2 2020, noting the trialling of some online invigilation processes.

Faculty Boards
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board, the Macquarie Business School Faculty Board, the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Faculty Board and the Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board meetings held in December 2020 and the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board meeting held in February 2021.

University Discipline Committee
Academic Senate noted the summary report for University Discipline Committee meetings held in November and December 2020.