ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 7 April 2020

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 28 May 2020.

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 22 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

Academic Senate ratified a number of Executive Actions related to curriculum matters (see below under “Other Matters” for further details).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Amendment of Special Consideration Procedure and Supporting Evidence Schedule in response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Res 20/21)

Academic Senate approved the proposed amendment to the Special Consideration Procedure and the Supporting Evidence Schedule with immediate effect for the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and until a date approved by Academic Senate on the advice of the Vice-Chancellor.

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences: request for exemption to Assessment Policy to publish examination papers in Library (Res 20/22)

Academic Senate approved a request for an exemption from the requirement of Schedule 4 of the Assessment Policy to publish the final examination papers on the University Library website for the following unit offerings: MEDI207 – Professional Development 1 (Session 3, 2019); MEDI2401 – Medical Admissions Preparation (2020 onwards); MEDI924 – Reflective Medical Practice 1 (MDB, 2019); MEDI8204 – Reflective Medical Practice 1 (2020 onwards).

Proposed amendments to the HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy and Procedures (Res 20/23)

Academic Senate approved the proposed amendments to the HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy and Procedures, noting these will come into effect as soon as operationally practicable.

Proposed amendments to the HDR Out of Time Policy (Res 20/24)

Academic Senate approved the proposed amendments to the HDR Out of Time Policy (renamed to become the HDR Variations to Candidature Policy) and the HDR and MRes Termination of Candidature Procedure with immediate effect.

HDR English Language Requirements (Res 20/25)

Academic Senate approved the following changes to the HDR English Language requirements, effective immediately:

i. the adjustment of the HDR minimum scores for TOEFL test to align with the minimum requirements for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework programs;

ii. the removal of the computer based TOEFL test and addition of PTE Academic, C1A and C2P English Language tests as accepted English language tests for proof of meeting the HDR English language requirements, with the minimum scores required in each skill area as laid out in the attachment;

iii. allow the Office of HDR Training and Partnerships the discretion to waive the requirement for an applicant for an HDR program at Macquarie University to provide proof of meeting the English Language Requirements in the form of a test score, based on the individual circumstances of the candidate, where the candidate can demonstrate directly relevant work experience, in the relevant industry or equivalent discipline practice, in an English-speaking country or workplace where the sole language of business was English; and
iv. the addition of a passing grade in the Macquarie University English Language Centre Direct Entry Program as an accepted means of providing proof of meeting the HDR English language requirements.

**Curriculum Architecture Undergraduate Principles: Rescission of Principles 19.8 and 21.7 (Res 20/28)**

Academic Senate approved the rescission of Principles 19.8 and 21.7 from the Curriculum Architecture Undergraduate Principles.

**GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY**

**Academic Senate member survey results (Res 20/29)**

Members noted the results of the survey of Academic Senate members.

**Updates from Working Groups (Res 20/30, Res 20/31 and Res 20/32)**

Academic Senate noted updates from the Composition of Academic Senate Working Group, the Working Group developing a response to the recommendations from the External Review of Academic Senate, and the General Coursework Rules: Review of the Requirements for Practical, Clinical and Professional Courses Working Group.

**OTHER MATTERS**

- The Vice-Chancellor updated members on current workplace restrictions and their impact on teaching and research, the development of the Operating Plan 2020-2024 and the potential for changes in the tertiary education sector in response to COVID-19;
- Student members of Academic Senate raised questions on notice regarding consideration of refunding part of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), the future of online units, concerns from MBA students about the experiential component of their course, and extensions to scholarships and candidature periods for HDR students, noting the responses provided to these at the meeting (Res 20/20);
- Academic Senate approved a joint PhD program with Neu-Ulm University, Germany (Res 20/26) and a Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) approved joint PhD in Finance program with the Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE) (Res 20/27);
- Members noted a presentation from the Executive Dean of the Macquarie Business School on the savings case to allow the posthumous award of the Bachelor of Commerce to Scarlett Jane Lenehan SN 45198322, and ratified the approval of this case made by the Chair of Academic Senate under executive action (Res 20/33);
- A report on recommended amendments to the Faculty Rules was noted (Res 20/34);
- The meeting received advice on planned Cohort Monitoring reports (Res 20/35);
- Members noted a question on notice regarding the use of pass/fail grades during the current COVID-19 pandemic and also noted the response from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (Res 20/36);
- Members ratified executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate to approve membership changes to Academic Senate, the Research and Research Training Committee, the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee and the Thesis Examination Subcommittee; the award of the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence to coursework and MUIC graduands; late changes to a range of courses for 2020; and late changes to PACE and Capstone units required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Res 20/37);
- Members ratified executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate to approve changes to the Terms of Reference and membership of the MUIC Subcommittee (Res 20/38); the amendment of the Assessment Policy to provide a temporary exemption for MUIC from the provisions of clauses 8.2 and 8.4, and that a student will be assigned a “W” grade (withdraw without academic penalty) or other suitable grade if they fail a unit undertaken during the COVID-19 emergency (Res 20/39).

**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, the Academic Standards and Quality Committee and the University Medal Committee held in February 2020 and the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held in March 2002. Senate also noted a 2019 overview from the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.

**Faculty Boards**

Academic Senate noted the report of the meetings of the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board, the Macquarie Business School Faculty Board, the Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board (the final meeting of this Faculty Board following the disestablishment of the Faculty in March 2020), the Faculty of Medicine and
Human Sciences Faculty Board and the Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board held in February 2020. Senate also noted the report of the meetings of the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board and the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Faculty Board held in March 2020.

**University Discipline Committee**

Academic Senate noted the summary reports for University Discipline Committee meetings held in February 2020, including explanatory advice from the Acting Chair of the Committee.