ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 21 July 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 1 September 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 20 resolutions at this meeting. Information on outcomes of specific agenda items may be found in this report or within the minutes.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The retirement of Professor Kevin Jameson as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) was noted with Professor Jameson being thanked warmly by the Chair and members for his work with Academic Senate. The Chair, Professor Mariella Herberstein, was also thanked and honoured for her work with Senate noting that from 1 August 2020 she becomes the Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and an ex officio member of Senate. The Chair also announced the result of the recent election to fill the resulting vacancy for a new Chair of Academic Senate, with members joining her in congratulating Professor Jacqueline Phillips on her election.

COURSES: NEW AND CHANGES

Duolingo English Language test (Res 20/64 and Res 20/65)
Academic Senate approved an update to the entry standards to incorporate new sub-scores for the Duolingo English language test, including for use in assessing HDR applications.

Proposals approved by Executive Action. (Res 20/80)
Members ratified other course proposals, including proposals related to PACE and Capstone units, which were approved under Executive Action.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Procedure (Res 20/66)
Academic Senate resolved to approve the proposed amendments to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy, Procedures, and Schedules with effect from 1 October 2020.

Freedom of Speech Policy (Res 20/69)
Academic Senate resolved to
i. approve an amendment to the 2016 Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom to include the following sentence:
   Staff are free to participate in professional or representative academic bodies;
ii. endorse an amendment to the Student Code of Conduct to include the following sentence:
   Students are free to participate in student societies and associations, provided they comply with the requirements of this Code of Conduct and any relevant legislation;
iii. endorse the Freedom of Speech Policy—Draft as at 23 June 2020;
iv. recommend the amendment to the Student Code of Conduct to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) for approval; and
v. recommend the Freedom of Speech Policy to the Vice-Chancellor for submission to Council
Public Comment Policy and Social Media Policy (Res 20/76 and Res 20/77)
Members received advice on the Public Comment Policy and Social Media Policy, noting that both policies had been aligned to the Freedom of Speech Policy.

Assessment Policy: Report from Working Group (Res 20/75)
Academic Senate noted a report on the review of the Assessment Policy by a working group of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.

Policies Under Review/Development (Res 20/71)
Academic Senate noted a list of policies under review/development as at 15 July 2020.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Monitoring and Analysis of HDR Student Performance (Res 20/67)
Academic Senate resolved to:
   i. approve the process to set institutional benchmarks for HDR academic and student success;
   ii. approve the quality improvement process to monitor performance against these benchmarks; and
   iii. note the requirements under the TEQSA Act for academic governance bodies to provide academic oversight of the providers activities, and to assure the corporate governance body of the quality and outcomes of the provider’s higher education activities.

Committee Terms of Reference (Res 20/78 and Res 20/79)
Academic Senate noted draft terms of reference for the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, Research and Research Training Committee and Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.

OTHER MATTERS

- The Vice-Chancellor reported on a number of matters including Phase 3 of the return of staff and students to the campus; discussions with government regarding the return of international students to Australia; and the commencement of Program Boards supporting the University Operating Plan 2020-2024;
- Student members of Academic Senate raised questions on notice regarding support for HDR candidates, lack of feedback from assessment tasks due close to the Session 1 examination period, and tutorial participation in units delivered online;
- Academic Senate approved a Joint PhD Program with the University of Oslo, Norway (Res 20/68);
- A nomination for the title of Professor Emerita was endorsed and recommended to Council (Res 20/70);
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) provided an update on TEQSA re-accreditation activities;
- Members ratified executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate (Res 20/80) to approve:
  o amendments to the Entry Criteria for Standard Foundation and Intensive Program: UK General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level;
  o exemption from publication for post-experience programs for Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Applied Finance (MAF) and associated programs;
  o the award of the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence to coursework graduands;
  o course level Savings Cases identified in Faculty migration and teach-out course mapping; and
  o amendment to the Macquarie University International College (MUIC) Subcommittee Terms of Reference.

COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC SENATE AND FACULTY BOARDS

Committees of Academic Senate
Academic Senate noted the reports of the meetings of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, the Research and Research Training Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee held in June 2020. Senate also noted a report on circular resolutions considered by the Academic Senate Standing Committee in June and July 2020.
**Faculty Boards**
Academic Senate noted that the report of the Faculty Board meetings held in July 2020 will be submitted to its next meeting.

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