ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 22 October 2019

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 26 November 2019.

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.

PROGRAMS: NEW AND CHANGES (Res 19/107)

In addition to ratifying Executive Actions related to curriculum matters (see below under ratification of matters dealt with by executive action for further details), Academic Senate noted the approach for converting existing GPAs to WAMS, and in particular endorsed the approach to limit self-withdrawal after the ‘last date to withdraw without academic penalty’, such that all students enrolled after the last date to withdraw without academic penalty, except where a case for withdrawal without academic penalty is approved, will receive a mark that will be included in a WAM calculation.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Changes to the MQ Model of Combined Degree Architecture Principles and the MQ Model of Postgraduate Curriculum Architecture Principles (Res 19/108)

Academic Senate approved the proposed changes to the MQ Model for Combined Degree Architecture Principles, and to the MQ Model: Postgraduate Curriculum Architecture Principles, effective 1 January 2020.

Unit Guide Procedure (Res 19/111)

Academic Senate approved the amendments to the Unit Guide Procedure.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Developing a Shared Responsibility Model for Academic Governance: Principles and Authorisations (Res 19/106)

Academic Senate approved an amendment to its original resolution on this project (Res 19/78) to clarify that Faculty Boards are authorised as agents to approve the establishment or disestablishment of groupings of units as majors, specialisations or derived minors (if required).

Post-implementation Review: Partnership with and Recognition of Student Members (Res 19/114)

Academic Senate approved the project overview for the post-implementation review of Partnership with and Recognition of Student Members.

Review of Freedom of Speech, Inquiry and Assembly Working Group (Res 19/115)

Academic Senate noted an update on responses to the recommendations of the Review of Freedom of Speech, Inquiry and Assembly report.

Review of General Coursework Rules: Practical, Clinical and Professional Program Requirements (Res 19/116)

Academic Senate received and noted an update report from Professor Catherine Dean, Chair of the working group reviewing the General Coursework Rules with respect to Practical, Clinical and Professional Program Requirements.

Establishing 2020 Projects for Academic Senate (Res 19/117)

Members noted the revised approach for establishing Academic Senate’s projects for 2020.

Amendments to membership of Committees and Sub-committees (Res 19/109 and Res19/112)

Academic Senate approved amendments to the membership of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee and the MUIC Sub-committee.
**OTHER MATTERS**

- The Vice-Chancellor reported to Academic Senate on a number of national issues, including the release of the report of the Review of Higher Education Provider Category Standards and the release of initial provider scores for the new performance-based funding scheme. He also advised members on projected student admissions for 2020 noting the budget for next year will be revised in response to these numbers, and reported on the University’s recent research grant successes;
- Academic Senate noted advice from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Programs and Pathways) on the development of a University-wide Quality Code;
- On the recommendation of the Research and Research Training Committee, Academic Senate approved the removal of the requirement for the external re-examination of a student’s honours thesis in the combined Master of Clinical Psychology/PhD, Master of Clinical Neuropsychology/PhD and Master of Organisational Psychology/PhD degrees for those applicants admitted with a First Class Honours degree in Psychology and who have achieved a Distinction average in the first year of their Masters course, with effect from the 2019 intake round;
- Academic Senate recommended that Council approve a nomination for the title of Emeritus Professor (Res 19/113);
- Members noted information from the Executive Director, Student Engagement and Registrar on the University’s Student Discipline Framework, including current work to requisition and implement a new case management system;
- Ms Nicole Gower, the Vice President (People and Services), and Professor Lesley Hughes presented to Academic Senate on the review of the Academic Promotions process (Res 19/118);
- Academic Senate received the report from the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee taskforce on practice-based curriculum including a presentation from the task force chair, Ms Lindie Clark (Res 19/119);
- Members noted and endorsed the distribution to Faculty Boards of an update report regarding Program Beacon (Res 19/120);
- A question on notice was received before the meeting on whether the Curriculum Management System (CMS) had been designed to reduce the use of examinations as a method of assessment. Members noted the advice from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) that this was not the case and that the CMS was designed to support current policy (Res 19/121);
- Academic Senate ratified the executive action taken by the Chair with respect to awarding Macquarie University Awards for Academic Excellence to coursework and MUIC graduands, the approval of combined course combinations for inclusion in the approved list of course names within the Bachelor of Combined Studies and the Master of Combined Studies, and the approval of late, urgent course changes (Res 19/122); and
- Members noted the outcome of the election to fill a vacancy for a non-Faculty academic staff member on Academic Senate (Res 19/123).

**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 September and October 2019.

**Faculty Boards**

Academic Senate noted the report of the meeting of the Macquarie Business School Faculty Board, the Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board and the Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board held in September 2019.

**University Discipline Committee**

Academic Senate noted the summary reports for University Discipline Committee meetings held in July, August and September 2019.