ACADEMIC SENATE IN-BRIEF

An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Academic Senate on 23 July 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 3 September 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 18 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 19/71, 19/74 and 19/75)

Academic Senate approved the proposed arrangements for discount for degrees doubled with the Bachelor of Engineering effective 1 January 2020, as specified below:
- Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences with the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours);
- Bachelor of Science with the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours);
- Bachelor of Information Technology with the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours);
- Bachelor of Arts with the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours).

Academic Senate approved the introduction of the following new courses, specialisation and minors for 2020, including the amendment of one new course:
- Bachelor of Psychology and Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) – changes to option sets;
- Master of Engineering Management;
- Master of Banking and Finance ECNU;
- Creative Industries and Management Minor;
- Bachelor of Science (OUA);
- Biology (OUA) undergraduate specialisation;
- Graduate Certificate of Learning Difficulties Support Teaching; and
- Professional Communication minor.

Academic Senate also approved the Master of Public Health (Research), as an AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Research), with effect from 2020, recognising that the course is a higher degree research program and out of scope from the Curriculum Architecture Policy and Postgraduate Principles.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revision of the Combined Degree (Vertical Double Degree) Principles (Res 19/72)

Academic Senate approved the revision of Vertical Double Degree Principles which are to be named the Combined Degree Principles.

Proposal to amend Academic Senate’s Criteria for Pace Units and Activities to remove reference to Graduate Capabilities (Res 19/73)

Academic Senate approved the amendments to the Criteria for PACE Units and Activities, with effect from 1 January 2020.

Revised Macquarie University Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (Res 19/81)

Members received a presentation on the revised Macquarie University Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the Macquarie University Research Code Complaints, Breaches and Investigation Procedure, and agreed to endorse both documents.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Developing a Shared Responsibility Model for Academic Governance (Res 19/78)

Members received the final set of authorisations to be retained by Academic Senate and those to be devolved to Faculty Boards and worked through these, noting some further clarifications to wording. The full set of authorisations received final approval from Senate and can be found on Senate’s website.
Academic Senate were advised of the working group’s recent work on this project and noted that a separate meeting will be held to work through the recommendations in more detailed with interested members of Senate. A draft policy and guidelines will be developed and submitted to the next meeting of Academic Senate for recommendation to Council.

Academic Senate Projects: Mid-Year Traffic Light Assessment (Res 19/80)
Academic Senate noted a mid-year traffic light assessment of its schedule of projects for 2019, noting that the Shared Responsibility Model for Academic Governance has been the major focus of work to date.

OTHER MATTERS
- Academic Senate received a report from the Vice-Chancellor on Session 2 enrolments and the impending release of the report of the review into performance-based funding of universities;
- Academic Senate noted advice from the Executive Director, Student Engagement and Registrar on communications to students regarding planned curriculum changes (Res 19/70);
- A question was raised regarding the planned merger of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and the Department of Environmental Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Engineering;
- The use of text-matching software as part of the HDR thesis submission procedure was approved, noting that a recommendation has been made to purchase iThenticate (Res 19/76);
- Academic Senate approved a Joint PhD program with the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (Res 19/77);
- Members received a presentation on the University’s HDR Supervision Fellowship Program and congratulated the first fellows to complete the program (Res 19/82);
- An update from Program Beacon on the Curriculum Management System was noted (Res 19/83);
- Members noted the response from the University to the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment (Prohibiting Academic Cheating Services) Bill 2019 (Res 19/84);
- Academic Senate ratified the executive action taken by the Chair with respect to updating dual degree arrangements for the Accounting major from International School of Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JXUFE), including an option for the students to be able to transfer into the Bachelor of Commerce – Professional Accounting (2019) / Bachelor of Professional Accounting (2020), and the appointment of members to the committees of Academic Senate (Res 19/85); and
- Members joined with the Chair in thanking Professor Nick Mansfield for his service to Academic Senate and the University.

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, Research and Research Training Committee and Senate Learning and Teaching Committee held in June and July 2019.

Faculty Boards
Academic Senate noted the reports of the meetings held by the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board, the Macquarie Business School Faculty Board, the Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board and the Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board held in May, June and July 2019.

University Discipline Committee
Academic Senate noted the summary reports for University Discipline Committee meetings held in March, April and May 2019.