ACADEMIC SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Academic Senate held from 9:34 am to 11.53 am on Tuesday 5 September 2017 in the Senate Room, Level 3, Lincoln Building (C8A), 16 Wally’s Walk.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Professor Mariella Herberstein (Chair)
Professor Stephen Brammer
Professor Sean Brawley
Professor Bronwyn Carlson
Professor Enrico Coiera
Associate Professor Pamela Coutts
Professor Judith Dawes
Professor Catherine Dean
Professor Jim Denier
Professor S Bruce Dowton
Dr Paul Formosa
Associate Professor Barbara Griffin
Professor Simon Handley
Professor Antonina Harbus
Professor Kevin Jameson
Dr Timothy Kyng
Audrey Markowskei
Professor Barbara Messerle
Professor Kathryn Millard
Professor Peter Nelson
Dr Mitch Parsell
Simon Populin
Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Dr Peter Roger
JoAnne Sparks

APOLOGIES

Professor Amanda Barnier
Tim Beresford
Associate Professor Ayse Bilgin
Nicole Brigg
Dr Frank Carrigan
Dr Florence Chiew
Soujanya Datta
Andy Dong
Professor Norma Harrison
Thomas Hedl
Professor Lesley Hughes
Professor Lisa Magnani
Professor Nick Mansfield
Professor Patrick McNeil
Professor Martina Möllering
Dr Kerry-Ann O’Sullivan
Professor Jacqueline Phillips (Deputy Chair)
Professor Neil Saintilan
Cissy Shen
Professor Lucy Taksa
Professor David Wilkinson
Professor Leigh Wood
Professor Sherman Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Ellen Carlson
Julie Doherty
Ainslee Harvey
Megan Kemmis (Secretariat)
Tatiana Lozano
Kerri Mackenzie
Sarah Rosen
Zoe Williams
1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
A meeting of the Academic Senate commenced at 9:34 am with Professor Bronwyn Carlson acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land. The Chair invited members to volunteer to give the acknowledgement of country at the next meeting of Academic Senate.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
The Chair noted the apologies listed above and reminded those present of their role and purpose as members of the Academic Senate. The Chair congratulated Brayden Jones, who will be graduating and advised that an election will be held to fill the vacancy for a Postgraduate Coursework Student representative.

3. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA
3.1 Disclosure of conflicts of interest
No conflicts of interest were declared.

3.2 Adoption of unstarred items
No additional items were starred.

Resolution 17/79
Academic Senate resolved that the items not starred for discussion (Items 5, 10.2, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 11.1, 11.5, 11.6, 11.8, 11.9, 12.3, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5 and 17) be noted and, where appropriate, be adopted as recommended.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
4.1 Resolution 17/80
Academic Senate resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held 18 July 2017 as a true and correct record.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
The Chair provided a brief update on matters presented to the most recent meeting of University Council on 24 August 2017, in particular its approval of the award of the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor John Simons. She thanked the members of the Emeritus Professor Working Party for their work in reviewing this nomination. Members were reminded of Council’s strong interest in the Academic Integrity project, and a detailed report will be presented to its next meeting.

7. VICE-CHANCELLOR ORAL UPDATE
The Vice-Chancellor updated members on the following issues:

- Respect.Now.Always: the Vice-Chancellor noted that Ms Tatiana Lozano would be presenting on this matter later in the meeting and commended her and her team for their work on this project. He noted that much more work is being done to develop preventative measures, educational tools, and the University’s capacity to respond to appropriately to these matters. He urged members to be involved with cascading information and training materials. He added that all members of the University community have a role to play in setting agreed behavioural standards;

- Macquarie MD: the University’s MD (Doctor of Medicine) program has been formally launched and will enrol its first intake in 2018. The Vice-Chancellor commended Professor Patrick McNeil and the team in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for their work in developing the program, noting that is one of only a few such programs to be granted full AMC accreditation on introduction;

- ARC Research Engagement and Impact Pilot: the results from the pilot have been released, and while a lot of detail is still to be worked out it was pleasing to note the University had received rankings of either emerging or mature in all the fields of research covered by the pilot;

- Session 2 Admission: data on admissions for Session 2 2017 will be available for the next meeting of Academic Senate; and

- Review of University Council: University Council was most recently reviewed by Emeritus Professor Janice Reid (former Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University) and Rhonda Hawkins (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Victoria University), with the recommendations of the review considered at an extraordinary meeting of Council facilitated by Dr Annabelle Bennett (Chancellor of Bond University). At its most recent meeting of 24 August 2017, Council approved a range of structural changes, including a reduction in membership from 19 to 15 (representing the loss of one academic staff position and three external members), changes to terms of membership, stricter limitations on the number of consecutive terms and the development of a skills matrix to support the appointment of external members. While some changes can be implemented immediately, others will require the amendment of the By-Law and will be referred to Parliamentary Counsel. He noted that the changes
will bring the University Council into line with other universities’ governing bodies. In response to a
question on when the changes to membership would take effect, the Vice-Chancellor advised the
changes would be phased in from the end of current terms of membership.

8. **QUESTION TIME**

No other questions were raised.

9. **STUDENT LED BUSINESS**

There were no items of student-led business.

10. **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

10.1 **Chair of Academic Standards and Quality Committee**

The Chair advised members that Associate Professor Coutts will be stepping down as Chair of the Academic
Standards and Quality Committee on 19 September 2017. She reminded members of the extensive work
undertaken by Associate Professor Coutts as Chair of the Committee since she took on the role in February
2013, including oversight of significant improvements to reduce the turn-around times for program
approval, the support of governance arrangements for MUIC via the MUIC Subcommittee and oversight of
the development of processes to support the establishment of Faculty Boards. The Chair also highlighted
her significant role in a range of curriculum renewals, and the members of Academic Senate responded
with acclaim. The current Deputy Chair of the Committee, Associate Professor Catriona Lavermicocca, was
nominated to become the new Chair of the Committee and the nomination was approved unanimously.

**Resolution 17/81**

Academic Senate resolved to approve the appointment of Associate Professor Catriona Lavermicocca as the
Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee for a period of two years from 20 September 2017
to 19 September 2019.

10.2 **Disestablishment of the MGSM Academic Board**

**Resolution 17/82**

Academic Senate resolved to disestablish the MGSM Academic Board with immediate effect.

10.3 **HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy and Procedures (RRTC)**

The Chair presented this item in Professor Mansfield’s absence, highlighting the extensive input from the
Thesis Examination Subcommittee, the Research and Research Training Committee, the Deputy Chair of
Academic Senate and the Policy Unit in finalising these documents. Members discussed issues regarding
the appointment of examiners, including the number of examiners for PhD theses, the number of external
examiners for MRes theses, the use of oral examinations, and issues related to conflicts of interest and
other criteria for the appointment of examiners. Professor Pretorius advised that these and other issues
would be considered for the next version of the policy. Members approved the policy, schedules and
procedures unanimously.

**Resolution 17/83**

Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve the HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy and Schedules;
ii. approve the HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Procedure and the Master of
Research Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Procedure; and
iii. rescind the Higher Degree Research Thesis Re-Examination Guideline and the Higher Degree
Research Thesis by Publication Guideline;

with immediate effect.

10.4 **Special Consideration Policy, Procedure and Associated Documents (SLTC)**

**Resolution 17/84**

Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve the Special Consideration Policy, Procedure and Supporting Evidence and Outcomes
Schedules with effect from Session 3, 2017, subject to feedback from the Policy Review Working
Group; and
ii. rescind the Disruption to Studies Policy, Procedure and Supporting Evidence and Outcomes
Schedules effective from Session 3, 2017.

10.5 **Senate Committees: Changes to Membership**

**Resolution 17/85**

Academic Senate resolved to appoint Dr Michael Dobbie as the nominee of the Faculty of Business and
Economics Faculty Board to the Academic Standards and Quality Committee for a term of office from 1

**Resolution 17/86**

Academic Senate resolved to appoint the following nominees to the Senate Learning and Teaching
Committee:

i. Dr Elizabeth-Ann Schroeder as the nominee of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board for the unexpired portion of the predecessor’s term of office until 30 June 2019;

ii. Professor Leonie Tickle as the nominee of the Executive Dean for the Faculty of Business and Economics for a term of office until 31 December 2017; and

iii. Dr Shane Magee as the nominee of the Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board for a term of office from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019.

10.6 Establishment of the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence and MUIC Award for Academic Excellence

Resolution 17/87

Academic Senate resolved to approve the new award title for the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence for graduates of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs and the MUIC Award for Academic Excellence for graduates of MUIC diploma programs.

10.7 Disestablishment of the Academic Appeals and Ranking Committees

Resolution 17/88

Academic Senate resolved to disestablish the Ranking Committee and Academic Appeals Committee with immediate effect.

Secretary’s note: The agenda was re-arranged to deal with items in the following order: 11.7, 18, 11.2, 12.2 and 12.1.

11. ACADEMIC SENATE PROJECTS

11.1 Academic Integrity Progress Report

Resolution 17/89

Academic Senate resolved to note:

i. the update on the progress made against the Academic Integrity Framework; and

ii. the Terms of Reference of the Academic Honesty Policy Review Working Group.

11.2 Principles of Program Review

Associate Professor Coutts presented this item as a member of the working party, noting that the principles have been through an extensive consultation. She emphasised that the implementation guidelines are guidelines only, but highlighted recommendation 13 in the guidelines (Investment from the University to the development of minimum data sets so that they are readily available to the Faculties) as an issue that needs to be addressed. Professor Brawley expressed support for the principles adding the resources issue would fall within the scope of the Program Lifecycle project.

The Chair noted that consultation is still required with Walanga Muru and the Director, Indigenous Strategy (Leanne Holt). Professor Carlson advised she has discussed this with Ms Holt and after discussion it was agreed that Ms Holt will be invited to become a member of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee. Members approved the Principles of Program Review.

Secretary’s note: Following the meeting, discussions were held between the Chair of Academic Senate and the Director, Indigenous Strategy and it was agreed recommendation 8 in the principles’ implementation guidelines would be amended to read “Academic Standards and Quality Committee in consultation with Walanga Muru, is to develop threshold standards...”.

Resolution 17/90

Academic Senate resolved to:

i. approve the Principles of Program Review;

ii. request Faculties apply the Principles in scheduled program reviews that are yet to commence;

iii. endorse the provided recommendations to support the implementation; and

iv. note the development of the resources required to support implementation will be approved by Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

11.3 Developing a Model for Shared Responsibility of Academic Governance: Progress Report

This item was held over to the next meeting.

11.4 Purpose and Composition of Academic Senate: Progress Report

This item was held over to the next meeting.

11.5 Review of Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement: Progress Report

Resolution 17/91

Academic Senate resolved to note the update on the review of Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement project.

11.6 Policy Review Project Overview

Resolution 17/92

Academic Senate resolved to approve the revised Policy Review Project Overview.
Partnership with and Recognition of Student Members

Mr Simon Populin presented the meeting with a range of recommendations which had been developed by the working group following discussions at the Academic Senate meeting in July. The Chair advised members that Professor Sherman Young has expressed support for this approach, but she noted that issues remained concerning the support to be given to HDR student representatives in particular. She also noted that Faculty Boards will need to decide whether or not to adopt the recommended approach. Members unanimously approved the proposal.

Resolution 17/93
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. endorse the approach for recognising students involved with academic governing bodies and a phased-in implementation for Academic Senate student representatives;
ii. recommend this approach to the Chairs of Faculty Boards for consideration for student representatives on Faculty Boards; and
iii. refer feedback received from student representatives regarding remuneration for service to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) for further consideration.

Academic Progression: Procedure for managing the progression of students enrolled in practical, clinical or professional programs

Resolution 17/94
Academic Senate resolved to note the report on the proposed procedure for managing the progression of students enrolled in practical, clinical or professional programs.

Proposed Approach to 2018 Projects and Priorities

Resolution 17/95
Academic Senate resolved to approve the proposed approach to establishing its projects and priorities for 2018.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Admissions Transparency: Presentation from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Programs and Pathways)

Members noted that the planned presentation on the Program Lifecycle would be made at a later meeting, and that a presentation on Admissions Transparency is being provided to advise Senate of the University’s response to the Federal Government’s new requirements in this area. Professor Brawley took members through the background to this new requirement, and the University’s publication of admissions information on its website. He advised that benchmarking across the sector is difficult at this point, as universities have not interpreted the government’s new requirements in a consistent manner, and in some cases, it is difficult to find the information on the public pages of university websites. Professor Jameson commended Professor Brawley and his team for their work on this project.

Resolution 17/96
Academic Senate resolved to note the presentation on Admissions Transparency from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Programs and Pathways).

Professor Kathryn Millard left at 11:43 am and Professor Jim Denier left at 11:52 am.

Respect. Now. Always: Presentation from the Manager, Student Equity and Diversity

Ms Tatiana Lozano presented on the Respect. Now. Always (RNA) project, providing the background to the project, an overview of the responses from Macquarie University students to the national survey on incidences of sexual harassment and assault, and information on the work underway to develop tools for prevention and education. She emphasised that any student who has experienced sexual harassment or assault should be referred to Campus Wellbeing for support. The Chair thanked Ms Lozano for her presentation.

Resolution 17/97
Academic Senate resolved to note the presentation on Respect. Now. Always from the Manager, Student Equity and Diversity.

Station Precinct Project: Status Report

Resolution 17/98
Academic Senate resolved to note the update on the Station Precinct Project.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no questions on notice.
14. **ITEMS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

14.1 Saving Cases: 2017 Quarter 2 Summary Report

**Resolution 17/99**
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. ratify the actions taken by the Chair of Academic Senate under delegated authority to invoke the savings clause for the students listed in the 2017 Quarter 2 Saving Cases schedule; and

ii. note the 2017 Quarter 2 Savings Cases summary report.

14.2 Vice Chancellor Commendations: List of Recipients

**Resolution 17/100**
Academic Senate resolved to:

i. ratify the award of the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation to two Bachelor degree graduands;

ii. ratify the award of the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation to twenty-eight Master coursework graduands.

14.3 Grade Appeal Policy: Approval to Review

**Resolution 17/101**
Academic Senate resolved to ratify the action taken by the Chair of Academic Senate to approve the request to review the Grade Appeal Policy.

15. **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

15.1 Academic Senate Standing Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Academic Senate Standing Committee (ASSC) meeting of 24 July 2017.

15.2 Academic Standards and Quality Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC) meeting of 8 August 2017.

15.3 Research and Research Training Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Research and Research Training Committee (RRTC) meeting of 1 August 2017.

15.4 Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) meeting of 7 August 2017.

15.5 University Medal Committee
Academic Senate noted the report of the University Medal Committee (UMC) meeting of 27 July 2017.

16. **REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARDs**

16.1 Faculty of Arts Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board meeting of 11 July 2017.

16.2 Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Business and Economics Faculty Board meeting of 10 July 2017.

16.3 Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Human Sciences Faculty Board meeting of 10 July 2017.

16.4 Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the reports of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Board meetings of 10 July and 21 August 2017.

16.5 Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board
Academic Senate noted the report of the Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Board meeting of 11 July 2017.

17. **UNIVERSITY HEARING COMMITTEE**

17.1 University Hearing Committee
Academic Senate noted the summary report of the University Hearing Committee meeting of 2 August 2017.
18. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised that she wished to propose an item under Other Business and, in the absence of the Deputy Chair, moved that members nominate Professor Jameson as Chair for this item.

Members approved the motion.

Professor Herberstein informed members that she had recently attended a meeting of the University’s Ally Network. The Network is seeking a statement of support from Academic Senate in relation to the national debate on marriage equality, as a sign of support for the University’s LGBTQI community. The Acting Chair proposed that Senate begin consideration of this issue by discussing whether and how it wants to engage with the issue and invited discussion.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Herberstein for raising this issue and spoke briefly to the meeting, emphasising that he was speaking from his position as the Vice-Chancellor and leader of the University community. He stressed the need for respectful dialogue and discourse, including respect for the diversity of opinions on this issue. He expressed his concern that some students and staff are feeling vulnerable due to some debate which is not being conducted in a respectful manner. He urged members to ensure that the University is a community of which everyone can be proud and serves as an example to the broader community.

Members expressed support for respectful discussion on marriage equality and agreed that members of the University community should address behaviour that isn’t respectful. Members also discussed the need for inclusivity in the approach to discussing marriage equality, noting the risk of debate over such a complex issue dividing, rather than unifying a community. The following points were raised:

- The Vice-Chancellor noted that a statement of support for reasonable and respectful behaviour and debate on a contentious issue can provide members of an organisation with something they can refer to and quote in response to discussions and actions that make them uncomfortable.
- A statement from Senate could be linked to the statement on Academic Freedom, stressing the need for respect and to allow people to participate in the discussion without intimidation.
- Some members expressed concern that if Academic Senate expressed a particular position it would marginalise those members of the University community who do not share that position.
- There was consensus that the opinion of all members of the University community should be respected.
- Some members noted the role of universities to promote social justice and to work towards creating a more equitable society.
- Some concerns were expressed at the role of individual members agreeing to a statement of support while representing a broader group in the University community, some of whom would not support marriage equality for cultural, religious or other reasons.
- That Academic Senate is discussing and providing input into other issues beyond strictly academic matters, such as Respect. Now. Always, and therefore could appropriately be actively involved in making a statement about marriage equality.
- Members debated whether to express support for equality as a general principle or specifically in the context of the marriage equality debate, and a concern was raised that failure to mention marriage equality at all could be seen as tacit support for the “no” campaign.
- There was discussion about the approach taken in one academic department, which had issued a statement of support with the following wording “The members of the Physics and Astronomy Diversity and Equity group support inclusion and equality for all people. We ask that respect be shown to the LGBTQI community, and remind you that support is available at MQ Wellbeing or by contacting local Ally Network members. We encourage all staff and students to take part in the upcoming postal survey, and to say YES to the right to marriage for all Australians.”

The Acting Chair invited Ms Tatiana Lozano, the Manager of Student Equity and Diversity, to comment briefly on the discussion. She advised members that the unit is currently dealing with some very distressed students as a result of the current public debate on marriage equality. She acknowledged that the issue is complicated but advised members that a supporting statement from the Academic Senate would send a very powerful message.

The Acting Chair noted that the discussion indicated that members unequivocally supported the need for respectful debate, as well as the need to value the opinion of all members of the University community. He proposed conducting an indicative vote on whether members were in favour of Senate issuing a statement of support for marriage equality, emphasising that this is not about members’ personal views on the matter but a statement from Academic Senate as a body. A majority of members voted in favour. The Acting Chair advised that he took this as a mandate to develop a statement from the Academic Senate in support of marriage equality, which would also express support for respectful debate, and support for LGBTQI colleagues and students. It was agreed after some discussion that proposed wording would be drafted to capture the intent of the indicative vote but that this would not be sent out as a circular resolution. The meeting agreed that the precise wording of the statement would be authorised by the Acting Chair.

Resolution 17/102

Academic Senate noted with respect the diversity of opinions in relation to marriage equality amongst the
University community. Academic Senate resolved to issue a statement in support of marriage equality, respectful debate and support for LGBTQI colleagues and students.

**Statement:**
The Academic Senate respects the diversity of opinions in relation to the issue of marriage equality. The Academic Senate encourages and advocates respectful debate around the issue and supports LGBTQI students and staff of the University, particularly at this time. The Academic Senate affirms its support for marriage equality.

Ms Tatiana Lozano arrived at 10:45 am. Professor Bruce Dowton and Mr Simon Populin departed the meeting at 11.00 am.

19. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday 17 October 2017. Agenda items are due by Tuesday 3 October 2017.

The meeting closed at 11:53 am.