

## ACADEMIC BOARD

1:00 pm, Tuesday 28 February 2017

Professorial Boardroom, Quadrangle (A14)

**Members Present:** The Chair (Associate Professor Tony Masters); the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Associate Professor Wendy Davis; Professor Jane Hanrahan; Associate Professor Michael Kertesz; Associate Professor Tim Wilkinson (until 1:45pm); Helen Agus (Science); Associate Professor Judy Anderson (Education & Social Work); Marco Avena (Student, Science); Associate Professor Thomas Balle (Pharmacy); Anne Bell (Director of University Libraries); Dr Jacqueline Bloomfield (Nursing); Isabella Brook (President, SRC); Professor Tyrone Carlin (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar)); Dr Jeanell Carrigan (Conservatorium); Brennan Clody (Student, Architecture, Design & Planning); Associate Professor Rachel Codd (Medicine); Associate Professor Ross Coleman (Director, Graduate Research); Dr Emily Crawford (Law); Dr Penelope Crossley (Law); Dr Jen Scott Curwood (Education & Social Work); Dr Frances Di Lauro (Arts & Social Sciences); Associate Professor David Easdown (Science); Professor David Emery (Veterinary Science); Professor Alan Fekete (Engineering & IT); James Fick (Student, Business); Professor Robyn Gallagher (Nursing); Professor Stephen Garton (Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Associate Professor Tania Gerzina (Dentistry); Associate Professor James Glister (Law); Professor Manuel Graeber (Medicine); Dr Scott Grattan, (Law); Associate Professor Thomas Grewal (Pharmacy); Professor Trevor Hambley (Dean, Science); Professor Margaret Harris (Acting Dean, Sydney College of the Arts); Professor Shane Houston (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy & Services)); Professor Annamarie Jagose (Dean, Arts & Social Sciences); Dr Nerida Jarkey (Arts & Social Sciences); Professor Archie Johnston (Dean, Engineering & IT); Patty Kamvounias (Business); Associate Professor Annette Katelaris (Medicine); Dr Eric Knight (Business); Tilly Lees (Student, Sydney College of the Arts); Associate Professor Chengwang Lei (Engineering & IT); Tong Li (Student, Health Sciences); Professor Michelle Lincoln (Deputy Dean, Health Sciences) (for Professor Kathy Refshauge); Dean Lovett (Student, Pharmacy); Professor David Lowe (Engineering & IT); Dr Alan Maddox (Conservatorium); Lily Matchett (Co-President, SUPRA); Professor Diane Mayer (Head of School & Dean, Education & Social Work); Alexander McCarthy (Student, Medicine); Associate Professor Mark McEntee (Health Sciences); Dr Lenka Munoz (Medicine); Gilbert Ng (Student, Dentistry); Alexandra Nixon (Nominee, SUPRA); Dr Rhonda Orr (Health Sciences); Associate Professor Maurice Peat (Business); Professor Chris Peck (Dean, Dentistry); Professor Anna Reid (Head of School & Dean, Conservatorium); Joshua Reisler (Student, Law); Professor Joellen Riley (Head of School & Dean, Law); Associate Professor Jennifer Rowley (Conservatorium); Dr Jenny Saleeba (Science); Dr Carl Schneider (Pharmacy); Professor Balwant Singh (Agriculture); Dr Ilektra Spandagou (Education & Social Work); Professor Roger Stancliffe (Health Sciences); Ahmed Bin Suhaib (Co-President, SUPRA); Muddasir Tahir (Student, Engineering & IT); Associate Professor Marjorie Valix (Engineering & IT); Professor Donna Waters (Dean, Nursing); Amy Wenham (Student, Nursing & Midwifery); Associate Professor Graham White (Arts & Social Sciences).

**Attendees:** Jill Baker (Academic Board Review Panel); Kate Calhau (EA to Chair, Academic Board); Dr Matthew Charet (Executive Officer); Dr Glenys Eddy (Committee Officer); Myrophora Koureas (Policy Analyst, SAS Program); Associate Professor Shae McCrystal (Chair, HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee); Alexandra Nixon, (Nominee, SUPRA); David Pacey (Secretary to Senate); Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Academic Board Review Panel).

**Apologies:** Dr Douglass Auld (Engineering & IT); Professor Tina Bell (Agriculture); Associate Professor Tom Buckley (Nursing); Associate Professor Alex Chaves (Veterinary Science); Dr Jinlong Gao (Dentistry); Imogen Grant (Nominee, SRC); Dr Anne Honey (Health Sciences); Professor Duncan Ivison (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)); Professor Robyn McConchie (Agriculture); Associate Professor Susan McGrath-Champ (Business); Associate Professor Susan Park (Arts & Social Sciences); Professor Pip Pattison (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)); Ivana Radix (SRC); Professor Iqbal Ramzan (Dean, Pharmacy); Professor John Redmond (Head of School & Dean, Architecture, Design & Planning); Professor Kathy Refshauge (Dean, Health Sciences) (Professor Michelle Lincoln attending instead); Oliver Smith (Sydney College of the Arts); Dr Michael Spence (Vice-Chancellor); Professor Rosanne Taylor (Head of School & Dean, Veterinary Science); Justin Trendall (Sydney College of the Arts); Professor Claire Wade (Veterinary Science); Professor Greg Whitwell (Dean, Business); Professor Henry Woo (Medicine); Matthew Wun (Student, Veterinary Science).

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## MINUTES

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☆ This symbol indicates items that have been starred for discussion at the meeting.

### ☆ 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and noted the apologies received, asking that any further apologies be communicated to the Executive Officer. He also conveyed the apologies of the Vice-Chancellor and advised that the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor is currently acting in the role. The Chair welcomed Jill Baker (Baker & Baptist) and Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Chair of Academic Senate, Western Sydney University), who were in attendance for Item 4.2.

An Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services). Professor Houston informed members that the acknowledgement is a purposeful part of culture as people travel through each other's country. He also reflected that the University should recognise six years of real achievement in increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic and professional staff and students, as well as acknowledging the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge to the nation and the world.

### ☆ 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Chair sought the permission of the Board to bring forward Item 4.4. This change to agenda order was supported.

#### 2.1 Starring of agenda and adoption of unstarred items

The following additional items were starred: 10.1, 12.1.

##### **Resolution AB2017/1-1**

*That the Academic Board resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.*

#### 2.2 Minutes of Meeting 8/2016, 7 December 2016

Mrs Agus identified an error in the recording of Resolution AB2016/8-3, which incorrectly stated that Agriculture procedures had been amended. This was corrected to refer to Veterinary Science.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended.

##### **Resolution AB2017/1-2**

*That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2016, as amended, as a true record.*

#### 2.3 Roundtable Discussion Summary

The Chair advised members that summary documentation arising from the roundtable discussion at the December meeting will be made available to interested members on request. It was intended that the comments will be forwarded to the TEQSA working group and to the University Executive and Senate in due course.

#### 2.4 2017 Membership of the Academic Board

Changes to membership were approved as presented.

##### **Resolution AB2017/1-3**

*That the Academic Board approve the changes to membership of the Board and its committees, as presented.*

### ☆ 3 STRATEGIC ITEMS OF BUSINESS

☆ 4 **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

**4.1 Report on Senate Matters**

The Chair advised that at the Senate meeting on 12 December 2016, Senate endorsed the Board's approval of the new curriculum structure and proposals from the faculties of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Sydney College of the Arts and the Conservatorium. Senate also noted the amendments to the *Assessment Procedures 2011* as approved by the Board.

**Resolution AB2017/1-4**

*That the Academic Board note the report from the Chair of the Academic Board on matters considered by Senate at its 12 December 2016 meeting.*

**4.2 Academic Board Review Report**

The Chair asked members to formally receive the report and extend thanks to the review panel, which was recognised by acclamation. The engagement of the panel with members in undertaking the review was particularly noted.

The Chair observed that the current functions and structure of the Board were developed in 2001 in a very different educational and regulatory environment, and that the review provides a framework within which the Board of the future can be developed. Three broad areas emerge from the report: to ensure that the Board meets its responsibilities regarding monitoring and maintenance of standards; provide strategic advice to the University Executive and Senate; and that the composition and representative mix on the Board be reviewed to align with the University's new structure. The report also makes recommendations on how the Board might address these areas.

Members were asked to circulate the report to their constituencies and come to the next meeting prepared to provide feedback (or forward written comments to the Secretary). Members were asked to look at the intent of each recommendation rather than focussing on the specifics in formulating their responses.

The Chair advised that in terms of timing, the major point of urgency in enacting the recommendations of the review report relates to changes to the composition and membership of the Board, as these will inform the conduct of elections as required in Semester 2. To enable these elections, it will be necessary to present a revised Academic Governance Rule to Senate in May. The Board was asked to approve the establishment of a working party to discuss options, to be chaired by Professor Hanrahan with faculty representation by invitation. This group would develop a membership model and electoral process, to be brought back to the March meeting for further discussion. The establishment of this working group was supported.

The Chair also advised that he has been invited to provide a formal presentation to Senate in May regarding the review and the Board's response.

**Resolution AB2017/1-5**

*That the Academic Board receive the Report of the external Review of University of Sydney's Academic Board and thank the reviewers, Ms Jill Baker and Associate Professor Paul Wormell, for their extraordinary diligence and insight in the conduct of the review and in the preparation of the Report.*

**4.3 Student Members' Report**

The presidents of the student societies presented verbal reports.

Mr Suhaib updated members on SUPRA's campaign to extend travel concessions to international students, and Ms Brook confirmed the support of the SRC for this campaign. Ms Brook also raised concerns regarding student access to academic advice, relating to which some students have reported delays possibly arising from the centralisation of student administration. The SRC were asked to provide further information on these concerns, and the Chair and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) undertook to meet with the SRC to further discuss the matter once they have received this information.

**Action:** SRC to provide advice to the Chair and DVC(E) relating to student concerns regarding provision of academic advice, followed by a meeting of the SRC, Chair and DVC(E) to discuss.  
**Responsible:** Isabella Brook. **Timing:** As soon as possible.

**Resolution AB2017/1-6**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the student members of the Academic Board.*

**4.4 Honours and Distinctions**

The Chair drew the attention of members to the honours and distinctions circulated with the agenda, and specifically highlighted two achievements. He advised that the Vice-Chancellor has been appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours, and acknowledged the achievement of the Law Moot Team (Alyssa Glass, Will Khun, Joel Phillips, Eric Shi and Harry Stratton, who were in attendance). The team continues an unsurpassed record of Sydney Law School success in the Jessup Moot, winning the national round for the tenth time. The Board wished them every success when they travel to Washington DC in April to take part in the international competition – the Jessup Cup – which the University has won a record-equalling 4 times.

The honours and distinctions were acknowledged by acclamation and noted as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-7**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on the honours and distinctions and congratulate the recipients.*

**Action:**

*The Chair, Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.*

In addition to the items above, the Chair also provided an update on membership of the Culture Taskforce and advised that appointments are progressing to secure representation from the University community, the Academic Board and the University Executive. A progress report will be provided to a future meeting.

☆ **5 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**5.1 Report on Senate Matters**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised that at its December meeting, Senate approved the 2017 budget, appointed Professor Sharon Naismith as an alternate Senate Fellow member of the Student Disciplinary Appeals Committee, and agreed to the establishment of a new Faculty of Medicine and Health. This faculty will include the current Schools of Public Health and Biomedical Sciences as well as the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. When the Faculty of Health Sciences moves to the Camperdown campus it will also join this Faculty. An Executive Dean for the faculty is currently being sought.

In addition, Senate signed off on the Organisational Design Transitional Provisions, the *University of Sydney (Governance of Faculties and University Schools) Rule 2016*, and the amended *University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority – Administrative Functions) Rule 2010*. It also agreed to the naming of the University's new boatshed facility at Linley Point, and to the establishment of an official online University noticeboard.

**Resolution AB2017/1-8**

*That the Academic Board note the report from the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its 12 December 2016 meeting.*

**5.2 General Report**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised that the Senior Executive Team has received the review report of the Academic Board and thanked the review panel for preparing the report. The report is a timely opportunity for the University to reaffirm its commitment to a bicameral model of governance in advance of the TEQSA review in 2018, and provides an opportunity to strengthen the Academic Board and its quality assurance functions.

**Resolution AB2017/1-9**

*That the Academic Board note the General Report from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.*

☆ 6 **QUESTION TIME**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor was asked what disciplines will be included in the new Faculty of Medicine and Health and he advised that a Transition Manager will be appointed to work through this with the impacted faculties. Alignment of teaching and research synergies will form part of the ongoing conversation, and he observed that faculty boundaries do not currently and will not in future impede students from undertaking the subjects in which they are interested.

Professor Fekete requested that the Academic Board have an opportunity to discuss in principle a proposal to change semester length and dates, before the proposal has been finalised. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) informed members that this proposal has been in consultation for six months and has involved students, the University of Sydney Union, the SEG and UE Education Committees, Deans, the colleges, the NTEU and other stakeholders. He also advised that the proposal is being championed by himself and the DVC (Education) as supporting the education strategy, and that it aligns with changes at other institutions (especially the Group of Eight). The intent of the changes under discussion is to enrich the student experience. [Note: Following the meeting, the DVC (Registrar) agreed to present the proposal for discussion at the next meeting of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee on 14 March, before presentation to the Academic Board.]

Professor Fekete expressed discomfort regarding the University's position of banning 'disruptive' elements from campus, specifically in connection with communications received by some staff from Rory Robertson. He was concerned that a similar ban might be made, for example, against those expressing legitimate protest against the management of the University. The Chair ruled the first part of Professor Fekete's question out of order, as it did not fall within the Board's Terms of Reference, but accepted the second part of the question as one on Academic Freedom, the University Charter for which had been presented to the Academic Board. Professor Garton advised that the University supports the right of staff and students to disagree with management, as long as this is expressed respectfully and without damage to property. In the matter under discussion, the University maintains that there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a staff member has been subject to considerable public vilification over a five year period. The staff member in question has certainly alerted the University to the stress and strain that they are feeling as a consequence of this campaign. Professor Riley cited the WHS obligations of the University to its staff, and opined that threatening behaviour or communication should not be tolerated under any circumstances. Members were advised that when staff feel that they are under threat on campus, this needs to be addressed regardless of the views expressed, and that the University maintains a position of neutrality over the content of staff research (which it expects to be supported or rejected by the academic community via peer review).

Professor Garton reaffirmed that the University has a duty of care towards staff and students and part of that obligation involves upholding the Academic Charter and encouraging respectful disagreement.

**Resolution AB2017/1-10**

*That the Academic Board note the responses provided to questions raised.*

7 **REPORTS FROM FACULTIES**

8 **REPORT OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**Resolution AB2017/1-11**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Admissions Committee meeting held by circulation on 14 February 2017.*

8.1 **Law:** Master of Labour Law and Relations

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-12**

*That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Labour Law and Relations and approve the amendment of Course Resolutions arising from the*

proposal, with effect from 1 March 2017.

**Action**

Head of School & Dean and School General Manager, Sydney Law School, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Labour Law and Relations and update the Course Resolutions in CMS.

**8.2 Curriculum Reform:** Changes to IELTS Requirements

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-13**

That the Academic Board approve changes to the IELTS requirements that accompany the curriculum review, as endorsed by the Admissions Committee at its meeting of 9 November 2016.

**Action**

DVC (Education) to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal.

**Action**

Executive Officer to update the Faculty-specific English Language Requirements table.

**9 REPORT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

**Resolution AB2017/1-14**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee held on 7 February 2017.

**9.1 Faculty of Science:** Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-15**

That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the course resolutions and degree table for the Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, with effect from 1 January 2017.

**Action**

Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics and update the Course Resolutions and Unit of Study Table in CMS.

**10 REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

**Resolution AB2017/1-16**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee held on 7 February 2017.

**10.1 Amendment of HDR Scholarships Ranking Guidelines**

This item was starred for discussion.

The retention of a single ranking list was questioned, with concern expressed that some disciplines have reported a declining number of successful scholarship applicants over recent rounds. Clarity was also requested regarding the process for identification of strategic themes, as required by the amended guidelines. Action to address these issues was requested sooner than the current schedule for review in two years.

In discussion, Associate Professor McCrystal (who chaired the working party that reviewed the guidelines) advised that a decision had been taken to review the guidelines in two years as there is currently insufficient data to make an informed decision as to possible bias in the system. The terms of reference for the review therefore did not include the use of a single ranking list, and it was intended to use the current guidelines for a set period before reviewing their effectiveness.

It was agreed that the matter of identification of strategic themes was more relevant to faculty strategic planning than to the current ranking guidelines, and that the matter could best be addressed offline in discussion between the Chair, Director of Graduate Research and

representative from Veterinary Science.

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-17**

*That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Scholarship Ranking Guidelines, with immediate effect.*

**Action**

*HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee to note the amendment of the Scholarship Ranking Guidelines and communicate the amendment to stakeholders.*

**Action**

*Chair to meet with Director of Graduate Research and representatives from Vet Science to discuss the identification of strategic themes for scholarship ranking purposes.*

**10.2 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-18**

*That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the table of units of study for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees, with effect from 1 January 2018.*

**Action**

*Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and update the Unit of Study Table in CMS.*

**11 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Resolution AB2017/1-19**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee held on 14 February 2017.*

**11.1 Decisions Matrix – Amendment of Assessment Procedures 2011**

This proposal was approved as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-20**

*That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Assessment Procedures 2011 to include as Schedule 3 the Decisions Matrix (Special Consideration and Special Arrangements), as amended, with effect from Semester 1 2017.*

**Action**

*Executive Officer to promulgate the amended policy.*

**11.2 Academic Board / SEG Phase Four Faculty Review Report – Engineering & Information Technologies**

This report was noted as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-21**

*That the Academic Board note the Academic Board/SEG Phase Four Faculty Review Report for the Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies.*

**11.3 Academic Board / SEG Phase Four Faculty Review Report – Education & Social Work**

This report was noted as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-22**

*That the Academic Board note the Academic Board/SEG Phase Four Faculty Review Report for the Faculty of Education & Social Work.*

## 12 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 12.1 Promotion of Academic Staff 2016

This item was starred for discussion.

Professor Fekete made the observation that the success rate for Level D and E promotions is markedly lower than in recent years and recommended that the University investigate possible causes of this. Professor Garton advised that the overall success rate was higher in 2016 than it had been in 2014 and 2015, but that the observed decline in Level D and E success was correct. He observed that there has been an increase in the number of applications to these levels, and one possible inference from this is that some applications are being submitted too early. He encouraged all senior staff to advise and mentor staff intending to apply for promotion to ensure that their applications had a reasonable chance of success.

This report was noted as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-23**

*That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff to Levels B, C, D and E in 2016.*

### 12.2 Student Proctorial Panel 2017

Members were advised that this item is necessitated by the delayed passage of the rescission of Chapter 8 of the University of Sydney By-law by NSW Parliament and its replacement by the new Student Discipline Rule. The Rule will rescind Chapter 8 of the University of Sydney By-law and thereby remove the need for a Student Proctorial Panel so these appointments are an interim measure until the rescission takes effect.

Members approved the composition of the Student Proctorial Panel 2017 as presented.

**Resolution AB2017/1-24**

*That the Academic Board approve the membership of the 2017 Student Proctorial Panel.*

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:17pm.

A copy of the agenda pack for this meeting is available at <http://sydney.edu.au/secretariat/pdfs/academic-board-committees/AB/2017/20170228-AB-Agenda-Pack.pdf>.