ACADEMIC BOARD (AB)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2017
Time: 10am – 12 noon
Venue: Council Chamber

PRESENT: Associate Professor D Cohen (Presiding Member)
Scientia Professors J Roberts and V Sahajwalla
Professors R Buckland, A Cossins, G Crisp, M Crossley, A Deletic, S Dodds,
D Fabian, L Field, N Fisk, M Frater, R Harley, I Jacobs, A Kelleher, H
Lochhead, M McLaws, X Ruan, E Scheer, A Sowmya, C Styles, C Tonkinwise,
G Velan and T Waller
Associate Professors R Bolt, M Green and A Kayis-Kumar
Drs C Benson, L Crommelin, G Edwards, S Graham, P Martens, K Moline and
C Tietz
Messrs S Aggarwal (Student), G Forsyth, Z Karpinellison (Student), D
Lloyd(Student), C Poulton (Student) and Z Solomon (Student)
Ms J Aslanidis (Student), Ms B Oo and Ms M Yu (Student)

IN ATTENDANCE: Professors E Baldry and B Boyle
Messrs M Borchert, J Fitzgibbon, N Morris and R Nelms
Ms S Mohamed

SECRETARY: Ms Kathrine Taunton (Deputy Director, Governance)

For convenience items were discussed out of agenda order.

A Procedural Matters

★ 1. Apologies and leave of absence
Apologies were received from Scientia Professors J Roberts and G Williams, Professors H
Abass, L Chappell, M Davies, R Harindranath, E Johnston, L Jorm, P Munroe, L Poole-
Warren, M Uncles, A Steel, M Hoffman and M Loosemore, Associate Professors M Handler,
K Lai, J Nolan and N Tedla, Drs D Moreau, C Benson, D Schlagwein and K Simon, Messrs
E Bartolo (Student), B Jones (Student), Ms R Abeyratne (Student), Ms A Stein-Magee
( Student) and Ms S Zhou (Student).

★ 2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 3 October 2017
The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2017 were confirmed as an accurate
record and the Presiding Member was authorised to sign them.

★ 3. Matters arising and business carried forward
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting and there was no business carried
forward.

★ 4. Starring of items and adoption of unstarred items
No additional items were starred. A motion for the adoption of the unstarred items was
received and carried.

★ 5. Confirmation of confidential items
There were no confidential items.

B President’s Business

★ 6. President’s Report
Associate Professor Cohen tabled his report (Appendix A) and highlighted the following issues from the paper:

- Recent discussions at Council regarding the prioritising of the Academic Board reporting and ensuring Council’s oversight of academic quality.
- Recent attendance at the TEQSA Conference by executive and student members.
- Academic Promotions – Promotion to Professor 2017. The President congratulated the successful applicants.
- The review of the terms of reference of the University Committees, following the recommendations of the external review of Academic Governance, has begun and will be finalised and come to Academic Board in 2018.

The President noted that this was the last meeting for Professor Les Field and paid tribute to his contribution to the Academic Board over many years in various roles. The Board expressed with acclaim their appreciation and thanks to Professor Field.

Associate Professor Cohen thanked the Academic Board members for their contribution to the success of the Board in 2017. He thanks the student members in particular noting that they have been a highly engaged group of student representatives.

7. Vice-Chancellor's Report
Professor Ian Jacobs echoed the thanks given to Professor Les Field for his enormous contribution to UNSW and noted that a farewell event with Council members is planned.

He reported on events arising since the last Board meeting including:
- The recruitment of a 2016 Nobel Prize winner to UNSW has highlighted how successful the SHARP process has been in attracting high profile people to UNSW.
- The proposed Government cuts to higher education.
- His appointment as Chair of the Go8 for 2018.
- Academic promotions announced recently showed that 38% of applicants and promotions were female.
- The announcement of Professor Michelle Simmons as NSW Australian of the Year.
- The success of the UNSW Family Day.
- The SPHERE symposium.
- The successful Faculty Showcase events.
- UNSW is now offering a 40% reduction in fees for eligible staff members undertaking study at the University.
- The announcement of the new leadership positions of PVC Academic Excellence and Vice-president Strategy & Quality

The Vice-Chancellor thanked all staff and students for a year of change, challenges and hard work.

C Discussion Topic

8. General Education
A/Professor Cohen outlined the discussion paper reviewing the philosophical aspects of General Education courses (GE) and provided historical information. He noted that the key question was “should GE requirements be retained?” and:

1. If no, what do we do with the credit tied up in GE, or
2. If yes, is the current model working and what do we need to do to modify the rule?

The student members stated a preference for GE requirements to remain noting that this is unique to UNSW, enriches the learning experience and offers many benefits to the students.

The Board members indicated by a show of hands that a clear majority of members agreed that the General education requirement remain. The Board discussed the topic at length and raised a variety of questions for consideration including:
• Should marks from GE course be included in the WAM?
• Are we happy that the requirement is for GE courses that allow students to ‘step outside their faculty’?
• What constitutes a GE course? Should they be a specifically designed GE course and not defined as core courses for some programs?
• Should we develop a group of courses that reflect what UNSW is all about and fit with our Strategy? This could include social responsibility and would help define what a UNSW graduate is?
• Is this the right time to be looking at the issue with the challenges of UNSW3+ ahead?

Professor Cohen thanked the Board for the valuable discussion and noted that we will continue with the current rules for GE and the way forward will begin with the Academic Programs Committee reviewing the current rules and including consultation with the faculties.

D Policies and Procedures
9. Nil

E Programs
10. Academic Programs Reviews
★ 10.1 2017 APR Working Group Report

Mr Forsyth spoke to his paper and acknowledged the contribution during the year of the working party which included students, professional staff and members from Academic Administration and he noted that the oversight of HDR programs also now comes under the Academic Board APR committee.

Mr Forsyth advised that all Faculties would receive individual feedback on their reviews and a request that they provide a report to the Working Group in order to ‘close the loop’ on the recommendations of the review.

He further noted that one of the recommendations of the review of Academic Governance is for the Academic Board to enhance its oversight and responsibility for this process.

11. Academic Programs (New and Revised)

RESOLVED
To approve the following program proposals, as set out in the AIMS proposals:

11.1 Art & Design
New
a) 4822 Bachelor of Design
b) 4527 Bachelor of Design (Honours)
c) 4821 Bachelor of Fine Arts
d) 4526 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)
e) 4813 Bachelor of Media Arts
f) 4528 Bachelor of Media Arts (Honours)

11.2 Arts & Social Sciences
Revised
a) 8925 Master of Teaching (Primary)

11.3 Law
New
a) 9201 Master of Laws

12. Academic Programs (Disestablishments)

RESOLVED
To approve the following program disestablishments, as set out in the papers provided:

12.1 Art & Design
Suspensions
a) 9314 Master of Art (MArt)
b) 7307 Graduate Certificate in Art
c) 5307 Graduate Diploma in Art

Terminations
d) 9301 Master of Art (MArt)
e) 5302 Graduate Diploma in Art Administration
f) 5309 Graduate Diploma in Cross Disciplinary Art & Design
g) 7309 Graduate Certificate of Cross Disciplinary Art & Design
h) 9309 Master of Cross Disciplinary Art and Design
i) 5311 Graduate Diploma in Design
j) 5724 Graduate Diploma in Design
k) 7311 Graduate Certificate in Design
l) 9305 Master of Design (Coursework)
m) 9311 Master of Design

12.2 Business
Suspensions
a) 8423 Master of Marketing
b) 7414 Graduate Certificate in Marketing

12.3 Engineering
Suspension
a) 3065 Bachelor of Food Science (Hons) (1 year-program)

12.4 Law
Suspensions
a) 9200 Master of Laws
b) 9211 Master of Human Rights Law and Policy
c) 9212 Master of Environmental Law and Policy
d) 9235 Master of Dispute Resolution
e) 9240 Master of International Law and International Relations
f) 9281 Master of International Law and Security
g) 9214 Master of Law, Media and Journalism
h) 9231 Master of Business Law
i) 9285 Master of Criminal Justice and Criminology

13. Higher Degree Research Programs (Disestablishments)

RESOLVED
To approve the following program Higher Degree Research Program disestablishments, as set out in the papers provided:
C 14. Higher Doctorate – Confidential
Nil

F  Faculties and Board of Studies
15. Minutes from Faculty Boards and DVCA Board of Studies Meetings, if available
The Academic Board noted the minutes of the following Faculty Board meetings:

15.1 Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Board meeting held on 7 August 2017
15.2 DVC E Board of Studies meeting held on 6 July 2017
15.3 UNSW Built Environment meeting held on 16 October 2017
15.4 UNSW Engineering Faculty Board meeting held on 1 September 2017
15.5 UNSW Law Faculty Board meeting held on 13 September 2017
15.6 UNSW Medicine Faculty Board meeting held on 2 May 2017
15.7 UNSW Science Faculty Board meetings held on:
   15.7.1 17 August 2017
   15.7.2 20 September 2017

G  Reports and Committees
16. Education
16.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic – Report
Professor Crossley reported on the recent Teaching Awards, congratulating the recipients and noting that the feedback from students had provided external validation for these awardees. He further noted that the visibility of excellence in teaching at UNSW is increasing and we want to increase build on this by highlighting the outstanding teachers.

Professor Crossley discussed the configuration of a pathway for teaching awards from a faculty/divisional level through to awarding of national teaching awards. He also noted that Richard Buckland will be working with student input towards this process.

16.2 University Academic Programs Committee (UAPC)
Professor Crossley reported briefly on the University Academic Programs Committee (UAPC) meeting held on 10 November.

16.3 University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC)
The Board noted the minutes of the following meetings:
   16.3.1 11 October 2017 – signed minutes
   16.3.2 15 November 2017 – verbal report

16.4 Update on HESF Compliance and TEQSA Reregistration
The Board noted the paper.

Professor Crossley thanked everyone for their participation in presenting evidence that the University complies with the new Higher Education Standards Framework
16.5 PLuS Alliance: Online Course Exchange Grade Conversion  
The Academic Board noted the paper.

17. Research and Research Training

17.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research – Report  
Professor Fisk reported on:  
- The UNSW Futures Stage 1 has been completed with 12 proposals going through to Stage 2.  
- NHMRC results currently embargoed.  
- Topics covered in the Research planning day included an informative presentation by the PVCR on Quality v Quantity: developing a unified approach about what constitutes quality & metrics for measuring and incentivising research excellence.

17.2 University Research Committee (URC)  
Professor Fisk spoke briefly on the meeting 9 November 2017. He noted in particular the work being done by Professor Groth on how we quantify the quality of research in the HASS disciplines with metrics.

Professor Fisk further noted that the Board heard an update on ERA and a presentation form Professor Field on the learnings from Research Integrity.

17.3 Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research Training Report  
17.3.1 University HDR Committee (UHDRC)  
No report was provided in Professor Poole-Warren’s absence.

18. Operations

18.1 2025 Strategy Update  
Mr Nelms provided an overview of recent progress on the 2025 Strategy progress and initiatives and spoke briefly to the following:  
- The progress of the Strategy continues on track both with initiatives and mobilisation of funding.  
- Benefit realisation framework has been to Audit Committee.  
- The Faculty Showcases have shown 2025 in action with uniquely different presentations.

Mr Nelms noted that the outstanding momentum shown in 2017 is set to continue in 2018 with the embedding of the Student Hub, the CRM and ACIS.

18.2 Budget Update  
Ms West provided a presentation for the Board (Appendix B) and discussed with the financial health and sustainability of UNSW and the strategic resource allocation.

19. Questions without notice

There were no questions without notice.

20. Academic Board Annual Report  
The Board noted the Annual Report.

21. Business without notice  
There was no business without notice.
The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 12.05pm and welcomed members to stay for the annual end of year Academic Board lunch.

Next Academic Board meeting: Tuesday 20 February 2018, from 10am to 12 noon.

Presiding Member
Associate Professor David Cohen
President of the Academic Board
20 February 2018