

ACADEMIC BOARD (AB) Minutes of Meeting



Date: Tuesday 20 February 2018
Time: 10am – 12 noon
Venue: Council Chamber

PRESENT: Associate Professor D Cohen (Presiding Member)
Scientia Professors J Roberts and V Sahajwalla
Professors H Abbass, R Buckland, L Chappell, A Cossins, G Crisp, M Crossley, A Deletic, S Dodds, D Fabian, N Fisk, M Frater, R Harindranath, R Harley, M Hoffman, I Jacobs, E Johnston, L Jorm, H Lochhead, M Loosemore, M McLaws, P Munroe, L Poole-Warren, X Ruan, E Scheer, A Sowmya, A Steel, M Uncles, G Velan, M Velonaki and S T Waller
Associate Professors R Bolt, M Green, K Lai, and P Martens,
Drs C Benson, L Crommelin, G Edwards, S Graham, A Kayis-Kumar, D Moreau, K Moline, D Schlagwein, K Simon, and N Tedla
Messrs S Aggarwal(Student), E Bartolo (Student), G Forsyth, B Jones (Student), D Lloyd(Student) C Poulton (Student), A Sargotra, Ms R Abeyratne (Student), Ms B Oo, Ms M San Roque and Ms M Yu (Student)

IN ATTENDANCE: Professors E Baldry, Messrs M Borchert, J Fitzgibbon, D Gleeson, N Morris and R Nelms, Ms K George, 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 Professors M Davies, A Kelleher, C Styles, G Williams, Associate Professor J Nolan and Dr C Benson.

1.1 **Academic Board Membership 2018**

The Academic Board noted the current membership as of 1 January 2018.

1.2 **Membership Changes**

It was

RESOLVED

That the Academic Board recommend to Council that it approve the appointment of the following as members of the Academic Board:

- i. Ms Mehera San Roque in the category of Non-Professorial Member from the Faculty of Law, until 31 December 2018.
- ii. Professor Mari Velonaki in the category of Professorial Member from the Faculty of UNSW Art & Design, until 31 December 2018.
- iii. Dr Scott Sharpe in the category of Non-Professorial Member from UNSW Canberra, until 31 December 2018.

★ 2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 5 December 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**
The Board noted that there were no confidential items on the agenda.

B President's Business

- ★ **6. President's Report**
Associate Professor Cohen welcomed members to the first meeting of the Academic Board for 2018 and tabled his report (Appendix A). He highlighted the following issues from the paper:
 - The Board will have increased focus on academic quality and the Board will be implementing a random audit of courses in 2018.
 - Each of the Deans will be presenting to the Board a SWOT style analysis and outlook for the faculty for 2018.
 - The upcoming Chairs of Academic Boards meeting to be held at the Universities Australia Conference in Canberra.
 - Congratulations to Professor Michelle Simmons on being awarded the honour of Australian of the Year.
 - Planning is underway for the October meeting of Academic Board to be held at UNSW Canberra.

Associate Professor Cohen announced a new initiative for Academic Board, enabling members to provide 'questions on notice'. A request for questions, which may be submitted anonymously, will be sent prior to each meeting and the question will be allocated to the appropriate person for response. Associate Professor Cohen noted that members can still ask a question of the Chair at any meeting.

- ★ **7. Vice-Chancellor's Report**
Professor Ian Jacobs reported on the events arising since the last Board meeting including:
 - The signing of a Nobel Prize winning academic for UNSW in late 2017.
 - Australian of the Year, Professor Michelle Simmons. This prestigious announcement will be used to our advantage in UNSW advertising.
 - The signing of a solar energy contract with Origin Energy, in collaboration with a new solar energy company, is an important step in UNSW becoming a 'carbon neutral' campus.
 - The 50th anniversary of UNSW Canberra included the launch of the Defence Research Plan.
 - The current domestic political climate is quite hostile to universities, with criticism on many fronts, including claims of lack of relevance. Concentration on changing this perspective is important and will be the focus of the Go8 Universities.
 - The deterioration in the geo-political environment, including raised tension over activities in the South China Sea, has implications for UNSW and the sector. It is important we enable the message to be heard, that UNSW greatly values our students from China and that they have a great experience here.
 - Recent cuts to the funding of the University, including to the student load threshold equate to \$4M.

Professor Jacobs spoke to the challenges and opportunities for 2018 and discussed activities in five main areas of focus for UNSW including research, education, student satisfaction, equity and diversity and admissions.

C Reports and Committees

8. Education

★ 8.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic – Report

Professor Crossley noted the goals for 2018 and included the implementation of the Student Hub, CRM, ACIS and the Study Planner. He noted that the centralisation of these facilities was not popular but that faculties will benefit. Members of the Board discussed the implementation of the Student Hub and the staff and student anxieties around the change management processes that will be required.

The MyExperience survey results are highlighting some great results for the Faculties of Business and Social Science. Professor Crossley noted that Business has a satisfaction rate of 89-90 and a 10% growth in student numbers. Arts and Social Science are also to be commended for increasing participation and satisfaction rates over the last 2 years, and for developing great initiatives. These have included the community of teachers and an increased awareness that student experience matters.

Professor Crossley reported on enrolment and noted that UNSW had received the most first preferences at high schools for 2018 enrolment. He also noted the guaranteed entry scheme that has been in place since last year and the increased growth in Science and Engineering, both of which are currently over-enrolled.

Professor Crossley discussed international student enrolment and advised that although this has plateaued slightly, there is still an increase in Masters Coursework students in Business and Engineering.

★ 8.2 University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC)

University Academic Programs Committee (UAPC)

8.2.1 The Board noted the unsigned minutes of the 15 November 2017 UAQC meeting.

★ 8.3 Pro-Vice-Chancellor Report

Professor Crisp provided a presentation (Appendix B) on the goals for his portfolio and for the UAPC in 2018. He highlighted the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for his portfolio and noted the following:

- The students as partners approach is working well.
- It is imperative that we focus on our QILT scores as this is the public face of education for the University.
- The importance of becoming more outward looking, including increasing our focus on micro-credentialing.
- A need to reduce the numbers of Programs and Courses. Work will be undertaken with the PVC AE on the review of programs and on the academic and business cases for programs.

University Academic Programs Committee (UAPC)

8.3.1 The Board noted the signed minutes of the 11 November 2017 UAPC meeting.

★ 8.4 2017 Summary Report on myExperience

The Academic Board discussed this report briefly and Professor Crisp thanked Ms Keelin George for her work putting this report together.

9. Research and Research Training

★ 9.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research – Report

Professor Fisk tabled a report (Appendix C) on the priorities for the Research Committee for 2018 and reported on the following:

- The quality threshold requirement for the SHARP program is in the top 10% internationally and a return on our investment is required. Medical Research Institutes who are involved with the SHARP program will be required to contribute financially.
- UNSW Futures 1 has potentially 14 applications of which 4-5 will be selected by a selection panel comprised of the 4 DVCs.
- The PVC R will be speaking to each of the Faculties about ERA reporting and strategies for Journal and industry publications and rankings.

9.2 University Research Committee (URC)

9.2.1 The Academic Board noted the signed Minutes of the meeting on 9 November 2017.

★ 9.3 Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research Training Report

Professor Poole-Warren provided a presentation (Appendix D) on the goals for 2018 for her portfolio and for the UHDCRC committee. She noted

- The Scientia programs have been a success and are currently on track with 60 Scientia Fellowships and 200 Scientia Scholarships.
- Focus is required on equity programs including ensuring that equity is underpinning admission and merit is underpinning scholarships.
- The need to increase the number of women in HDR.
- The need to decrease the reliance on particular countries for our International intake.

9.3.1 University HDR Committee (UHDCRC)

The Academic Board noted the signed Minutes of the meeting on 2 November 2017.

10. Operations

★ 10.1 2025 Strategy Update

Mr Nelms opened his update acknowledging that 2017 was a monumental year of change for UNSW and that this kind of change is exhausting. He highlighted goals for 2018 and noted the following:

- Action plans for the Faculties have been developed following the Faculty Reviews.
- Council had noted that 17 out of 20 KPIs for the Strategy have been met with slippage identified in the remaining areas being addressed.
- Change management support will be enhanced with the recent reshaping of the support team and permanent resources available.
- UNSW3+, the CRM and ACIS are critical components projects are important to get right. Currently the Degree Planner is slightly behind schedule.
- Satellite Student Services have been established at UNSW Canberra and at UNSW Art and Design at Paddington.

D Policies and Procedures

★ 11. Academic Promotions Policy and Procedure 2018 – Revised

Professor Crossley spoke to the revised policy and procedure and advised the Board of the main changes including:

1. Scientia Professors are required to be high performing and in top 10% of their field and at least 3 should be female.
2. The inclusion of 'relative to opportunity' evaluation.
3. The requirement for a '3' score, demonstrating excellence in research, education or other

The Board discussed at length the changes to the policy. General comments about a lack of consultation with staff were noted by members. Specific concerns were raised including

- The need for academics to promote themselves and rate themselves as outstanding to achieve promotion. A reluctance for women to promote themselves was discussed.
- A need for more specific advice for applicants, including details on identifying what defines 'outstanding' performance, and explaining what is the 'other' entails i.e. leadership.
- The absence of supportive infrastructure to make sure high performing women are identified for promotion.
- It is a disincentive for academics on a career trajectory when the 'goal posts' keep changing and standards increasing each year.

Professor Crossley advised that he would be happy to respond to emails regarding members concerns about the approved policy and indicated that this could be considered for next years review of the policy and procedure.

The Board agreed that the DVC ED would bring to a future meeting of the Board, a presentation on what UNSW is doing to ensure that women are putting themselves forward for promotion [**Matter arising**].

E Programs

12. Academic Programs (New and Revised)

It was

RESOLVED

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

12.1 Arts & Social Sciences

Revised

- 7375 Graduate Certificate in University Learning & Teaching
- 3420 Bachelor of Social Research and Policy
- 3422 Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- 4033 Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)

12.2 Business

Revised

- 7321 Graduate Certificate in Taxation

12.3 Science

Revised

- 3053 Bachelor of Biotechnology (Honours)
- 8095 Master of Clinical Optometry

12.3 UNSW Canberra

Revised

- 8631 Master of Cyber Security, Strategy and Diplomacy
- 8629 Master of Cyber Security Operations

13. Academic Programs (Disestablishments)

Nil

14. Higher Degree Research Programs (Disestablishments)

Nil

15. Higher Doctorates – Confidential

Nil

F Faculties and Board of Studies

16. Minutes from Faculty Boards and DVCA Board of Studies Meetings, if available

The Academic Board noted the minutes of the following Faculty Board meetings:

16.1 Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Board meeting held on 9 October 2017

16.2 UNSW Law Faculty Board meeting held on 1 November 2017

16.3 UNSW Medicine Faculty Board meeting held on 7 November 2017

H Question Time

★ **17. Questions without notice**

There were no questions without notice.

I Any Other Business

★ **18. Business without notice**

There was no business without notice.

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 12.15pm

Next Academic Board meeting: Tuesday 27 March 2018, from 10am to 12 noon.



Presiding Member
Associate Professor David Cohen
President of the Academic Board
27/03/2018