

ACADEMIC BOARD (AB) Minutes of Meeting



Date: Tuesday 27 March 2018
Time: 10am – 12 noon
Venue: Council Chamber, Chancellery

PRESENT: Associate Professor D Cohen (Presiding Member)
Scientia Professor J Roberts
Professors A Cossins, D Blackman, G Crisp, M Crossley, A Deletic, S Dodds, D Fabian, N Fisk, M Frater, R Harindranath, R Harley, E Johnston, L Jorm, H Lochhead, M Loosemore, M McLaws, P Munroe, L Poole-Warren, X Ruan, E Scheer, A Steel, C Styles, M Uncles, G Velan, M Velonaki and S T Waller
Associate Professors R Bolt, M Green, K Lai, P Martens and N Tedla
Drs C Benson, G Edwards, S Graham, A Kayis-Kumar, D Moreau, J Nolan, D Schlagwein, S Sharpe and K Simon
Messrs E Bartolo (Student), G Forsyth, S Aggarwal (Student), B Jones (Student), D Lloyd (Student) C Poulton (Student), A Sagotra (Student) and Z Solomon (Student)
Ms R Abeyratne (Student), Ms S Azad (Student) and Ms M San Roque

IN ATTENDANCE: Professors E Baldry, I Gibson and J Morris, Messrs M Borchert, J Fitzgibbon, N Morris and R Nelms, Ms K George and 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 Professor V Sahajwalla, G Williams, Professors H Abbass, R Buckland, L Chappell, M Crossley, M Davis, M Hoffman, I Jacobs, A Kelleher, M Loosemore, M McLaws, L Poole-Warren and A Sowmya, Drs L Crommelin and K Molin, Messrs A Cain-Grey (Student), S Dhouchak (Student), Ms B Oo and Ms S Zhou (Student).

The Board noted with sadness the passing of former Academic Board Member, Professor Kerry Jacobs. Professor Jacobs had been a member of the Academic Board for 4 years and was a valuable contributor to discussions. The Board offered condolences to Professor Jacob's family and colleagues.

The Board also noted the passing of Professor David Cooper, a pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV, and the passing of former UNSW Law Dean and Indigenous law advocate Professor Garth Nettheim.

★ 2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2018 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. The Presiding Member requested the rearrangement of the agenda items and bringing Item 9 forward in the meeting.

A motion for the adoption of the unstarred items was received and carried.

★ 5. **Confirmation of confidential items**

The Board noted that Item 21 was confidential.

B President's Business

★ 6. **President's Report**

Associate Professor Cohen tabled a report and highlighted the following points:

- In 2018 each Faculty will be presenting to the Board a 'SWOT' style presentation on academic matters in their Faculty. Professor Styles will present on UNSW Business for this meeting.
- With UNSW3+ commencing in 10 months a working group of Academic Board will be undertaking audits of a sample of courses focusing on the transition of content.
- Simplification of terminology related to courses and program structure will be undertaken as part of the Program Design and Delivery.

6.1 **Revisions to UNSW Rules and TOR**

Associate Professor Cohen advised the Board that changes to the UNSW Rules regarding Academic Board and Faculties, and changes to the Terms of Reference for the University and Academic Board Committees are being made in line with the recommendations arising from the Review of Academic Governance undertaken in 2017.

The Board noted the changes including increasing of elected student and staff members for each Faculty Board and the inclusion of the reference to the obligations of addressing the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF).

The Board requested that a statement be included in the Rules outlining the consideration of diversity and inclusion in committee membership within the constraints of the defined membership positions. It was noted that, as an outcome of the Athena Swan initiative, an overarching policy and position on diversity on Boards at UNSW was being developed and that a statement, in line with these principles, could be developed for the UNSW Rules.

Associate Professor Cohen noted that the final document would be circulated at the May meeting of Academic Board for subsequent recommendation to Council for approval [**Matter arising**].

The Board discussed the minor changes to the Academic Board Standing Orders for approval.

RESOLVED

To approve the amendments to the Academic Board Standing Orders

6.2 **University Committee Membership – Students**

Associate Professor Cohen advised the Board of the proposed student member appointments to the University and Academic Board Committees as outlined in the paper. The appointments were endorsed by the Board.

★ 7. **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

No report was given in the VC's absence.

★ 8. **Faculty Presentation**

UNSW Business School – Outlook

Professor Chris Styles spoke to his presentation (Appendix B) outlining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks facing the UNSW Business School. He noted, in particular, the Faculty's strengths in undertaking quality research, in attracting high quality academic staff and also in developing and fostering excellence and promotion of existing academic staff. Professor Styles identified weaknesses in the area of translation of research and the focus on a limited group of countries for international recruitment.

The Board discussed the presentation and Professor Styles responded to questions from Board members.

★ 9. **Discussion Topic**

Supporting women in STEMM to apply for promotion – Professor Eileen Baldry

Professor Eileen Baldry spoke to her presentation (Appendix B) outlining the support, currently in place or planned, for staff applying for promotion. This includes one-hour faculty-based sessions and one on one sessions with the Academic Promotions Manager or the DVC ID, for staff applying for promotion to Levels D and E.

C Question Time

★ 10. **Questions on notice**

- Update on Academic Promotions Policy

The Chair noted the questions on notice and the responses that had been provided in the paper.

Professor Jonathan Morris provided a response to the question 2018/1 and noted that UNSW was encouraging publishing but in better journals and assisting with promotion. It was noted that the University would like to avoid researchers publishing in lower end publications and focussing on a quality over quantity approach across the University and providing assistance and career development for researchers to achieve this.

★ 11. **Questions without notice**

There were no questions without notice.

D Policies and Procedures

12. **Thesis Examination Procedure - Revised**

The Academic Board discussed the revised Thesis Examination Procedure.

It was

RESOLVED

To endorse the revised Thesis Examination Procedure for approval by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research

13. **DVCA Policy Update**

The Board noted the DVCA Policy report.

14. **Research and HDR Policy Update**

The Board noted the Research Training Policy Framework

E Programs

15. **Academic Programs (New and Revised)**

It was

RESOLVED

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

15.1 Engineering – Revision

- a) 3061 Bachelor of Science (Honours)

16. Academic Programs (Disestablishments)

It was

RESOLVED

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

- 16.1 Engineering
- a) 3644 Photonic Engineering
 - b) 3634 Photonic Engineering/Science

17. Higher Degree Research Programs

Nil

18. Higher Doctorates - Confidential

Nil

F Reports and Committees

19. Education

- 19.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Report
In Professor Crossley's absence, Professor Crisp provided this report under Item 19.3.

- 19.2 University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC)
19.2.1 The Board noted the signed minutes of the 21 February 2018.

- 19.3 Pro-Vice Chancellor Education Report
Professor Crisp provided an update and noted that the impact of the cap on Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) has had impacts in several areas including proposals for new programs. He noted that this has resulted in a resetting of targets and advised that comprehensive Business Cases would be required to accompany new program proposals.

Professor Crisp advised that the contract with the new third-party provider of programs, 'KeyPath' has been entered into. He noted that these will be fully online postgraduate programs and that further discussions with faculties are underway.

- 19.4 University Academic Programs Committee (UAPC)
19.4.1 The Board noted the signed minutes of the 9 February 2018 meeting.

**20. Academic Standing and Re-enrolment Appeals
Semester 2 2017**

The Academic Board noted this report

C 21. Student Conduct and Complaints – Annual report

The Academic Board noted this report.

22. Research and Research Training

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- 22.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Report
Professor Fisk provided an update and noted the following:
- The annual NHMRC funding analysis showed an improved quantum award (\$86M, 40% up) for this year, which was largely due to UNSW's new affiliation with The George Institute. However UNSW still came only 4th in the Go8.
 - An Affiliation Agreement has been signed with the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute to administer their grant funding (including NHMRC) through UNSW.
 - UNSW is placed 2nd nationally in total new ARC funding (\$56M).

- UNSW was 1st nationally in DP (for the second year in a row) and LIEF grant funding this year.
- The QS subject rankings showed that UNSW ranked in the top 50 in 4 of 5 broad subject areas. UNSW topped the nation again in Engineering, but for the other broad areas was middle placed among the Go8.

22.2 University Research Committee (URC)
22.2.1 8 March 2018 – unsigned minutes. (This item was withdrawn.)

★ 22.3 Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research Training Report
No report was provided in Professor Poole-Warren's absence.

22.4 University HDR Committee (UHDRC)
22.4.1 The Academic Board noted the unsigned Minutes of the meeting on 15 February 2018.

Operations

23.1 2025 Strategy
Mr Nelms provided a Strategy Update for the Board and advised members that a progress statement has been launched and is available for download on the Strategy 2025 website. He noted that a level of change fatigue is being experienced across the University as Operational Excellence is embedded. He further added that despite this, good progress is still being made. He noted progress on the four crucial initiatives:

- UNSW3+
- The CRM
- ACIS
- The Student Hub

Mr Nelms also reported on the Council KPIs and noted that of the 20 KPIs for Council, 81% were on target. These include:

- Student enrolment
- Student retention – currently we are sitting at 90% retention rate which is on target and only second to Melbourne University.
- Student satisfaction is at 90% although it was noted that satisfaction of experience is lagging behind and is being addressed.
- Graduate employability – we are currently sitting at 76% and close to our target of 78%-79% however UNSW currently is listed as the number one University in the Go8 for graduate employability.

G Faculties and Board of Studies

24 Minutes from Faculty Boards and BoS

The Academic Board noted the minutes of the following Faculty Board and DVCA Board of Studies meetings:

- 24.1 DVCA Board of Studies meeting held on 30 November 2017
- 24.2 Built Environment meeting held on 6 November 2017
- 24.3 Engineering meeting held on 3 November 2017
- 24.4 Science meeting held on 22 November 2017
- 24.5 UNSW Art & Design meeting held on 1 November 2017
- 24.6 UNSW Business meeting held on 19 October 2017
- 24.7 UNSW Canberra meetings held on:
 - 24.7.1 28 August 2017
 - 24.7.2 27 November 2017

I Any Other Business

★ **23. Business without notice**

Professor Cohen made a presentation and expressed thanks to Ms Kathrine Taunton, Secretary to the Academic Board on her last meeting and advised that she was leaving UNSW. The Board noted their appreciation and thanks.

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 12pm.

Next Academic Board meeting: Tuesday 8 May 2018, 10am – 12pm, Council Chamber, Chancellery



Presiding Member
Associate Professor David Cohen
President of the Academic Board
8 May 2018