

SENATE NEWS

The Academic Senate Communiqué

13 February 2024 Meeting



nganggali ngara ngura (Darkinyung language for Talking Listening Place) Ourimbah Campus

Quality Assurance

2023 Academic Senate Annual Assurance Report

Each year Senate reviews the activities of Academic Senate and Committees for the year against the Functions of Academic Senate as outlined in the Governance Rule and issues a Report. The substantial increase in the number of Requests for Academic Decision (RADs) that PAS received in 2023 was noted. The PAS also advised of the completion of an informal self-review of operations, with some suggested changes to be discussed with relevant stakeholders throughout 2024.

2023 Academic Senate Member Survey

Results of the Survey will inform several changes to be implemented in 2024, particularly around the areas of general education of members, facilitation of deeper discussion of issues at meetings, and the introduction of Academic Senate staff member meetings with the PAS.

WATCH OUR PRE-RECORDED PRESENTATIONS

The following pre-recorded presentations are available on request from [Academic Senate Services](#):

Academic Workload Allocation Model (AWAM)
- Pilot 12 month review for 2023

Wellbeing Health and Safety
- 2023 year in review

CHMW College Board Report

CESE College Board Report

CHSF College Board Report

PALS Board Report

Review of Research Policy Documents

WHAT'S NEW

NEW MEMBERS

See who has been appointed to Senate

A/Professor Narelle Eather

Dr Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen

Dr Joseph Pegler

Mr Nathan West

Miss Maria Cano Dominguez

Dr Shep Chidarikire

Imogen Reid

Noah Cross

Laura Dowling

Sartaj Singh Sahota

Strategic Issues & Innovations

Innovations from Members

The following innovations were noted: the Country Led Practice in the Built Environment at CESE; Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) mapping of all CHMW courses; 50 years of Open Foundation; AI opportunities for course convenors; and the successful relocation of the exercise and sports science discipline.

International Onshore Admissions Report 2020-2023

The DVCG noted that of recent government policy changes, and Covid boarder closures had changed the on the location of international student cohorts to the University over past years. The effects of changes to the student visa system on international student numbers was also discussed.

Forum Items

Academic Workload Allocation Model (AWAM)

12 month pilot review

It was noted that there was general agreement with the principles outlined by the AWAM particularly in relation to equity and transparency. When discussed at Senate, concerns were raised about the number of hours required to deliver large courses which can present risks to quality. It was noted that there was discretion that could be exercised in relation to the model.

Non-Traditional Research Outputs (NTRO)

A progress report was presented on the NTRO framework and its suitability in recognising the diversity and excellence of creative research since 2021. It was noted that systematic collation is occurring through the NTRO Guidelines where quality ratings are aligned to Australian Research Council / TEQSA requirements. The collaboration with office of ISL and Wollotuka was noted in the development of the guiding principles for indigenous research based NTROs.



Reports from Executive

Chancellor's Address to Senate

The Chancellor, the Hon. Patricia Forsythe AM, gave an address to Senate reflecting on her time as a student and acknowledged Academic Senate's role in the upcoming TEQSA accreditation.

PAS Report

The PAS advised members of the new Staff Forums commencing in 2024 for Academic Senate elected staff members to raise issues informally and consider matters which could be brought to the Academic Senate. The PAS outlined several priorities for the year as part of the Academic Senate's functions, including deep dives into data addressing areas of academic risk, policy updates and quality assurance matters, and considering matters related to artificial intelligence.

VC's Report

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated University staff on the recent achievements in the Australia Day Honours and the Newcastle Citizen of the Year awards. The office of PVCAE was also congratulated for the achievement of five SAGE Cygnet awards on the path to achieve Athena Swan SAGE Silver accreditation. The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2024-2025, and the record number of graduating in the December were noted. The VC spoke at length on student recruitment and retention, noting the increased numbers of domestic enrolments due to the Early Entry program and strong retention figures. The drop in international enrolments was contextualised in the light of recent government changes with visa requirements. The Vice-Chancellor also noted the imminent release of the Australian Universities Accord.

POLICY CHANGES

AMENDED

Admissions Manual - Coursework and Enabling Programs

Special Tertiary Admission Test (STAT),

Guaranteed Entry Admission Scheme Schedule and School Based Training Pathway

Course Management and Assessment Manual

Program Management Manual

Enrolment Manual

Recognition of Prior Learning
(formerly Academic Credit Policy)

Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items
Policy and Procedure

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation Procedure
(formerly Grade Point Average Calculation Guideline)

Awards and Graduation Policy - List of Current
Awards

Diploma - Awards and Program Schedule

Graduate Certificate - Awards and Program
Schedule

Microcredentials Schedule

RESCINDED

Research Code of Practice for Students Enrolled in Honours
Degrees - Guideline

NEW

Support for Students Policy

Microcredentials Framework and Policy

Recognition of Formal Learning Procedure

Recognition of Informal and Non-formal Learning Procedure



Committee News

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC)

The DVCA advised of several policy changes and noted the return to compliance with the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (ESOS) Act. The DVCA noted changes to the mid-semester break for semester 2 following feedback from students and staff and noted increased student retention figures in 2024.

Research Committee (RC)

DVCRI gave a brief update on the Research and Innovation Division highlights of 2023. The update included grant applications and funding; strategic partnerships and collaborations; events held by the Division; and programs and systems implemented. It was noted that 2023 saw the highest ever research income received by the University before outlining the progress of the Engagement Priorities and actions for 2024.

Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC)

The PCAC Chair thanked departing members Professor Suzanne Evans and Associate Professor Thayaparan Gajendran for their valuable contributions to the Committee. A number of new awards and changes to programs and courses approved by the PCAC was reported.

College and PALS Boards

Health Medicine and Wellbeing (CHMW)

The PVC CHMW noted the achievements of both Professor Nathan Bartlett and Emeritus Professor Julie Byles for Newcastle Citizen of the Year and Senior Citizen of the Year respectively.

Engineering Science and Environment (CESE)

The PVC CESE noted the success of the "Town Hall Meeting" as a forum for two-way communication across the College, with further meetings are planned for 2024. Highlighted were the number of students enrolled in the new Country-Led Practice course in the Built Environment and recognition was given to Emeritus Professor George Willis for the 2023 George Szekeres Medal; and Associate Professor Marc Adam named Research Magazine 2024 Field Leader in Human / Computer Interaction.

Human and Social Futures (CHSF)

The PVC CHSF highlighted the Chromatic Festival and the School of Education Maths Pilot Project. Noted were the achievements of Laureate Professor Jenny Gore as Fellow of Academic of Social Sciences in Australia and Order of Australia; Professor Catharine Coleborne as Fellow of Australian Academy of the Humanities; Dr Alice Neikirk for the History Council of South Australia Fellowship; and Professor David Lubins as a highly cited researcher in the 2023 CHSF Excellence Awards.

Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS)

The Director of the PALS Board advised that 2024 celebrates 50 years of the Open Foundation program, noted that 70,000 students had been engaged in the program since its inception, and that one in five undergraduate students complete a PALS UoN Pathway program.

Next Meeting
Wednesday 10th April 2024

Want More Information

Academic Senate Services: academicsenate@newcastle.edu.au

or the President of Academic Senate: PAS@newcastle.edu.au