



What's New?

Appointments

Dr Gabriel Rau as an alternate member until May 2027 for Ms Maria Cano Dominguez.

Thankyou

Professor Susan Ledger (acting PVCSE),
Mr Warrick Dawson (PVCIE) and
Professor Kylie Shaw (DGR)

Welcome

Professor Alan Broadfoot (acting PVCIE)
Professor Rohan Walker (Interim (PVCR) and
Interim DGR)

Vacancies

2 x Level A, B or C positions for CHMW

Quality Assurance

Annual Review of Academic Delegations 2026

The 2026 Review and proposed amendments were noted, with the report referred to the Nominations and Governance Committee.

Annual Academic Risk Update 2026

The 2026 report was noted and referred to the Risk Committee for noting.

Coursework Admissions Report (Semester 2) for UG and PG

The Report provided details for Semester Two 2025 admit terms, including both international and domestic students admitted via admission waivers.

Annual PRISMS Actions Report

The 2025 report summarised the Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) data required under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000.

Annual Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Report

The annual report was noted which advised of the proposal that the next iteration of the report include deeper analysis to support stronger compliance reporting.

Annual Cohort Performance Reports

The annual reports provided detailed analysis of undergraduate student outcomes; postgraduate coursework perspectives; international onshore undergraduate student outcomes; and the equity, diversity and inclusion cohorts for 2025, with the reports provided to Colleges for responses.

Forum Items

Governance Framework for International Admissions Pathway Arrangements



A proposal to establish a governance framework for international admissions schemes was endorsed by Academic Senate following discussion and recommendation by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

It was advised that whilst there were strategic and financial benefits posed by international admissions pathways, and that such pathway arrangements could support student preparedness and potentially improve completion outcomes, they also posed a number of risks to the University. The committees discussed risks to academic integrity and program quality; regulatory risks to compliance; reputational risks associated with perceptions of

reduced entry standards; and financial and operational risks for long-term sustainability and dependence on partner institutions.

It was noted the absence of a defined governance framework had resulted in inconsistent approaches to approval, unclear accountability, and uneven quality assurance processes. A formal governance framework based on principles of academic oversight, due diligence, risk assessment, monitoring and transparency, to ensure consistent and rigorous evaluation of pathway agreements was adopted by Senate to reduce these risks. The Framework will expand the Articulation Agreement Framework, incorporate associated operating procedures, and include additional consultation with Colleges and Divisions.

Academic Senate also reviewed the pilot the Special Admission Scheme Review – CESE and Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMTS) partnership. The decision to discontinue this scheme was endorsed as it was advised that there were no student admissions under this scheme in the six-month pilot period.

Academic Senate noted that any future proposals relating to this or similar global admission pathways should be initiated and led by the Academic Division (Global Partnerships).

Academic Workload Allocation Model (AWAM) Policy Review Terms of Reference

Robust discussion was conducted at Academic Senate on the draft AWAM policy review. The SDVCAG advised that a staged and consultative review process had begun on the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and that it was anticipated that the review would be concluded by September 2026. A Working Group compiled through an expression of interest process and comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders will advise the Panel which will be Chaired by the PVVC CHMW.

Academic Senate members broadly welcomed the review, highlighting the importance of examining teaching workload, administrative responsibilities, cultural load for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and evolving academic work profiles. Members also expressed support for broad representation across Colleges and academic cohorts.

Discussion identified several areas for further consideration, including balancing consistency in workload allocation with discipline-specific needs, ensuring diverse representation on the review Panel and Working Group, clarifying the role of subject matter experts, and strengthening the review methodology. Suggestions included greater use of academic-specific survey data, anonymous staff feedback mechanisms, and benchmarking against comparable institutions.

The PVC CHMW and SDVCAG confirmed that these matters were under consideration and emphasised the review's commitment to balancing institution-wide principles with flexibility, alongside a transparent process. Senate further reviewed a member submission with proposals to strengthen the review methodology which was put to a confidential vote outside of the meeting. Feedback from the meeting, the result of the vote and a separate session on the AWAM held on 23rd June will be taken into consideration by the SDVCAG and PVC CHMW as part of the ongoing AWAM Policy Review process.



Academic Risk Items



Risk to Program Integrity - Over-Enrolments in 1000 Level Courses

Following large increases in the number of students over-enrolling in 1000 level courses, the PAS advised that greater scrutiny would be placed on record of academic decisions (RADs) that come for PAS approval for such instances from the start of 2027.

Whilst it was acknowledged that system issues had led to an increase in such requests, subsequent measures such as greater communication with Schools, checking of student enrolments and general education, meant that this scrutiny was necessary to protect the academic integrity of the University's programs.

Risk of Non-Compliance - Third Party Arrangements Reporting

Following matters raised by the Associate Deans Education at the March Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, discussions were undertaken with the PAS, Global Office and Academic Policy and Compliance Teams. Key considerations and proposed process were outlined to further explore reporting approaches that align with the University's compliance requirements under the HESF and TEQSA, with a sustainable reporting approach is currently under development for future reporting requirements to Senate.

Academic Risk Updates

Academic English Screening Test (AEST) - proposal and pilot approved by Academic Senate to replace the AEST with the Library and Academic Skills Tool (LAST) to better suit the needs of UoN students.

Governance Rule Changes for Elections – proposal for the election of academic governance committee members had been endorsed by the Nominations and Governance Committee to ensure members embody the requirements for a [“Fit and Proper Person”](#) as identified by TEQSA and that students do not serve on committees at the detriment to their studies.

2027 Academic Calendar - consultation ongoing.

Radicalisation of Students by AI and Social Media Algorithms - advised that the item had been deferred to the 9th July meeting of the Cyber and AI Governance Committee.



Reports from the Executive

PAS Report

The PAS advised that student representatives raised concerns about the academic calendar, exam scheduling, IT disruptions, availability of student support services, and communication during assessment periods. The inaugural Student Voice Forum was noted, with members encouraged to promote the next forum scheduled for September.

Elected academic staff reported challenges including the cost and logistics of online exam proctoring, workload pressures linked to the AWAM, consultation needs for the 2027 academic calendar, and concerns about the perceived effectiveness of Academic Senate. A special Academic Senate session on the Education, Research and Engagement Plans emphasised the need for clearer institutional priorities, improved staff support, stronger collaboration, and more effective measures of success.

Updates on sector developments were also provided, including ARC open access requirements and outcomes from the recent OzCABS meeting, alongside recognition of institutional achievements. Members were encouraged to review a Loop article [What can Academic Senate do? Its role and expectations.](#)

VC's Report

The VC provided updates on key leadership and staffing changes, including the retirement of COO David Toll and the appointment of Morven Cameron in an interim capacity. New appointments included Professor Jennifer McDonnell as PVCSE, Michael DiRienzo as interim CFO replacing Paul McCubbin, and Professor Craig Simmons as DVCRI, with thanks extended to Professor Juanita Todd for her service in the role. The VC noted work by the CPCO at the AHEA conference to improve psychosocial safety, highlighting that concerns are more often reflected in EAP usage than formal reports, with peak usage in March 2024 for largely personal matters.

The VC also reported on the Professorial Network Forum, QS subject rankings performance, and efforts to enhance institutional reputation. Achievements included 336 UNCIE graduates and strong industry engagement at the Strategic Plan launch with Business Hunter. Sector collaboration on copyright negotiations and a holistic response to the racism survey were noted. The University's parliamentary reported surplus will be reinvested into staff, students, and campus facilities.

Further updates covered stricter international student visa requirements, particularly for Nepal, and the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission, which will oversee student allocations from 2027. Additional items included compliance in international partnerships, developments from the NSW Inquiry into Universities, feedback on the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, and the discontinuation of federal funding schemes.

Policy Changes

AMENDED (Review Period)

Higher Degree by Research Policy
Higher Degree by Research Procedure
Doctoral Degree (Research) - Awards and Programs Schedule
Masters Degree (Research) – Awards and Programs Schedule
Doctoral Degree (Research) in Clinical Psychology - Awards and Programs Schedule
Jointly Awarded Doctoral Degrees and Dual Award Doctoral Degrees Policy
Research Training Program Scholarship Policy
Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Policy
Code of Practice for Higher Degree by Research Candidature
Research Thesis with a Creative Component Procedure

NEW

Export Controls Policy
Export Controls Procedure

RESCINDED – Nil



Committee News

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) – 19th May 2026 Meeting

The Interim PVCEI and acting Chair of the TLC noted that the Education Plan was in development following consultation on three key pillars, with a strong focus on first-year experience, teaching quality, and enabling systems. SFUN results showed high student satisfaction but declining engagement. Concerns were raised about unresolved student issues, including food, enrolment, timetabling, and planning tools. Improvements to data systems and timetabling are underway, with CourseLoop identified as a potential solution. Initiatives to enhance student experience and campus engagement were highlighted, alongside the importance of communicating responses to feedback and addressing cohort performance challenges.

Research Committee (RC) – 20th May 2026 Meeting

The Interim DVCRI noted the recent RC survey highlighted strengths in reporting and structure, alongside opportunities to strengthen strategic discussion, benchmarking visibility, and engagement. Improvement initiatives include clearer decision-making and a stronger strategic focus. The RC noted that Research Plan aligns with the Looking Ahead 2030 strategy, prioritising capacity, quality, and partnerships, while addressing challenges such as HDR recruitment, industry engagement, and funding uncertainty. Progress on replacing the Nexus system with the Neuro platform was noted, and the 2025 Research Integrity Report showed increased but mostly minor complaints, reflecting improved reporting, with ongoing need for timeliness, benchmarking, and greater transparency.

Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC) – 1st April and 13th May 2026 Meetings

The SDVCAG highlighted the suite of Engineering course and program revisions (ENG27), including a common first semester designed to expose students to different disciplines and support informed program selection, with improved inclusion for equity students. Market expectations for the Bachelor of Pharmacy were also noted. It was further advised that whilst approvals under delegated authority are possible; late requests are not always accommodated due to equity considerations, underscoring the need for more accurate course number forecasting to support planning, ensure fairness, and improve administrative efficiency.

College Board Reports

Health Medicine and Wellbeing (CHMW) – 21st April 2026 Meeting

The PVC CHMW and Chair of the College Board highlighted challenges from an earlier semester start and flooding disruptions in the HERB building. Research performance remained strong, with major MRFF and NHMRC grant submissions and enhanced collaboration with HMRI and achievements were recognised at research awards events. Plans for a multiprofessional student-led clinic and ongoing work on research space optimisation, sustainable simulation labs, and facilities planning were noted. Industry and student engagement initiatives continued, alongside expansion in Tamworth and a strong focus on Indigenous engagement, including preparations for the 200th Indigenous student graduation milestone.

Engineering Science and Environment (CESE) – 21st April 2026 Meeting

The acting PVC CESE and Chair of the College Board noted the completion of a major Engineering curriculum review approved by PCAC and progress on a replacement program for the Bachelor of Surveying (Honours). Strong research performance and industry engagement were highlighted, with high participation in major grant schemes and significant application volumes. It was advised that the College was reviewing its research advisory structures and engaging academic staff through targeted consultation to inform research planning, alongside increasing support to improve application quality and processes. Upcoming outreach initiatives include Experiment Fest, aimed at engaging high school students.

Human and Social Futures (CHSF) – 28th May 2026 Meeting

The PVC CHSF and Chair of the College Board noted a significant year-to-date increase in research outputs and active participation in Category 1 funding schemes, including an ARC Laureate application. Growth areas included the Juris Doctor online program and Master of Social Work pathways, supported by Graduate Diplomas, alongside strong mid-year EFTSL figures and rising enrolments in photography courses. Collaboration through HCSS and shared counselling services was highlighted. Upcoming initiatives include a College Professoriate meeting to strengthen engagement and improved connections across the College. The PVC CHSF noted preparations for graduation events and the appointment of Professor Robert Parkes as Dean of Education.



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

PALS Board Report

Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS)– 17th March 2026 Meeting

The Director of PALS Board reported on the 17 March 2026 meeting, noting recognition for the Fee-Free Uni Ready initiative and advising of an upcoming name change. Diploma program enrolments continued to grow, though at a slower pace due to academic calendar changes and revised admission timing affecting “slip back” offers. The Diploma in

University Studies contributed to reduced uptake in other pathways, except in industry-aligned programs with sustained demand. Widening Participation Pathways showed strong engagement with schools and communities through accelerated learning initiatives, expansion of Children’s University activities, and collaborative programs aimed at improving access to higher education and strengthening community connections.

2026 Academic Senate Membership and Attendance

President

Associate Professor Marcus Rodrigs

Deputy President

Associate Professor Geoffry De Iuliis

Ex Officio Membership

Vice Chancellor
DVC (Engagement & Equity))
SDVC (Academic)
DVC (Research & Innovation)
CHSF PVC
CESE PVC
CHMW PVC
PVC (Student Experience)
Academic Registrar
PVC (Education Innovation)
PVC (Research)
PVC (Industry & Engagement)
PVC (Indigenous Strategy & Leadership)
PVC (Global)
Director PALS
Dean of Graduate Research
PVC and CEO NAIHE (Singapore)

Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
Mr Nathan Towney (*Interim*)
Professor Belinda Tynan
Professor Juanita Todd (*Acting*)
Professor Robert Greenberg
Professor Craig Simmons (proxy Professor Brett Nixon)
Professor Lisa Wood
Professor Susan Ledger (*Interim*)
Mr John Radvan (*Representative*)
Professor Karen Blackmore (*Acting*)
Professor Rohan Walker
Professor Alan Broadfoot (*Acting*) - APOLOGY
Ms Loren Collyer (*Acting*) – APOLOGY
Professor Alek Vonninski - APOLOGY
A/Professor Anna Bennett
Professor Rohan Walker (*Acting*)
Professor Abhisek Bhati (*Interim*)

Elected Staff Membership

CHSF

Dr Kate Ferguson-Patrick
Dr Tim Connor
A/Professor Bin Li - APOLOGY
Professor Marianna Sigala - APOLOGY
Professor Jesper Gulddal
A/Professor Nancy Cushing
Dr Justin Ellis
Dr Angela Page

PALS

Dr Michelle Mansfield
Dr Annika Westrenius

CESE

Dr Kyle Harrison
Dr Joseph Pegler
Dr Gabriel Rau (*Alternate*)
A/Professor Terrence Summers
A/Professor Geoffry Deluliis
A/Professor Michelle Kelly - APOLOGY
Dr Boyang Li
Dr Mark Wallis

Non-Newcastle Campus

Professor Troy Gaston
Dr Joyleen Christensen

CHMW

Dr Shep Chidarikire
A/Professor Vanessa Murphy - APOLOGY
A/Professor Adam Collison
Professor Allison Cummins - APOLOGY
Dr Michelle Stubbs (*proxy Ms Marlen Orsina*)
Dr Catherine Johnston

Elected Student Representatives

Undergraduate

Imogen Reid
Omotola Abimbola - APOLOGY
Marie Ferguson- APOLOGY

International

Ashutosh Chugh

Postgraduate Coursework

Cheryl Johanna Meeran

Postgraduate HDR

Thomas Tildsley

Vacant and disestablished positions removed.