

Academic Senate *Communiqué*

5th September 2023



Membership Update

Welcome to new Academic Senate members:

- Professor Steven Warburton (Ex-Officio PVC EI)
- Professor Juanita Todd (Ex-Officio PVC R)
- Professor Julia Connell (Ex-Officio acting CEO and PVC NAIHE)

Thank you to Members:

- Associate Professor Karen Blackmore (stepping down from DPASTL role)
- Professor Brian Kelly (Ex-Officio PVC R)
- Professor Tony Travaglione (Ex-Officio CEO and PVC NAIHE)
- Professor Laura-Anne Bull (Ex-Officio PVC SEAR, leaving in November)
- Professor John Fischetti (Ex-Officio PVC CHSF, leaving December)

Welcome to acting Deputy President of Academic Senate (Teaching and Learning):

Professor Jesper Gulddal



Governance Matters

External Review of Academic Governance (ERAG) 2020 Implementation Update

Update given on the progress of the final two recommendations from the ERAG noting work Recommendation 4 around service teaching is underway with the Program Progression Project; and Recommendation 16 around strategic thinking would be completed following a Strategic Thinking workshop to be held for key office holders in October. Members advised that academic

governance is a continuous process with enhancements to items addressed in the ERAG occurring as part of this process.

Terms of Reference

- Education Quality Enhancement Sub-Committee

Policy / Rule Changes

- English Language Proficiency Procedure (administrative amendments)
- Admissions Procedure Manual (Coursework Programs)
- Joint Medical Program (JMP) Schedule
- WIL Guiding Principles
- Higher Degree by Research Policy
- Higher Degree by Research Procedure
- Doctoral Degree (Research) Awards and Programs Schedule
- Doctoral Degree (Research) in Clinical Psychology Awards and Programs Schedule
- Masters Degree (Research) Awards and Programs Schedule

Rescinded Documents:

- Professional Doctorates Policy
- Coursework Professional Doctorates Guidelines
- Research Project Monitoring Guideline – Professional Doctorate Candidates
- Higher Doctoral Degrees Policy
- Higher Degrees by Research Posthumous Awards Policy
- Higher Degrees by Research Posthumous Awards Procedure
- Conflict of Interest for Higher Degree by Research Supervisors Guideline
- Doctor of Philosophy in Health Psychology Schedule
- Doctoral Degree (Professional) Awards and Programs Schedule
- Higher Doctoral Degrees Schedule

Next Meeting 1st November 2023



Reports

PAS Report

PAS congratulated staff for the recent university success in the THE Impact and QS World University Rankings, Semester 1, Course Experience Survey (CES) and Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching (QILT) results. Members were notified of a number of issues raised by the student representatives which have been forwarded to office holders for feedback; changes to the *Adverse*

Circumstance Procedure; and the new *WIL Guiding Principles* and noted the large number of RAD requests received since the last meeting was noted by PAS.

VC's Report

The VC spoke to Senate members about the Australian Universities Accord noting the focus on equity, collaboration and funding and the government acceptance of all ARC review recommendations. The VC noted the recent Callaghan and Central Coast Open Days; sector competition resulting from the early offers scheme; collation of the Your Voice survey responses; SFUN Survey improvement figures; the University stance on The Indigenous Voice to parliament; and noted with increased financial pressure there was need for increased agility in University process and decision making to increase student retention.

Strategic Issues and Innovations

Innovations from Members

The following innovations were noted: Relationship Networking and Project Management for Researchers training programs (KEE); Networking and industry collaboration mentoring with NSW Health's Commercialisation Training Program with CICADA Innovations; Schools for research training and culture noted School of Architecture global experts for research training and support of HDR's; CESE ECR training for industry fellowships; Central Coast Clinical School research capacity for students and industry clinicians across 134 countries to enhance research capacity globally; and Maths Honours students offered a short course to study in China at University of Science and Technology of China (USTC).



Innovations – TEQSA Risk Monitor Dashboard

A draft TEQSA Risk Monitor Dashboard was demonstrated noting the Dashboard had been created following the TEQSA's Risk Assessment Framework. The Dashboard will allow for Senate to make evidence-based decisions on policy and process and will form part of the academic risk framework. Members were advised that the existing report on Enabling Programs will be provided as a companion to the Dashboard.

Student Feedback at the University of Newcastle (SFUN) Survey

Results of the Student Feedback at the University of Newcastle (SFUN) survey noted robust data from the good response rate and representation with full data available via PowerBI. Areas of high satisfaction included security (92.8%); library (89.5%) and digital experience (87%). Whereas areas where improvement was needed included cost of food and beverage options (32%), Indigenous student support (Wollotuka) (29.7%) and eConsult services (30%).



Forum Items

Academic Workload Model (AWAM) Pilot Review

An update was given by the PVCAE AWAM pilot 2023 and members were reminded that the AWAM is based on benchmarking that had been undertaken (including through the SAGE Athena Swan Cygnet accreditation) and the Strategic Plan. The AWAM was created to deliver consistent minimum standards of workload including minimum levels of research performance, and

flexibility across profiles. The PVCAE answered questions from members in relation to the process and evaluation criteria for the pilot and advised that a culture survey will be given to Heads and Deputy Heads of School as part of the evaluation process.



Committee Updates

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC)

The DVCA and Chair gave updates on the Program Progression Project (PPP); draft Student Success Strategy 2023; Transforming the User Experience Portfolio (TUX) project; and English Language Working Group. Members were advised of amendments to the RPL Policy and Procedure and the Academic Integrity and Ethical Academic Conduct Policy was discussed.

Research Committee (RC)

The DVCRI and Chair advised that updates were given to the RC from the Deputy Director, John Hunter Health & Innovation Precinct (HILL) for possible collaboration opportunities. RC members discussed the engagement priorities; the Accord feedback; and the Research Enablement Project. The DVCRI drew members attention to the review of the Higher Degrees by Research Policy suite and the IP Policy and Procedure.

Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC)

The DVCA and Chair advised that the approval process had become more streamlined with the implementation of CourseLoop and noted that as delays were now stemming from the frequency of the PCAC meetings, a large number of requests were being sought via urgent business. To address this issue and provide good governance, Senate was advised that the frequency of meetings will increase in 2024 to 10 per year.

College of Health Medicine and Wellbeing (CHMW) College Board

The PVC and Chair highlighted success of Professor Kelvin Kong who was awarded the National NAIDOC Week 'Person Award'; noted the retention for first year HUBS courses; and the move to CESE of the discipline of Exercise and Sports Science. The Chair also noted students participating in the New Columbo Plan; the new Joint Podiatry Program for 2024 with Western Sydney University at Ourimbah; the EDI Pride event held at the College; the Reconciliation Action Ball; and Indigenous allied health day.

College of Engineering Science and Environment (CESE) College Board

The PVC and Chair congratulated staff for recent award success and noted ARC Cybersecurity, NSW Department of Customer Service health and safety maturity framework for the region; Experiment Festival for secondary students, staff and student luncheons and the STEM 2023 conference.

College of Human and Social Futures (CHSF) College Board

The PVC and Chair of the CHSF highlighted the new Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) launch and called on all Academic Senate members to encourage any potential teachers to apply to urgently address the current teacher shortage.

Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS) Board

The PVC EI and Chair noted the NAIDOC Week theme; NUPreps' positive impact on student retention; and the new Diplomas in Engineering, Information Technology, Data Analytics and their associated courses.

Want More Information?

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