

ACADEMIC SENATE

COMMUNIQUE

6 JUNE 2023 MEETING



PAS welcomed new Academic Senate members Professor Galina Mirzaeva and Associate Professor Amanda Dawson; PCAC members Professor Daphne James as Deputy Chair, Dr Bin Li and Professor James McCoy; and Dr Marcus Rodriqs as the new SACO Coordinator.

Changes resulting from the annual review of academic delegations were endorsed by Academic Senate, with PAS noting the particular importance of such changes to the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre (PALS) Board. Academic Senate approved the terms of reference for the PALS Board*, College / PALS College Progress and Appeals Committee*, and the English Language Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee. Changes were also endorsed to the *Governance Rule Schedule 7 – Honorary Awards and Schedule 1 of the Awards and Graduations Policy*, to include the new award of Doctor of Public Administration.

The PAS noted administrative policy and procedure changes made to the *English Language Proficiency Procedure*, and actions taken under delegated authority for amendments to the *Course Management and Assessment Manual* around Supplementary Assessments. A proposal for amendments on the Recognition of Prior Learning was discussed, with future amendments expected to the *Academic Credit Policy*.

The issues of facilitating more student engagement at College Board meetings and teaching quality resulting from the use of casual academics were highlighted to members from recent discussions with student representatives. PAS noted items of discussion at the recent CoCABs meeting in May, included artificial intelligence and TEQSA processes in assessing academic risk. Academic risk was also noted as a particular concern with the use of overseas agents, as well as the role of Academic Senates in respect to the upcoming University's Accord. PAS also tabled an update on academic risk.

Senate members advised of existing innovations in the Colleges including the CESE awards scheme for innovations in teaching delivery; an experiential trauma scenario for CHMW students, and a teaching and learning refresher course run by CHSF for sessional academics.

The VC updated Senate members on WHS issues highlighting psycho-social risk. Continued discussion around the upcoming Universities Accord was noted with the final report in December. Members were referred to a number government documents and reviews on the ARC, Defence, Migration and the Accord. Federal budget funding was noted allowing that most measures will come following the Accord in December. The MOU for an industry partnership with Transgrid for cadetships, scholarships, research and employment of electrical engineering students was announced. The VC congratulated the work done by teams involved in the success of the THE Impact Ratings for Sustainable Development Goals, and drew members attention to the events in Reconciliation Week. Professor Steven Warburton as incoming Pro Vice-Chancellor Education Innovation; Professor Kate Nash as Head of School and Dean of Arts for the School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences; and Mr Tim Dixon as Director, Research Facilities were welcomed.

The DVCA and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, gave updates on student success and retention, and the WIL4ALL project, noting the name change to 'Career Ready Placements'. The DVCA noted support from

Council for the Digital Education Strategy and gave an update on the Program Progression Project, noting that adjustments to programs will allow students more flexibility to change between programs by streamlining criteria. The DVCA advised student performance under the International Qualification Review Procedure and noted that the Procedure would be disestablished given the low number of students.

A presentation on the role of Senate in the upcoming TEQSA re-registration process was given. Several items of policy are expected to flow to Academic Senate for approval or endorsement to close any identified gaps, noting the changes to policies and procedures for the way that the University recognises and assesses RPL will be important in this regard. In an update on the Education Growth Initiative, the DVCA noted that there was a need for improvement in the digital component of programs given the changing demand of students coming from older cohorts.

The DVCRI and Chair, gave an update from the recent Research Committee meeting noting the presentation by the Director of Community and Economy from Muswellbrook Shire Council to advise on potential research engagement and collaboration between the University and Council. The DVCRI noted the establishment of five governance groups under the Engagement Priorities and that considerable discussion was had around stipends for international students. The automation and streamlining of research office business processes from the Research Enablement Project is underway. The annual reports from the Animal Care and Ethics and the Human Research Ethics Committees were noted. Professor Catharine Coleborne was welcomed as Director, Research Ethics and Integrity.

The DVCA and Chair of the Program and Course Approval Committee gave an update on the last meeting, advising members that changes to the Podiatry program and courses were made following an arrangement between UoN and Western Sydney University to provide a joint program.

The PVC CHMW and Chair, gave an update on the College Board activities noting graduation ceremonies at Ourimbah, and FIT testing at the Gosford Campus. The College events of International Women's Day 'Maybe Baby' and Reconciliation Ball were noted. Also noted was the collaboration with the Mark Hughes Foundation and a health panel considering the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The PVC CESE and Chair, gave an update on the CESE College Board activities recognising the achievements of student start-ups, teaching award process, authentic assessment, WIL and the Indigenisation of the curriculum. The PVC CESE also noted the CESE Early Career Researcher group and partnering with the CHMW to review applications for grants.

The PVC CHSF and Chair gave an update on the College Board activities, highlighting the collaboration with UoN Singapore and the Centre of Active Living and Learning to provide non-credit bearing courses in Singapore aimed at healthcare professionals and educators and to foster collaborative research.

Contact

For more information, email Academic Senate Services: academicsenate@newcastle.edu.au or the President of Academic Senate: PAS@newcastle.edu.au.

Next Meeting – 5 September 2023

* Pending approval of changes in delegated authority by Council.