



WHAT'S NEW

New Student Members

Amelia Devine

Pre-Recorded Presentations

Available on request.

Academic Risk — Response to Academic Calendar Questions



Academic Senate Elections

Closing Monday 30 June 2025

Level A, B or C—2 Year Positions

1 x position CHSF and CHMW; and
2 x positions CESE.

Level D or E—2 Year Positions

1 x positions CHSF, and CESE; and
2 x positions CHMW.

Pathways & Academic Learning Support 2 Year Position

1 x Level A, B, C, D or E

Quality Assurance

Annual Academic Risk Update

The report advised of the TEQSA Risk Monitor deep dive sessions held in the past 12 months; the integration of academic risk into the University risk register with roles, responsibilities and definitions of academic risk; and noted regular reporting by the PAS to Council. The report highlighted academic quality and the new academic calendar; good governance and the AWAM; and academic integrity and artificial intelligence.

Streamlined Approach for Assessment of Collaborative Education Programs

The streamlined approach for the assessment of collaborative education programs was approved with the changes assisting with international student admissions under the joint collaborative programs which may be exempt from restrictions under the National Planning Level New Overseas Student Commencements (NOSC). Academic and non-academic entry criteria will apply to eligible institutions.

Annual Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) Actions Report 2024

The number of students under Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE), Student Course Variations (SCVs), provider and student defaults, and visa refusals for 2024 were advised meeting the University's requirements under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000.

Annual Credit and RPL Report 2024

The report focused solely on the provision of raw numbers and basic outcomes of credit and RPL instances, and it was noted this approach risks missing critical aspects of quality assurance and policy compliance. It was proposed that the next iteration of the report include a deeper analysis, with a view towards stronger compliance reporting.

Annual Cohort Performance Review (Postgraduate) - 2024

The report incorporates outcomes for 2023 and provides an overview of outcomes for postgraduate coursework students studying in Australia and offshore as well as State and sector benchmarking. The data will provide enhanced support for international students and targeted interventions, sustaining growth in popular programs, and leveraging online learning to meet needs of students. It was noted that the data is lagged due to availability and volatile due small cohort numbers.

Quality Assurance cont...

Coursework Admissions Report (Undergraduate Semester 2 and Postgraduate) 2024

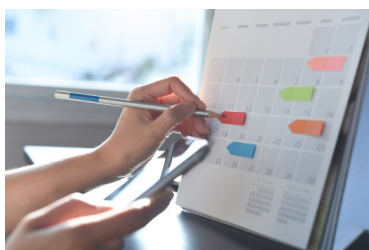
Both domestic and international admissions were reported on and it was advised that due to the small number of students, no significant risks were posed to due to waivers in these cohorts for the reporting year.

QILT 2024 Student Experience Survey (SES) Institutional Data

The institutional results from the Survey were noted, with data on specific study areas. Academic Senate noted the comparisons with peer institutions through an informal benchmarking project within the ATN group and that sector results will be released later in the year.

Forum Items—with a Risk Focus

Response to Academic Calendar Questions



The PVC SE provided a pre-recorded presentation in response to comments raised at the first Academic Senate Elected Staff Forum and requested that members continue to raise queries with the project team. The presentation responded to the following broad areas of discussion raised at the Forum noting that issues around the misalignment of semesters with NSW school holidays had now been addressed.

Early commencement of the Academic Year – Members were asked to work with LDTI to plan for public holiday dates and schedule make up classes where feasible, noting that equitable learning experience will be preserved through flexible delivery and assessment planning.

Lunar New Year and international student experience – It was noted that the International Student Support Teams and Schools will work to ensure appropriate flexibility is available for short term absences and cultural leave where relevant. UNSA is also exploring targeted engagement activities for these students.

Summer work period – It was advised that the calendar provides more consistent study options that may lead to faster program completion.

Impact on research activity – Noted that work is underway with the Research Division for staff to restructure research across the year to ensure required planning for major project deadlines.

Longer mid-term break – Advised that this will offer an opportunity for students to catch up on courses or for acceleration of their programs. Staff can utilise this time for marking and research.

Fieldwork and Sessional requirements – The Calendar team is offering support for Schools to schedule these activities during semester breaks or the winter term as appropriate.

Compressed teaching periods – Advised staff to engage with LDTI to ensure high quality learning outcomes are maintained.

Student Risk Indicators Discussion

The Director of SPP, and the PVC SE presented the latest data from the TEQSA Risk Monitor Dashboard on the Student Risk Indicators (student load, attrition rate and progress rate). The VC welcomed the positive data presented and stressed the ongoing need for improvement in these indicators to offset other changes affecting the University over the next few years.



Student Load – EFTSL had increased since 2023 following softening from the Covid years and is returning to more normal patterns. The PVC SE noted that the increase in students' numbers also requires an increase in support mechanisms to ensure students' needs are met. The upgrades in facilities and doubling of accommodation in town will assist in this support.

Attrition Rate – Figures have declined since 2023 showing a favourable trend. Targeted strategies to address attrition across Colleges and Schools will see continued future improvement.

Progress Rate – A similar result to 2023 was advised for progress with outlying data. The Dashboard allows for the ability to drill down on the data so that individual issues can be addressed.

Reports from the Executive

PAS Report

The report noted the meeting with the student representatives had highlighted meeting and paper protocols. The Elected Academic Senate Staff Member Forum had raised concerns raised over the new academic calendar and the AWAM. The PAS advised members to utilise Senate News as well as summarising key points from Senate papers at the School and College level to ensure that information from Academic Senate is communicated. Members were referred to recent correspondence from the VC relating to the future of programs offered at the Central Coast in response to concerns raised at the Forum.

Elected staff members were reminded of the opportunity to participate in discussions on the New Strategic Plan with a workshop held after the Academic Senate meeting. All staff will have the opportunity to participate in discussions in coming months via forums held by SSP.

Finally, the PAS noted TEQSA GenAI Knowledge Hub and encouraged members to register for the upcoming [TEQSA Talks](#) Webinar to be held on 24th July 2-3pm.

VC's Report

The VC advised that the Federal election secured previously announced budget measures for higher education noting that these were limited in nature with the support for student debt and loans highlighted.

Congratulations were extended to all staff involved in the successful TEQSA re-registration process and the awarding of EQUIS re-accreditation for the Newcastle Business School. The recent inaugural Built Environment Research Forum was noted as offering an opportunity for the University to play a role in addressing the housing crisis.

In staff news, Senate were informed of initial positive results from the 2025 “Inspiring People – Your Voice” survey, the Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal to Emeritus Professor George Willis, and honorary doctorate to Tommy Emmanuel. Senate noted the numbers of graduates at the recent Central Coast graduations and that the July graduations will be held at the Town Hall to celebrate the University’s 60th Anniversary.

Staff were advised of the increase in assaults in Newcastle and that the University was collaborating with police to support international students.

Policy Changes

AMENDED

Course Management and Assessment Manual—full review

NOW SPLIT

Course Design and Management Manual; and
Course Assessment and Grading Manual.

Program Management Manual – full review

NEW NAME

Program Design and Management Manual.

Admissions Procedure Manual—Coursework and Enabling Programs—full review.

Third Party Arrangements—Education Policy and Procedure—amended to strengthen for reporting, monitoring and compliance.

NEW

Generative AI in Research Guideline

RESCINDED—nil



Want More Information

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

Committee News

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) - 13th May 2025 Meeting

The DVCA and TLC Chair's report advised members of the successful TEQSA re-registration and the streamlined approach for assessment of collaborative education programs. The TLC were provided with a response from the CDIO in relation to a number of IT issues experienced in teaching spaces, and noted that although there had been measures put in place to address problems, issues were ongoing. Further meetings with DTS and College representatives will be held to address the ongoing IT issues. Finally it was noted that Peer Engagement remains the lowest-performing metric in the QILT 2024 Student Experience Survey with a follow up report to come to the next meeting of TLC for how this can be addressed.

Research Committee (RC) - 23rd May 2025 Meeting

The DVCRI and RC Chair advised of a presentation on the future of the Institute for Regional Futures (IRF) and reminded that the timely submission of items to ethics committees and research applications is required to ensure submissions are properly assessed and academic risk mitigated. The Committee discussed short and long term strategies to address the decline in Category 1 funding, and were advised that the New Strategic Plan will retain the current mission, value, and purpose, however the pillars will be updated to reflect the future direction of the University. As part of this discussion, the DVCRI and GMR presented the Draft Research Strategy.

Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC) - 16th April and 20th May Meetings

The DVCA and PCAC Chair noted the external program review action plans received, the establishment of 6 new awards and disestablishment of awards associated with 17 discontinued programs. Academic Senate were advised that Colleges are working on action plans to support students affected by programs in teach-out.

College and PALS Boards

Health Medicine and Wellbeing (CHMW) - 1st April 2025 Meeting

The PVC CHMW and College Board Chair gave an update on the HERB building, noted the academic calendar alignment with trimesters, and advised of a PNG delegation to UoN. The CPVC advised that a recent audit of AI literacy in the College found literacy is high, and advised of the Looking Ahead: Medicine & Technology: A 21st Century Gordian Knot seminar in March.

Engineering Science and Environment (CESE) - 24th April 2025 Meeting

The PVC CESE and Chair of the College Board gave an overview of the ADR College Research Centres and Groups Review, advised of the appointment of a new ADR, and welcomed the increase in student load and revenue for the College. The CPVC advised of National Science Week in August, the Looking Ahead Lecture, Quantum public lecture and Science in the Pub at Bar on the Hill, and the Rick Middleton Australian Academy of Science. Success of Emeritus Professor George Willis with the award of the Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal was noted along with the number of College Medals awarded to high performing students a recent College ceremony.

Human and Social Futures (CHSF) - 1st May 2025 Meeting

The PVC CHSF and College Board Chair advised of the partnership between the Global Institute of Sport and the Newcastle Business School in Sydney and the EQUIS re-accreditation of the Newcastle Business School. The new format for College Board, inviting all members from the College was highlighted along with the increased student load, the Judge Michael Kirby visit to Law and Justice School, and the Melbourne Alumni event.

Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS) - 24th March 2025 Meeting

The Director of PALS provided an update on behalf of the Chair advising that the Academic Learning Support unit had moved to ground floor of the GP Building with may activities for students in train. The growth in numbers in the Diplomas, Open Foundation, and Yapug were noted and the Illuminate Challenge highlighted.



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