

# ACADEMIC SENATE COMMUNIQUE

19 APRIL 2023 MEETING



A new meeting format was trialled at the second meeting of the year to allow more time and encourage discussion by members. This involved the allocation of discussants and the use of pre-recorded presentations.

In membership changes, Academic Senate endorsed the appointment of Dr Bin Li to the Academic Senate Executive Committee and thanked outgoing member Dr Greg Preston for his service. PAS also thanked outgoing Academic Senate members, Professor Sandy Steacy and Associate Professor Jenny Sim for their contributions.

PAS noted changes to the *Adverse Circumstances Policy and Procedure*, the success of the QS World University Rankings by Subject; and the *Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property Protocol and Guide*. PAS advised of lengthy discussion with student representatives around online/ hybrid learning, noting that benefits such as flexibility, equity, diversity and inclusion and preparation for a modern workforce, must be reinforced by adequate resourcing from casual staff such as teaching assistants. Updates to the TEQSA, Academic Integrity and ChatGPT resources for members and the response from OZCABS to TEQSA's Draft Guidance Note on Academic Governance were noted.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) as acting Vice Chancellor reported on the Universities Accord terms of reference, expert panel and discussion paper noting that UoN's submission will focus on equity, regionality, mix of providers and industry/research. Other areas highlighted were the University submission to Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources on science and research priorities; and the retirement of Chancellor Mr Paul Jeans.

Both PAS and the VC noted the University's success in the SAGE Athena Swan Cygnet awards, with the Pro-Vice Chancellor Education Excellence giving a detailed update on the achievement. The next three Cygnets to achieve Silver accreditation consist of: two in 2023 around the themes of 'Supporting Carers and Flexible Work' and 'Indigenous Participation'; and one in 2024 around 'Workload Allocation'.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), gave an update on the changing student demographic; the success of the student retention scheme; notified members of upcoming WIL workshops in May and June; and the adoption of the zero cost reading lists model. Turnitin's recent upgrade to detect AI writing was to be discussed at the first meeting of the AI Working Group at the end of April. The DVC(A) also advised members of the upcoming re-registration through TEQSA.

In policy changes, the Academic Senate approved the new definition of the new 6 modes of delivery of courses (Face to Face, Blended, Simultaneous, Synchronous Online, Asynchronous Online and Online with Intensive) to be included in the *Program Management Manual – Coursework*; changes to the *English Language Proficiency Policy and Procedure*; the *Joint Medical Program Admission and Selection Policy (Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine)*; and the *JMP - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Selection Procedure (Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine)*.

The Head of School Education Professor Susan Ledger, and Associate Professor Elena Prieto-Rodriguez gave a pre-recorded report on the establishment of the new Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary

Education) following government decisions to fast-track potential teachers through a one year program. Professor Ledger also advised that School of Education continues to build on its simulation suite under the new 'Innovations' agenda item.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), and Chair of the Research Committee, announced the appointments of Ms Danielle Neale, Director Knowledge Exchange & Enterprise and Mr Tim Dixon, Director, Research Facilities & Infrastructure. The report noted items from the recent meeting, including a Samoa visit by the DVC(RI) and DVC(G); AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine announcement; internal grant scheme; executive recruitment update; engagement priorities; and the Research Enablement Project. The DVC(RI) also noted the upcoming HDR Festival encouraging members to attend.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor CHMW and Chair, gave an update on the College Board activities noting student wellbeing and retention rates; the commencement of the CHMW Scholars Program for 2023; Lab Safety Improvement Initiative; 2022 CHMW Annual Lab Safety inspections results; grant success; and Australia Day honours for CHMW staff.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor CHSF, and College Board Chair, congratulated Mr Nathan Towney as 2023 Newcastle Citizen of the Year; noted the TLCMap ARC LIEF funding, Teachers and Teaching Research Centre (TTRC) Federal Government funding, the International Hotel School launch; and the Newcastle Business School new Bachelor of Tourism, Hospitality and Events degree.

An update for the activities for the CESE College Board will be given at the June meeting of Academic Senate following the first meeting of Board with the new PVC.

The Director of PALS gave a pre-recorded presentation to Academic Senate noting the commencement of the Student Success pilot, the initiative to look at students who have completed courses, but not programs; the English language bridging program and diploma; the contribution for retention with Academic Learning Support; Widening Participation Team; and Diploma in Engineering alignment with Bachelor of Engineering programs.

## Contact

For more information, email Academic Senate Services: [academicssenate@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:academicssenate@newcastle.edu.au) or the President of Academic Senate: [PAS@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:PAS@newcastle.edu.au).

Next Meeting – 6 June 2023