



ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES 27 JULY 2022

Minutes of the 361st meeting of Academic Senate held at 9:30am on Wednesday, 27 July 2022 in Room 20.5 and via WebEx.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Prof Greg Rose (Chair)	Prof Faisal Hai	Prof Colin Picker
Prof Gursel Alici	Mr Benjamin Hamill	Prof Ann Rogerson
Mr Ahsan Anees	Prof Louise Hickman	A/Prof Montse Ros
Prof Thomas Astell-Burt	A/Prof Chris Hyland	Prof Guang Shi
Dr Jenny Atchison	Prof Zhengyi Jiang	Dr Lisa Slater
Prof Sean Brawley	Ms Tarneet Kaur	Dr David Tan
A/Prof Stephen Beirne	A/Prof Julie Kiggins	Mr Michael Valceski
Ms Jaymee Beveridge	A/Prof Konstantin	Ms Nadia Verrucci
Dr Kellie Buckley-Walker	Konstantinov	Dr Elena Vlahu-Gjorgievska
Dr Jane Carey	A/Prof Wanqing Li	A/Prof Ika Willis
Prof Karen Charlton	S/Prof Eileen McLaughlin	Dr Marian Wong
Prof Julia Coyle	Dr Kimberley McMahan-	A/Prof Yanguang Yu
Prof David Currow	Coleman	
Ms Cathy Duncan-Ross	Ms Katherine Minns	
Prof Theo Farrell	Prof Trish Mundy	
A/Prof Azdiar Gazder	Dr Germanas Peleckis	
Dr Belinda Gibbons		

APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Prof Patricia Davidson
Prof Sue Bennett
Prof Alex Frino
Mr John Littrich
Mr Jack Mansell
Ms Tiana Myers
Professor Nina Reynolds
A/Prof Danielle Skropeta
Prof Wilma Vialle
Prof Karen Walton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Paola Ciccarelli, Interim Senior Manager, Governance Unit
Ms Allison Clode, Academic Quality and Policy Specialist, Academic Quality and Standards (AQS)
Ms Sally Evans, HR Officer, PODS
Ms Margi Jantti, University Librarian
Prof Lorna Moxham, Interim Dean of Graduate Research
Mr Anthony Petre, Associate Director, Brand & Marketing Communications, Strategic Marketing Communications Division
Mr Dominic Riordan, Director, (AQS)
Mr Rob Sim, Associate Director, Student and Accommodation Services Division
Ms Sally Towse, Academic Senate Executive Officer

OBSERVERS:

Nil

***1.1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies and Leave of Absence**

The Chair delivered the acknowledgement of Country.

The Chair welcomed all members to the third Academic Senate meeting of the year. Special welcomes were extended to the Interim Chief Operating Officer [COO], the PVC (Health Sydney - Campuses) and the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Information) [DVC(R&I)] all attending their first meeting of Academic Senate.

***1.2 Arrangement of Agenda**

1.2.1 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair called for conflicts of interest with any matters before the Academic Senate. None were received.

1.2.2 Confidential Items

There were no confidential items.

1.2.3 Starring of Items

The following items were starred for discussion:

- 1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence
- 1.2 Arrangement of Agenda
- 1.3 Confirmation of Minutes
- 1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes
- 1.5 Chair's Report
- 1.6 Vice-Chancellor's Report
- 1.7 Membership Business – Declaration of Election for Deputy Chair and Academic Senate Representatives to UEC
- 2.1 Pro Vice-Chancellor Strategy and Planning Annual Update
- 2.2 Committee Handbook for Students as Partners
- 2.3 Course Leadership Moodle Site
- 2.4 Course Design Procedures
- 2.5 Draft Guide to Managing Sensitive Issues on Social Media
- 2.6 Academic Promotion Procedure
- 2.7 Faculty Academic Governance Policy [this item was held over pending further discussion]
- 4.1 Reports from the Senior Executive
- 4.2 Members' Reports
- 4.3 Student Members' Reports
- 5.1 Business Arising from Academic Senate Committees
- 6.2 Other Business

RESOLVED 2022/28

that Academic Senate adopt the draft resolutions for the unstarred items.

***1.3 Confirmation of Minutes**

Members were asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022.

There was one minor amendment made to Item 5.2 URC Chair's Report to reflect the correct value of research funding grants received by UOW.

RESOLVED 2022/29

that the minutes of the previous meeting of Academic Senate held on 25 May 2022, as attached to the agenda paper, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

***1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

***1.5 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported as follows:

- The Chair provided a brief overview regarding the proposed review of Academic Senate's role and function. He advised members that a briefing paper has been forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor [VC] for review and approval. The next step will be to establish a working group and to develop a set of guiding principles and terms of reference to inform the review. An update will be provided at the September Academic Senate meeting.
- The Chair was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the NSW Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates [NSWCoCABS] and the National meeting of Australian Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates [OZCABS], however he provided Academic Senate members with a summary of key areas for discussion. Including the challenges associated with TEQSA requirements around external benchmarking, particularly in learning outcomes and assessment. The Director, Academic Quality and Standards [D/AQS] provided advice that a paper addressing some of the issues will be presented to Academic Senate later this year. He also stated that there may be some provision for external peer reviews to be conducted internally, across faculties and schools and for this to satisfy TEQSA requirements. He also advised that an initiative is currently being undertaken by Higher Education Services (HES) to develop a national comparative benchmarking dashboard which will address some of the challenges by allowing institutions to compare their performance. Accreditation was also flagged as a topic for discussion at the OZCABS meeting, specifically the inconsistencies between TEQSA accreditation requirements and the requirements of professional accreditation bodies. This presents a challenge for institutions when structuring courses.
- The Chair reflected on his term as Chair of Academic Senate, noting the most significant piece of work to be the review of Academic Senate membership and composition. Other significant achievements include:
 - amendments to the Standard on UOW Policy to more clearly define the distinction between academic and operational policy and provide transparent approval pathways;
 - initiation of the review of Academic Senate's role and function, in particular consideration of how research oversight can be improved;
 - leading the working group for the institution-wide Casualisation Project;
 - discussions on academic freedom and the development of an attestation statement; and, as an ex officio member of UOW Council: the review of the Robert Hope Memorial Prize Criteria; the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism into University policies; Urging clarification of a relationship of the newly established People and Culture Committee with Academic Senate.
- The Chair thanked all Academic Senate members for their time and input particularly those on the Academic Senate working group that initiated the amendments to the Standard on UOW Policy, including Dr Germanas Peleckis, Dr Jane Carey, Professor Nina Reynolds, and Associate Professor Christopher Hyland.

- The Chair acknowledged the challenges of academic and corporate governance and encouraged Academic Senate members to observe a meeting of University Council, if they have the capacity.

In closing the Chair noted that during his time as Chair and previously as Deputy-Chair of Academic Senate he has been privileged to work with two VC's with very different ideas which has been insightful. He also extended his appreciation to the Governance Unit for their secretariat support.

***1.6 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Student Life [DVCA] provided the update on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor [VC], reporting as follows:

- The VC's Strategy Event ran on 21 & 22 July, 2022. The DVCA relayed the VC's thanks to all those involved and provided advice that feedback is now being sought to inform an action plan to lead the University through the next few years. The VC emphasised that the last few years have been challenging and although enrolments are recovering and the campus coming back to life there will be further challenges ahead with inflation rising and enterprise bargaining about to commence.
- UOW ranked tenth among Australian universities in the QS World University Rankings 2023. This is the highest ranking achieved by UOW, a rise of eight places, to a rank of 185th globally. UOW was recognised in the QS World University Rankings Graduate Employers Survey as in the top 1% of universities for the quality of our graduates.
- The focus over the last 12 months has been on student and staff welfare, budget recovery, reducing inefficiencies, improving governance and positioning the University for a successful future.
- UOW has responded to a number of requests following the release of NSW universities annual reports, which have received scrutiny from the media and broader community. UOW continues to focus on improving its financial position. The VC relayed that the University enters Semester Two with optimism supported by its wonderful staff and students.
- The DVCA extended the VC's sincere thanks to Professor Greg Rose for the very important service he has provided to Academic Senate and to the University community.

***1.8 Membership Business**

The Chair reported that nominations, for the position of Deputy Chair, closed on 20 July, 2022. One valid nomination was received from Associate Professor Julie Kiggins. The Chair invited Academic Senate members to join him in congratulating A/Prof Julie Kiggins.

Nominations were also invited for two Academic Senate Representatives on the University Education Committee [UEC]. Nominations closed on 20 July, 2022. One valid nomination was received from Michael Valceski. The Chair invited Academic Senate members to join him in congratulating Michael Valceski and called for further nominations from Academic Senate members.

Dr Germanas Pelekis nominated for the remaining Academic Senate Representative position on UEC. The Chair invited Academic Senate members to join him in congratulating Dr Germanas Pelekis.

The two positions being filled as casual vacancies, in accordance with the Academic Senate Electoral Rules, including a Level E Representative from the Faculty of Business and Law and an Associate Dean International Representative, remain vacant. Further action will be taken to fill both positions before the next Academic Senate meeting in September.

RESOLVED 2022/30

that Academic Senate:

- (i) note and congratulate A/Prof Julie Kiggins, on being elected as Deputy Chair of Academic Senate, for the term 27 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
- (ii) note and congratulate Mr Michael Valceski and Dr Germanas Peleckis on being elected as Academic Senate Representatives on the University Education Committee for the term 27 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
- (iii) note that the vacancy for Business and Law Academic Representative (Level E or above) on Academic Senate for the term 1 August 2022 to 30 June 2023 will be filled as a casual vacancy; and
- (iv) note that the vacancy for Associate Dean (International) Representative on Academic Senate for the term 27 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 will be filled as a casual vacancy.

PART 2: GENERAL BUSINESS

*2.1 Pro Vice-Chancellor Strategy and Planning Annual Update

The Pro Vice-Chancellor [PVC] Strategy and Planning asked that the paper be taken as read, noting that the PVC [S&P] portfolio is relatively new, having been established in February, 2022. He acknowledged the work engaged by all staff within the portfolio and extended his thanks to them.

RESOLVED 2022/31

that Academic Senate note the annual update provided by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning).

*2.2 Student Representation – Committee Handbook for Students as Partners

Professor Julia Coyle Pro Vice-Chancellor Students [PVCS], asked that the paper be taken as read and highlighted the following key points:

- The handbook was developed as an initiative through the newly established Students-Staff Partnership Innovation Hub [SSP-IH]. An SSP-IH of five staff and five student members, was established to explore Student Representation on academic matters. Following feedback received from UEC the decision was made to extend the handbook to all UOW committees rather than limit its scope to academic committees.
- The Handbook has sections that are tailored towards students, staff, secretariat support and chairs and is anticipated to be used as a development resource to enhance representation on all UOW committees. The intention is to encourage the broader UOW community to adopt the handbook.
- The Handbook has been endorsed by UEC and feedback is encouraged from Academic Senate members and the broader University community. A Moodle site is under development and is expected to be ready in the coming weeks.

The DVCA extended his thanks to the PVCS and, to Mr Jackson Cocks, Student Representative to Council, for leading this project, noting it as an important resource and a positive example of a students and staff partnership project.

The DVCA informed Academic Senate members that work is underway to establish a new division within the DVCA portfolio. The new Student Life Division will focus on elevating the profile of the student experience. Engagement between the University and its students will be enhanced through a consultative and coordinated approach. Consultation with impacted staff is underway with the new Student Life Division expected to be functional from September 2022. In the interim the DVCA encouraged members to engage with the Director, Student and Accommodation Services Division [SASD] on any student representation matters.

The PVCS emphasised the criticality of promoting diversity and engaging equity students in student representation. An Academic Senate member agreed, noting the importance of acknowledging that there is not ‘one’ student experience.

In response to a question raised by an Academic Senate member regarding remunerating student representatives for their time, the PVCS acknowledged that this point was raised as a critical issue in the feedback. It is particularly relevant for equity students who may be supporting themselves financially and therefore have less capacity to engage in student representation. The PVCS acknowledged that there are complexities around remuneration that require further discussion and consultation.

The DVCA encouraged Academic Senate members to engage with the Director, SASD. The Director, SASD will continue to work closely with the Student Advisory Council [SAC] to enhance student engagement across the University.

The DVCA supported the suggestion to improve engagement in student representation for students studying at UOW regional campuses and acknowledged the importance of assuring inclusivity across all UOW campuses.

RESOLVED 2022/32

that Academic Senate:

- (i) endorse the Committee Handbook for Students as Partners; and*
- (ii) note the associated SSP-IH on Student Representation on Academic Matters Issues Log and further actions recommended.*

***2.3 Course Leadership Moodle Site**

Ms Allison Clode, Academic Quality and Policy Specialist, Academic Quality and Standards [AQS], extended her thanks to all those involved in the project and provided a brief presentation outlining the following key points:

- The new Course Leadership Moodle site has been developed, in collaboration with and Academic Program Director [APD] Reference Group with support from Learning, Teaching and Curriculum [LTC], to support academic staff in course leadership roles.
- The project was initiated in response to feedback provided in the Academic Program Director Needs Analysis Survey (conducted in early 2021), the pending review of the Teaching and Assessment Policy Suite and the fact that the APD role is relatively new. The feedback, reported to Academic Senate in November 2021, indicated a need for improved induction, support and guidance.
- The Course Leadership Moodle site provides an improved induction for new course leaders, including useful resources and tips and a “welcome to the role” video for staff new to APD roles. The site provides support for course leaders on course monitoring and review processes, external referencing and benchmarking and tips on how to analyse and access course level data. A Moodle forum has been set up to support a network of academic staff in course leadership roles.
- There is a section that supports the provision of advice to students about the relevant course.
- The site was formally launched the week commencing 18 July, 2022 and currently has approximately 70 users. Further work will be undertaken to increase engagement noting there are currently around 150 APD positions across UOW.
- Staff can access the Moodle site via Unified. All Academic Senate members have been enrolled.

An Academic Senate member queried whether the content included provision of advice to students about the course, noting that it may also be useful for Heads of Students. Ms Clode confirmed that there are six resources in this section, including subject mapping tools and template emails for staff to utilise when communicating with students.

An Academic Senate member suggested it may be beneficial to incorporate of some of the resources, developed under the Committee Handbook, into the site, specifically the ‘tips & tricks’ and ‘handover’ sections.

In relation to a concern raised around workload, role clarity and administrative creep, the DVCA noted that this issue is not within the scope of the project and suggested that the issue be raised with the relevant Head of School. The DVCA emphasised the focus on reducing administrative workloads for academics through coordination, system automation and process efficiencies.

RESOLVED 2022/33

that Academic Senate note the presentation on the Course Leadership Moodle Site as provided at the 27 July 2022 meeting.

***2.4 Course Design Procedures**

Mr Dominic Riordan, Director, Academic Quality and Standards [D/AQS] advised Academic Senate members that this scheduled review of the Course Design Procedures incorporates a number of significant policy changes and a rewrite of procedures. The review was held over pending the outcome of the Australian Qualifications Framework [AQF] review, although it is noted that implementation of the review recommendations, may take some time. The D/AQS asked that the paper be taken as read and reported on the following key points:

- This review implements the course portfolio structure model, endorsed by Academic Senate, in November, 2021 and the recommendations from the Assurance of Teaching Task and Finish Group, to ensure learning outcomes;
- Nomenclature around delivery modes has been updated to align with the Student Management Platform [SMP]. This now includes mixed and online delivery modes;
- The appendices have been expanded to provide a single point of reference for staff designing courses at different AQF levels. This has also been expanded to include information around Undergraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Associate Degrees;
- The revised procedures formally adopt the language of ‘introduce, develop and assure’ to assist in constructive alignment and for use in curriculum or course mapping;
- The provisions around UOW Curriculum Priorities have been incorporated into the procedures, although some aspects of the existing UOW Curriculum Model have been retained. These priorities are interdependent to the broader UOW priorities;
- Extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout the review process as set out in the agenda paper;
- The amendments include further clarification around double badging of subjects to provide clarity and consistency; and
- The acceptable minimums for credit points for 3+3 and 4+3 double degrees has been amended from 216 credit points and 264 credit points to 192 and 240 credit points respectively. This will allow for the design of four year FTE double degrees.

In response to a question raised by an Academic Senate member around indigenisation of the curriculum, the Director, AQS confirmed that although not specifically considered, on a broader scope, there is recognition that the University’s priorities will change over time and indigenisation will be an important consideration.

RESOLVED 2022/34

that Academic Senate:

- (i) *note the background paper on the review of the Course Design Procedures as set out in the agenda papers;*

- (ii) *endorse the Course Design Procedures and the minor consequential amendments to other policy documents arising from this review, as set out in the agenda papers;*
- (iii) *note the draft Course Design Procedures will be presented to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(Academic and Student Life) for approval; and*
- (iv) *note that minor consequential amendments to other policy documents will be referred to the appropriate delegated authorities for approval.*

***2.5 Draft Guide to Managing Sensitive Issues on Social Media**

Mr Anthony Petre, Associate Director, Brand & Marketing Communications, Strategic Marketing Communications Division, reported on the following key points:

- The information provided on the UOW website was developed in response to an incident reported to HR which highlighted a communication gap.
- The information seeks to guide staff on how to handle suspected cases of bullying, slander and issues relating to student welfare and student conduct on social media channels. It outlines the roles and responsibilities and the channels for dealing with matters related to social media, and provides links to all the relevant UOW policy documents.
- Feedback is sought from Academic Senate members in relation to the draft guide.

Academic Senate members put forward the following suggestions:

- The term ‘sensitive’ is too broad and should be specific to staff.
- The information should be available on the staff intranet, possibly as a resource base with an FAQ link, or under the umbrella of ‘Cyber Bullying’.

RESOLVED 2022/35

that Academic Senate note the draft Guide to Managing Sensitive Issues on Social Media as provided in the agenda paper

***2.6 Academic Promotion Procedure**

The PVC [S&P] and Ms Sally Evans, HR officer, PODS were in attendance to speak to this item. The PVC [S&P] asked that the paper be taken as read and reported the following key points:

- The suggested minor amendments were informed by feedback received following the 2021 Academic Promotions round. A further body of work to include a major review of the Academic Promotions Procedure is currently being undertaken.
- The amendments include updates to nomenclature to reflect title changes, change of the EEO Observer for Faculty Committees, to Associate Dean, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion [AD (EDI)] to ensure an independent staff member is in this role, removal of confidential voting to ensure transparency, additional information related to referees and assessors, revised interview requirements and assurance of diversity of committee members, where possible.
- Consultation has been broad as outlined in the agenda paper.
- The amended procedures will be adopted prior to commencement of the 2023 academic promotions round.

In relation to the removal of confidential voting an Academic Senate member asked how feedback will be communicated to candidates. The PVC [S&P] confirmed that candidates will be provided with summarised de-identified feedback to maintain confidentiality. It was noted that feedback is critical in supporting future applications.

An Academic Senate member suggested reinforcing the link between section 9.1 ‘Faculty Promotion Committee Composition’ by referring back to section 3 ‘Definition of Faculty’. This will provide clarity for non-Faculty academic staff across the University.

An Academic Senate member questioned whether there is overlap between the AD [EDI], whose role is to act as a non-voting EEO observer, on the Promotions Committee and the role of the professorial member. Particularly given that the meaning of diversity is not apparent in the circumstances in which it will be applied and thus lacks specificity.

Ms Sally Evans, HR officer, PODS, advised Academic Senate members that the intent is to develop supporting guidelines to add clarity to the process. She also clarified the distinction between the two roles, noting that the purpose of the EEO observer is to be present in an advisory capacity, to offer support and advice, in relation to how the Committee interprets the ‘Relative to Opportunity Statement’ submitted by applicants early in the application process.

In terms of the statement around diversity of the committee the intent is to promote diversity to ensure equitable decision making and good governance.

In relation to section 11.6.g of the Academic Promotions Procedure, which sets out the Head of School responsibilities, an Academic Senate member suggested that a template be developed to assist the Head of School or nominee in preparing the insight report. This would improve efficiencies for the Head of School and promote consistency.

An Academic Senate member expressed concern in relation to the level of verbal as opposed to written feedback and also questioned the appeals process, noting that failure to interview is not considered a valid reason for appeal.

Ms Sally Evans, HR officer, PODS, responded, clarifying that due to confidentiality there is an element of verbal feedback, however the minutes provide a record of deliberations, recommendations and outcomes. With regard to the appeals process she clarified that the onus is on the applicant to attend the interview, if the applicant chooses not to attend this is not grounds for appeal.

In response to a question raised by an Academic Senate member Ms Evans confirmed that details of the assessors are provided to the applicant as part of the process to allow the applicant to record a potential conflict of interest, if required. She also advised that there is a list of promotions application mentors, by faculty available on the UOW website.

An Academic Senate member questioned if the process for collating evidence for the application could be automated, Sean and Sally confirmed these conversations are underway but part of a much longer process.

Suggestion was made that the Academic Promotions Process could fit into the Academic Performance Framework.

The PVC [S&P] advised Academic Senate members that extensive benchmarking is currently being undertaken to inform a more detailed review of the Academic Promotions process at UOW.

RESOLVED 2022/36

that Academic Senate endorse the proposed amendments to the Academic Promotion Procedure as provided in the agenda paper.

***2.7 Faculty Academic Governance Policy**

This item was held over pending further consultation.

2.8 International Education Agent Policy

RESOLVED 2022/37

that Academic Senate endorse the proposed amendments International Education Agent Policy as provided in the agenda paper.

PART 3: COURSE APPROVALS

N/A

PART 4: MEMBERS' REPORTS

*4.1 Reports from Senior Executive

The Chair invited Senior Executive members to provide portfolio reports to Academic Senate, noting the SDVC and the PVC (Global) as apologies. The PVC [S & P] provided his report at item 2.1.

The DVCA provided an update, highlighting three key points:

Establishment of a new of Student Life Division

- A change process has commenced to establish a new Division of Student Life, within the DVCA portfolio. The purpose of the new division will be to raise the profile of the Student Experience and to take a lead role in coordinating a University wide approach to elevating the Student Experience. The new Student Life Division will be responsible for the following initiatives:
 - The StudentLife@UOW Program which will continue as a series of strategic and tactical projects aiming to improve the student experience, align with the UOW Strategic Plan and respond to feedback.
 - Students as Partners, including business ownership of the Student Advisory Council, as well as the Students as Partners agreement and all associated operations.
 - Student Engagement, which will include a functionally focussed relationship with UOW Pulse, particularly around Clubs & Societies and other student engagement programs.
 - Accommodation Services staff and operations will become a core element of student life.
- It is proposed that the Student and Accommodation Services Division [SASD] will become the Student Administrative Services Division [SASD], this division will comprise Admissions, Fees and Scholarships; Student Systems; Student Service and Student Operations.
- Ms Theresa Hoynes will lead the Student Life Division, in the role of Director Student Life Division, and Dr Kellie Ridges will lead [SASD] in the role of Director Student Administrative Services Division, both bring extensive experience to the roles.
- The new divisions will become operational from early September, 2022, pending consultation with impacted staff.

Return to campus – Spring session

- Wollongong Campus – Overall data indicates 77% of students have returned to on campus delivery, this excludes lectures. All faculties have a >75% return to on campus rate:
 - ASSH – 79%
 - BAL – 75%
 - EIS – 76%
 - SMAH – 84%

- Metro and Regional Campus data indicates a slightly lower return to on campus delivery, in the 65-68% range, except Southern Sydney which has 94% return of classes to campus.

Exams – Proctorio (Autumn 2022 end of session exams)

- Autumn session exams ran successfully with 26,650 online and practical exam sittings scheduled. In comparison there were 41,896 face-to-face exams held in Autumn session 2019.
- The supplementary exam period ran from 18 – 22nd July, with 1,624 sittings scheduled, compared to 2,564 in Autumn session 2019.
- This was the first session where the online invigilation tool Proctorio was utilised on scale with 9,800 online invigilated sittings.
- Students were offered support via an ‘Exam Hotline’ and an ‘Online Portal’. The hotline managed almost 800 calls and over 500 IT requests were received and managed by cross functional teams comprising of IMTS, SASD and LTC.
- Extensive consultation is now being undertaken with both staff and students to obtain feedback to inform future implementation and a review of the Examination Rules and Procedures, scheduled to commence in quarter three 2022.

The Interim DVC Research and Innovation [I/DVC (R&I)] reflected on observations made at the recent strategy sessions noting that there is a need to do less but to do better and with greater depth, he acknowledged that this will be challenging for those passionate about research. The I/DVC (R&I) provided an update, highlighting the following key points:

- Consultation is underway with Executive Deans in relation to the Graduate Research School [GRS] to consider the most effective approach to realising opportunities and refining processes. The permanent position for Dean of GRS will be advertised soon;
- The I/DVC (R&I) acknowledged the issues raised around HDR candidates and noted that this will be an area for consideration moving forward;
- The direction of the Federal Government in relation to the former Government’s proposed changes to block grant funding, remains unknown. However, distributions for 2023 will be consistent with 2022 which provides some certainty in the short term;
- Similarly, the Cash Co-Investment framework is being redefined to establish a transparent university wide process;
- The Australian Research Council [ARC] has flagged that feedback will no longer be provided on National Interest Test documentation. This will come into effect from the next round onwards and will have significant implications given that this is one of the four areas for assessment.
- The review of the University’s centres and institutes is recommencing, with consultation with Executive Deans underway to consider the role that centres play and seeking to understand issues around governance in relation to institutes;
- Excellence in Research for Australia [ERA] committees are busy preparing for the next round;
- The new ARC Academy commences in a few weeks, the intention is to mirror this with the National Health and Medical Research Council Academy and to ensure support for those submitting applications, at all levels. The I/DVC (R&I) welcomed feedback from Academic Senate members in relation to the creation of a third academy around commercialisation. He also noted that the expertise of iAccelerate is underutilised in this space.
- Work is underway to consider how the University measures impact beyond publication and commercialisation and to embed the principles into the UOW DNA to reach end users and ensure major impact.

In his capacity as DVC [Health and Sustainable Futures] the I/DVC (R&I) thanked everyone involved in the reshaping of the Health and Wellbeing Precinct. The revised plan will be a critical social enterprise, it will align with the UOW strategic direction and minimise budget exposure. The I/DVC (R&I) encouraged Academic Senate members to provide feedback.

The Interim Chief Operating Officer [COO] introduced herself, providing Academic Senate members with a brief summary of her background. She reported on the following key points:

- In relation to Cyber Security staff should be cognisant of the issues and mindful of exposing the institution to risk. The University offers Cyber Security training for all staff.
- Following on from the strategic planning events the COO encouraged feedback in relation to the UOW Campus Master plan.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Students provided an update, on three key points:

- *Equity School Programs* - Learning Labs are up and running again, so far there have been 4799 equity school students engaged in a range of programs and 140 parents taking place in future talk, assisting with building aspirations for these students and the year 12 equity students participating in some of UOW programs is positive
- *Retention of success* -New series skills based psycho education workshops trialling these are the result of feedback through various channels including the student mental health survey and 24 hour student wellbeing support hotline include management of anxiety, support with UOW studies, practical skills and managing difficulties with families and relationships
- *Career Development and Learning and Graduate Outcomes* – focus has been on embedding in curriculum – 1600 students engaged with career development learning within their courses in autumn across 25 subjects.

The PVCS extended thanks to faculty colleagues for their collaboration and continued support in co-curricular engagement, exposing students to employers and industry. Extensive work is being undertaken in both the co-curricular and curricular space including Peer Development, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and the launch of the newly framed CRLP200 subject.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Health – Sydney Campuses introduced herself, providing Academic Senate members with a brief summary of her background. She advised members that a more detailed update will be provided at the September Academic Senate meeting. In the interim, she reported that UOW has submitted an application for \$80M of funding, as part of the NSW Government WestInvest program, if successful the funds will be utilised to expand and substantially retro fit the SWS Campus at Liverpool.

***4.2 Members' Reports**

There were no reports.

***4.3 Student Members' Report**

There were no reports.

***4.4 Questions on Notice**

There were no questions on notice.

PART 5: ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

***5.1 Business from Academic Senate Committees**

There was no business from Academic Senate Committees.

***5.2 Updated Quality Assurance Review Group Terms of Reference**

RESOLVED 2022/38

that subject to the revisions suggested at this meeting, Academic Senate approve the proposed amendments to the QARG Terms Of Reference as provided in the agenda paper.

5.3 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED 2022/39

that Academic Senate note the minutes from the following Academic Senate Committees and affiliate UOW entity meetings, as set out in the agenda paper:

- (i) Minutes of QARG meeting - 12 May 2022 (ratified);*
- (ii) Minutes of UIC meeting – 22 February 2022 (unratified);*
- (iii) Minutes of URC meeting – 9 February (ratified) and 28 April 2022 (unratified); and*
- (iv) Minutes of the UOWGE Board of Academic Governance meeting – 17 May 2022 (unratified).*

PART 6: FUTURE MEETINGS AND OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 2022 Meeting Dates

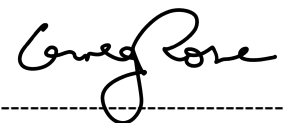
Wednesday 21 September 2022
Wednesday 9 November 2022

2023 Meeting Dates

***6.2 Other Business**

The meeting closed at 11:55 am.

Signed as a true record:



Chair, Academic Senate

Date:

ACTIONS ARISING

SENATE DATE/ ITEM	ACTION	STATUS/ DUE DATE
25 May 2022: Item 1.7 Members Business	Fill the level ADI Representative vacancy – As a casual vacancy.	21 September 2022
25 May 2022: Item 1.7 Members Business	Fill the level E vacancy for BAL (Prof Reynold’s previously held this position) – As a casual vacancy.	21 September 2022