



ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

17 May 2023

Minutes of the 365th meeting of Academic Senate held at 2:30pm on Wednesday, 17 May 2023, Building 20, room 20.5 and via WebEx.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Prof Nina Reynolds (Chair)
A/Prof Julie Kiggins (Deputy Chair)
Prof Patricia Davidson
S/Prof Gursel Alici
Mr Ahsan Anees
Dr Jenny Atchison
A/Prof Stephen Beirne
Prof Sue Bennett
Ms Jaymee Beveridge
Dr Kate Bowles
Prof Sean Brawley
Dr Jane Carey
Prof David Currow
Prof Theo Farrell
A/Prof Azdiar Gazder
Dr Belinda Gibbons
Prof Faisal Hai
Prof Louise Hickman
Prof Zhengyi Jiang
A/Prof Niamh Kinchin
A/Prof Konstantin Konstantinov
A/Prof Tracey Kuit
Dr Kimberley McMahon-Coleman
S/Prof Eileen McLaughlin
Prof Lee Moerman
Dr Germanas Peleckis
Prof Colin Picker
Prof Ann Rogerson
A/Prof Montse Ros
Prof Guang Shi
Dr Lisa Slater
Dr David Tan
Ms Durga Tandon
Mr Michael Valceski
Ms Nadia Verrucci
Prof Wilma Vialle
Dr Elena Vlahu-Gjorgievska
Ms Grace Walker
A/Prof Ika Willis
Dr Marian Wong

APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Prof Thomas Astell-Burt
Dr Kellie Buckley-Walker
Prof Karen Charlton
Ms Abbey Dawson
Ms Razan Habara
A/Prof Chris Hyland
Mr John Littrich
Mr Bayley Mathai
Prof Danielle Skropeta
A/Prof Wanqing Li
A/Prof Yanguang Yu

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Dominic Riordan, Director, Academic Quality and Standards
Dr Kellie Ridges, Director, Students Administration Services
Ms Margie Jantti, Director, Library
Prof Marc in het Panhuis, Dean of Sport
Ms Marcela Herrera, Academic Senate Executive Officer
Mr Mark Roberts, Interim Chief Governance Officer
Ms Paola Ciccarelli, Interim Senior Manager, Governance Unit
Prof Simon Moss, Dean Graduate Research
Ms Theresa Hoynes, Director, Student Life
Prof Trish Mundy, Chief Integrity Officer

OBSERVERS:

Mr Cooper Appleby, Management Cadet, Governance and Policy Division
Mr Jordan Matthews, Chief of Staff

*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 Academic Senate Extraordinary meeting. A special welcome was extended to participants attending their first meeting, Professor Marc in het Panhuis, Dean of Sport, Mr Jordan Matthew, Chief of Staff, Mr Mark Roberts, Interim Chief Governance Officer and the newly appointed undergraduate student representatives Ms Grace Walker and Ms Razan Habara.

The Chair also thanked all members for making the time to attend today's meeting, particularly as it was arranged at short notice and acknowledged that in many instances this would have required the rearranging of busy schedules.

*1.2 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair declared a conflict of interest noting that a term of reference of the Review of the Role and Function of Academic Senate considered the resources required to manage Academic Senate and that she would abstain from commenting on the recommendations pertaining to this term of reference.

*1.3 Chair's Report

ACADEMIC SENATE ELECTIONS

The Chair reminded everyone that nominations close today (17 May 2023), at 5pm for the various academic positions on Academic Senate, listed below:

- Deputy Chair
- Faculty Academic Representatives for each Faculty (coordinated by each Faculty)
- Non-Faculty Academic Representatives
- Associate Dean (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
- Associate Dean (Research) (coordinated by the University Research Committee)
- Associate Dean (International) (coordinated by the University Internationalisation Committee)

PART 2: GENERAL BUSINESS

*2.1 Academic Senate Role and Function Review

In introducing the item, the Chair recapped the purpose of the review noting that following the review of the structure (membership model) of Academic Senate in 2021, it was agreed to review the role and function of Academic Senate to ensure that the new structure would fulfill Academic Senate's role. The review also ensures compliance with TEQSA requirements that universities conduct internal reviews.

The Chair noted that the working group met three times and that a placeholder meeting is scheduled for 18 May 2023 to discuss and address any matters that arise from today's meeting.

The Chair then invited the DVC (S&A) to speak to the review findings.

The DVC (S&A) thanked the Working Group for their participation and other stakeholders that have been engaged throughout the review process. In taking the draft report as read, he advised that the purpose of this extraordinary meeting is for Academic Senate members to have an open discussion and provide feedback on the draft report and that all feedback will be discussed by the Working Group and included in the final report.

The DVC (S&A) advised that the scope of the review was to identify areas of the role and function of Academic Senate that can be strengthened. He noted that there is an expectation to conduct internal

reviews and demonstrate good governance and the university will be able to provide the review and recommendations to the external reviewers demonstrating that Academic Senate is fit for purpose. Additionally, TEQSA encourages universities to conduct self-assessments and identify opportunities for improvement. This is an important step to ensure that the university's re-registration submission proceeds smoothly.

The review identified there are no critical matters to attend to however there are a number of opportunities for improvement. In referring to the recommendations against each term of reference outlined in the report, the DVC (S&A) highlighted the following:

- **Terms of Reference (ToR) 1 and 2.**
ToR 1 refers to the alignment between Academic Senate's ToR with the Higher Education Standards Framework. It was identified that Guiding Principles were required to assist with structure harmonisation of Academic Senate Committee memberships – UEC, UIC, URC and QARG. The identified recommendations for improvement in ToR 2 are that the University's KPI's should be reported to Academic Senate within portfolio annual reports.
- **Terms of Reference 3 and 4**
The terms of reference relate to incorporating feedback into the review and the recommendations suggest that agenda items are mapped against Senate's Terms of Reference. Additionally, Academic Senate should facilitate strategy and strategy development discussions by encouraging presentations at Academic Senate to ensure transparency and visibility of strategies at draft stage, prior to Council.
- **Term of Reference 5**
This term refers to a matter that TEQSA is particularly interested in and that is the relationship between Academic Senate and University Council and whether it is a strong relationship. The recommendation is to improve communication between the two by bringing awareness to both committees on the role and responsibilities of the other. It was noted that the governance modules developed for Council could include a segment on Academic Senate.
- **Term of Reference 6**
This term relates to resourcing requirements and a recommendation is to seek further clarification required for the smooth running of Senate against sector norms and UOW requirements.

The DVC (S&A) referred to the Chair, who opened the floor for discussion. A summary of the discussions held at the meeting is provided at Attachment 1. Responses provided by the Working Group at the meeting on 18 May 2023 have also been included in the summary.

RESOLVED 2023/27

that Academic Senate provide feedback on the draft report on the Academic Senate Role and Function Review as provided in the agenda paper.

PART 6: FUTURE MEETINGS AND OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Next Meetings

Wednesday 31 May 2023
Wednesday 26 July 2023
Wednesday 20 September 2023
Wednesday 8 November 2023

The meeting closed at 3:26pm

Signed as a true record:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by several loops and a final flourish.

Chair, Academic Senate

Date: / /