



ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES 20 MARCH 2019

Minutes of the 344th meeting of Academic Senate held at 9:30am on Wednesday 20 March 2019 in Room 20.5, the Communications Building.

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Prof Wilma Vialle (Chair)	Ms Theresa Hoynes	Prof Fiona Probyn-Rapsey
A/Prof Lee Moerman (Deputy Chair)	Prof Zhengyi Jiang	Prof Melanie Randle
Dr Stephen Beirne	A/Prof Julie Kiggins	Prof Christian Ritz
Ms Jaymee Beveridge	Dr Jon Knott	A/Prof Ann Rogerson
Dr Kate Bowles	Prof Valerie Linton	Prof Glenn Salkeld
Prof Brogan Bunt	Dr Xiaoping Lu	Ms Samantha Sharpe
Prof Karen Charlton	A/Prof Chris Magee	Dr Lynnaire Sheridan
Prof Peter Caputi	Prof Tim Marchant	Dr Mark Sifer
Dr Robyn Coman	Mr Paul Mazzola	Prof Nadia Solowij
Prof Joe Chicharo	Dr Katarina Mikac	Dr Marcelo Svirsky
Prof Julia Coyle	Mr Jacob Morath	A/Prof Rodney Vickers
Ms Melva Crouch	Prof Tracey Moroney	Prof Simon Ville
Prof Theo Farrell	Dr Trish Mundy	A/Prof Margaret Wallace
Ms Lorraine Fields	Mr Aibek Niyetkaliyev	A/Prof Karen Walton
Ms Agnieszka Golda	A/Prof Germanas Peleckis	Prof Paul Wellings
Dr Penny Harris	Prof Allen Nutman	Ms Grace Welsby
Dr Jane Herbert	Prof Colin B. Picker	A/Prof Khin Win
	Prof Will Price	A/Prof Ping Yu

APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Prof Jenny Beck	Prof Marc in het Panhuis	Prof Sarah O'Shea
Prof Sue Bennett	Ms Margie Jantti	Ms Julie Renwick
Dr Thomas Birtchnell	Prof Lisa Kervin	Prof Nina Reynolds
Prof Paul Chandler	A/Prof Tracey Kuit	Mr Sandeep Satapathy
Prof Alex Frino	Prof Roger Lewis	A/Prof Neaz Sheikh
A/Prof Robert Gorkin III	Prof Huijun Li	Dr Lynn Sheridan
Dr Luis Gomez Romero	Dr Kimberley McMahon-Coleman	Prof Nan Seuffert
Ms Loretta Iskra	Prof Greg Melleuish	Prof James Wallman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Prof Mitch Byrne	Ms Tori Funnell	Mr Dominic Riordan
Ms Antoinette Faddoul	Dr Nancy Huggett	

OBSERVERS:

Mr Jason Aquilina	Ms Janelle Cuzen	Mr Nic Orr
Ms Siobhan Christian	Ms Rebecca Daly	Ms Emma Purdy
Ms Allison Clode	Dr Flynn Hill	A/Prof Paul Sharrad
A/Prof Georgine Clarsen	Ms Sophie Horne	Ms Jan Sullivan
Ms Amy Cord	Dr Liz Magassy	Ms Sally Towse
Mr James Coyte	Ms Holly Machon	A/Prof Ika Willis

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

The Chair welcomed members to the 344th meeting of Academic Senate apologising that the attendance register for the Moodle site wasn't functioning at the time of the meeting. Given the number of attendees, the Chair asked that members use the front door when leaving to ensure quorum was monitored.

The meeting granted permission for the meeting to be recorded using the smart pen, the Chair noting that the recording is used as a tool to assist with the minutes and then deleted. The Chair asked that, in keeping with the Academic Senate Standing Orders, devices be turned to silent and not used to record proceedings.

As is customary at the first meeting of the year, an Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed the new student members to their first meeting and noted they had all attended a productive induction session. Observers and attendees at the meeting were noted, in particular, Dr Liz Magassy, Deputy Chancellor and University Fellow, Paul Sharrad. Apologies were also registered.

***1.2 Arrangement of Agenda**

The Chair noted that should any of the matters become confidential the meeting would move to a closed session.

1.2.1 Conflict of Interest

1.2.2 Confidential Items

There were no confidential items.

***1.2.3 Starring of Items**

- *1.1: Welcome, 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
- *2.1: Thematic Presentation: Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences
- *2.2: Fast-Tracking of Bachelor of Arts Western Civilisation
- *4.1: Reports from Senior Executive
- *4.2: Members' Reports
- *4.3: Student Members' Report
- *4.4: Questions on Notice
- *5.1: Business from Academic Senate Committees
- *6.1: 2019 Meeting Dates
- *6.2: Other Business

It was noted that two starred items (2.2 and 4.4) related to the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation would be discussed in succession. These items are records in discussion order in the minutes for ease of reference.

RESOLVED 2019/1:

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

***1.3 Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED 2019/2:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018, as attached in the agenda paper, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

***1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising.

***1.5 Chair's Report**

The Chair reminded members that, following the December Senate meeting, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (DVC(A)), Professor Joe Chicharo, has agreed to Chair a Working Group focussing on mandatory lecture recordings with a report due to Senate in July. The University Council starred that item at its December meeting and asked that Senate provide a report on this issue to its August meeting.

The Chair advised that there are currently three major reviews underway in the Sector which may be of particular interest to Senate:

- The French Review of freedom of speech. A brief consultation has occurred and is complete with a report anticipated later this year;
- The Higher School Certificate Review in NSW is due to provide an interim report mid-year with the final report due at end of 2019. The Chair noted that review has been considering whether the number of units required for an ATAR should be reduced to allow more choice for students in the final HSC years; and,
- The Australian Qualifications Framework Review has finished its consultation phase which included public forums. The report is due in September 2019.

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

The Vice-Chancellor (VC) made a statement about the shootings in Christchurch on Friday, 15 March and noted that a fuller statement was publically available in the *Universe* e-newsletter. On behalf of the University community, he condemned the violence that unfolded in Christchurch and offered sympathy and condolences to the loved ones of those killed or injured in the attacks and heartfelt support of the Muslim community at this time. He noted that UOW is a global institution that has been deeply engaged with Muslim communities around the world for over 25 years – from our students and colleagues and alumni in Dubai, to Malaysia and here in Australia. Like our counterparts at Christchurch's universities, we work to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff from all faiths, nationalities and cultural backgrounds and stand in solidarity with New Zealand at this time.

The VC also noted the French Review, to which Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors were invited to comment. Submissions are likely to be published on the Department of Education website in the coming weeks. He noted that French's Report may be available by the next Senate meeting.

The VC advised that he was Chairing the National Review of the Commonwealth Grants Scheme focussing on proposal to uncap student numbers by 2020. Consultations have commenced and an interim report is due to Minister Tehan by the end of the month before a final report to be presented to the Government by the end of June 2019.

In parallel, former Premier of Victoria, Denis Napthine is undertaking a review of HE opportunities for rural and regional students, with a final report due to Minister Tehan by the end of the month.

The VC noted the Government's announcement around migration policy, with a new cap of 160,000 being implemented consisting of a mix of skilled and other migrants. He noted there was a focus in directing migrants to rural and regional areas and that, for the purposes of this policy, Wollongong is classified as regional which may positively impact international student recruitment. More information will come to Senate in due course.

The VC noted the upcoming State and Commonwealth elections. Of note to Senate should Labor be returned at the Federal Government level, is that there would be a major review of post-secondary education including VET as well as HE. In January, Kim Carr also announced a systematic review of the Australian research and development framework including industry incentives. This will be discussed further at the July meeting of Senate.

***1.7 Membership Business**

The Chair advised that the Deputy Chair, Professor Lee Moerman's term ends on 30 June 2019. She reminded members that nominations for Deputy Chair and Chair roles do not have to come from the Senate membership and are open to all level D and E academics. Should there be more than one nomination received, an election would be held at the May Senate meeting. The terms of faculty academic representatives also expire at 30 June 2019. The Executive Officer will be in touch with faculties to arrange for elections to take place. Results will be announced at the May Senate meeting.

PART 2: GENERAL BUSINESS

***2.1 Thematic Presentation: Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences**

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences (ED(EIS)), Professor Valerie Linton, gave a presentation to Senate about her faculty noting it has six schools in total with three in the Engineering discipline. She noted the following achievements:

- UOW is ranked 87th in the world in Engineering and Technology
- In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for Computer Science, UOW is ranked in the 201-250 band.
- EIS is ranked 16th amongst universities under 50 years and 218th overall in the world university rankings.
- In the QS rankings by subject for subject areas in top 100, UOW is ranked 17 for Mineral and Mining Engineering

EIS is proud of its achievements and future trajectory. The ED(EIS) noted that the faculty has an international focus with long established international relationships in teaching and research. It has a substantial number of overseas students and offers three twinning programs in China and two programs in Engineering in Dubai.

The ED(EIS) noted that since she commenced in the role, the Heads of Schools have been refreshed and a strategy for the Faculty as a 'place of choice' has been implemented, extending to institute partners, academics and students. The Faculty has created a positive culture by providing an experience of excellence and a large number of disciplines have a rating of 5 in the ERA rankings. The Faculty's strategic offerings include a new Computer Science degree at South West Sydney and the ED(EIS) is working with the NUW Alliance together with the University of Western Sydney on the exciting Aerotropolis at Badgerys Creek.

UOW was the only Australian university to enter the international Solar Decathlon Competition and our 'Desert Rose House' came second overall, and first in the Innovation category. This is the second time UOW has entered the competition with the first entry winning the competition. The latest competition was held in Dubai and EIS together with UOWD and other partners engaged in a positive collaboration. The Desert Rose House will be erected on Innovation Campus and will be open for viewing and for short term stays. One of its key design aspects is that it is dementia friendly.

In terms of enrolments, the ED(EIS) noted that domestic student enrolments are flat with a rising number of international student enrolments. In the International space, there is an integrated end on master program offered in China which is proving popular although overall demand from China is flattening. The Faculty is looking to expand numbers in India.

The ED noted that retention rates of female students are high and that they are disproportionately represented at the Faculty's annual excellence awards, so the focus is on female enrolments at UOW. EIS has 18% female undergraduates and 21% postgraduate. In the Biomedical Engineering discipline, 50% of students are female. Environmental Engineering is also popular with female students and new degrees such as Architectural Engineering are being introduced which will also attract female students.

The Faculty continues schools outreach activities to ensure students at primary and secondary schools maintain interest in STEM.

The Faculty's research strategies are to consolidate existing strengths and focus on making a difference in the quality and impact of research. EIS is an outwardly looking faculty with deep links to industry at the local, national and international level. The ED(EIS) noted that UOW has recently appointed an officer to coordinate defence collaborations including civilian technology, and to make stronger use of industry advisory groups to help inform EIS research and teaching. The ED(EIS) concluded by noting that, in 2019, EIS plans to continue to develop a strong culture of excellence; to grow income and maintain transparent funding models; to contribute to and be informed by latest research findings; to champion research led education and to further develop industry engagement.

A member noted the Faculty's industry engagement and research-led teaching and asked how the Faculty will further teaching excellence. The ED advised that the Faculty will continue to provide research-led teaching and to engage peer review of teaching practices. She noted that some Schools engage in teaching reflection exercises to share effective strategies and consider improvements, and that feedback from students is also taken into account to improve teaching quality and timeliness of feedback. The EIS Associate Dean (Education) added that there is a strong quality assurance cycle in the university that includes teaching quality.

A member asked about the national conservation energy policy, and how the Faculty contributes to energy conservation and to the official conversation about energy policy. The ED(EIS) advised that the Faculty contributes to energy efficiency and sustainability in three major areas: in the Australian Power Policy Research Centre; the Future Fuels CRC and the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre and the SMART Infrastructure facility.

A member commented on the Faculty's success in increasing and retaining female students. As Head of School for Humanities and Social Inquiry, she noted that the combined Bachelor of Arts and Engineering Degree is an excellent cross-disciplinary program.

RESOLVED 2019/3

that Academic Senate note the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences presentation provided by Executive Dean, Professor Valerie Linton.

***2.2 Bachelor of Arts Western Civilisation**

The agenda items concerning the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation were discussed together and are presented together in the minutes for ease of reference. The Chair took the Questions on Notice (QON) paper first.

Questions on Notice (Item 4.4)

The Chair advised that two QONs had been received. She noted that, in accordance with the Academic Senate Standing Orders, QONs can be submitted from members of the UOW community and channelled through a member of Senate or the Senate Executive Officer. Once the Chair has approved the inclusion of QON, it is then forwarded to the VC to determine which officer is best placed to answer it. The timeframe often prevents a written response from being drafted, however, as the two current QONs were submitted early, the DVC(A) has prepared written responses in the agenda papers. The Chair advised that the first QON has been submitted by Dr Luis Gomez Romero, LHA and Senate member and the second by A/Professor Georgine Clarsen, a non-Senate member:

Question 1: *“How will the University of Wollongong address concerns - voiced by highly respected consultants in academic governance, such as Dr Hilary Winchester - on the current fast-track course approval procedure not meeting the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework in relation to the BA Western Civilisation recently approved by the Vice-Chancellor?”*

Question 2: *“What is Senate's position on the propriety of using the Fast Track process to approve the B.A.WCiv, given that:*

- a. *the proposal to host a Ramsay Centre is immensely controversial – both within this campus, in our larger community, and in the national media. The Ramsay Centre proposal is patently doing damage to the reputation of UOW, regardless of international endorsements.*
- b. *TEQSA requires that all universities have a "course approval process that is overseen by academic governance processes that are consistently applied to all courses of study." (TEQSA CEO A. McClaran Australian 20.2.19)"*

The DVC(A) noted that the QONs were asking if UOW should have used the fast-track process in this instance; was the fast-track process applied rigorously and consistently; does the fast-track process meet the TEQSA standards and Higher Education Framework and does UOW want to consider the use of the fast-track process.

The DVC(A) stated that the first part of the question would be addressed in more detail in the discussion of the next item but noted that the fast-track process is triggered for strategic reasons. Normally, those strategic reasons are advanced by the faculty, then considered by the centre. If they meet all the criteria, then the fast-track process is followed. He stated that the fast-track process requires a full proposal addressing academic criteria and includes: the Academic Quality and Standards Division (AQS) examining the proposal to ensure it meets the essential criteria of approving a new course; that the curriculum is examined by the Learning, Teaching and Curriculum Division (LTC) to ensure it is consistent with the curriculum model and to ensure the proposal meets the requirements of academic oversight and rigour before DVC(A) review and VC approval. All these requirements were met in this case. The DVC(A) advised that the proposal did seek national and international expert opinion about the course and that feedback was positive. Once a course is approved in the fast-track process, it then flows through to the Strategic Course Development Committee (SCDC), the Quality Assurance Review Group (QARG) and Senate. All proposals via the fast-track process have to withstand scrutiny from the wider community and the course approval processes.

In relation to the fast-track process in general, the DVC(A) noted that it has been in use at UOW for two decades. He noted that in that time, the University has undergone accreditation by AUQA and TEQSA and the process had not been questioned. He also advised that other universities have similar fast-track processes with UOW's having more rigour about how and when it should be applied. The DVC(A) assured Senate that the fast-track process does meet the TEQSA standards and the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF). The fast-track process at UOW is used sparingly but strategically as reflected in the agenda papers. The DVC(A) added that there are currently requests from a faculty to fast-track two additional courses and noted that the same rigour would be applied to that proposal.

The DVC(A) noted Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester's statement in the media that the fast-track process did not appear to meet the requirements of the HESF, advising that Professor Winchester had carried out the review of academic governance at UOW and had noted on p38 of her Report that the fast-track process allows certain course approvals to go directly to the VC for approval prior to Senate without criticism. She did not state that the fast-track process was inconsistent with the HESF.

The DVC(A) noted that, in this instance, the fast-track process was imperative given the timing constraints in getting the course to market. He observed that UOW prides itself on being agile and moving quickly. There is a competitive advantage to the degree being launched in 2020. The DVC(A) stated that this is consistent with other requests for fast-track processes.

The Chair invited questions for clarification.

A member noted that a normal course approval process starts at the School level and then goes on to the Faculty Education Committee (FEC) and that, if it is deemed to be fast-tracked, it goes on from there. This proposal started at the Faculty level and proceeded to senior management. The DVC(A) replied that the proposal to the Ramsay Foundation included the establishment of a new school and that there was no existing school for the course to be initiated from. He stated that section 10 of the Course and Subject Approval Procedures – New Offerings and Discontinuations is silent about whether fast-track proposals need to go to the School first and then onto the FEC. As there was no school it was a choice made by the Faculty whether the proposal needed to go to the FEC.

The Senate member asked if there will be new staff employed in the School of if they are from existing Schools. The DVC(A) replied that Professor Dan Hutto from UOW has been appointed as Head of School (HOS), and the plan is to recruit for staff openly from internal or external sources.

A member noted Professor Winchester's review of academic governance has referenced the fast-track process but alleged that at p38 Professor Winchester has stated that the process does not sit well with Senate's claim to be the principal academic body of the University and the peak academic body which plays an important role in the University. The DVC(A) reiterated that Professor Winchester's Report did not say that the Fast-Track process did not meet TEQSA standards or the HESF. The Senate member noted that there is an implication that UOW is out of step with sector standards and makes recommendations for UOW to help meet the standards. The DVC(A) noted the Report said that UOW's course approval process was one of our strengths.

A member noted that the fast-track process should have followed the usual course proposal procedure and been considered at the FEC, observing that there are clear benefits to progressing course proposals through the FEC as it provides the opportunity to enhance proposals and to make the course the best that it can be. She suggested that fast-tracking the proposal was a lost opportunity for meaningful consultation.

The DVC(A) noted that the discussion was moving into the topic to be discussed under agenda item 2.2 and requested a procedural motion to move to that item. The Chair agreed to the motion.

RESOLVED 2019/17

that Academic Senate note the Questions on Notice and responses, as provided at the 20 March 2019 meeting and outlined in the agenda papers.

Paper on Fast-Tracking of the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation (Item 2.2)

The Chair advised that she would ensure all members who wished to speak would have the opportunity to do so, within the time constraints of the meeting. She reminded members of meeting conduct, protocols and procedures under the Standing Orders, noting that the author of the paper would be given the opportunity to speak first and will have a right to reply before the resolutions are put to the meeting. All other speakers are to indicate their interest in speaking and, under the Standing Orders, are limited to one chance to speak with the exception of the Vice-Chancellor.

The HOS for the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry (HSI) in LHA and author of the paper advised that the two motions in the agenda paper had been put to Senate with a heavy heart as she would prefer not to speak out against an initiative of her faculty. She noted that HSI is directly affected by the new degree as it parallels the current Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, intersecting with disciplines in HSI, and does not support the existing areas of the BA degree. Further, the introduction of a new degree bypassing the normal approval pathways sets a precedent that is important to discuss. She suggested that the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation (BAWCiv) will not benefit the wider faculty, as it will be a new school with new staff, funded by the Ramsay Centre. She noted that the relationship between contemporary arts programs and the Ramsay Centre has been controversial for the last three years because it is not a gift free from obligations. Statements have been made in relation to the BAWCiv by conservative commentators John Howard and Tony Abbott claiming there is too much talk about feminism, Indigenous studies and sustainability in current university teaching. Further to this, the member noted that there is controversy about the ambitions of the Ramsay Centre and questions around academic freedom and academic independence.

The HOS observed that the University of Sydney (USyd) and the University of Queensland (UQ) are continuing negotiations to teach the degree but are doing so in consultation with the university community and not through a fast-track process. USyd and UQ are considering majors offered within current degrees, whereas UOW has agreed to a new school and whole new degree. She concluded that the new degree and UOW's association with the Ramsay Centre risks reputational damage. The fast-track process states that it is to be used when it doesn't impact on the quality of the course and doesn't compromise the University's reputation and appears to be generally used for tweaks to current courses and not for the introduction of new degrees. Bypassing discussions about course intersections, how learning outcomes might fit with other degrees, as well as entry requirements is concerning and risks a two tiered education system for the BAWCiv and other degrees. The degree has been already

approved without the benefit of such discussions with Academic Program Directors (APD), Associate Deans, HOSs and other faculties. She noted that an Advisory Board had been created for the degree but that this was not a replacement for normal approval processes and the degree should not have made it to Senate without having a process of consultation. She suggested that the excitement of being first on the market with the course, overshadowed quality and reputational considerations and the need to maintain academic oversight. The HOS concluded that the fast-track process was misapplied in this instance.

The VC responded, noting there were a number of misinterpretations in the agenda paper which he wanted to address and made the following points:

- The fast-track approval process considers new course offers without comprising the quality and reputation to the University. The potential for reputation risk was considered by the University. It was recognised that there may be latent reputational risk given the negative media reporting of previous negotiations between the Ramsay Centre and other universities. A thorough risk assessment was conducted and communications plan was developed to reassure stakeholders within and beyond the UOW community, and a very large number of eminently qualified external academic advisors were consulted to assure the quality of the proposed curriculum. With these measures in place, the University was and remains assured that the BAWCiv course will not compromise the reputation of the University. This confidence has been borne out by very positive reporting of the new course in all the major newspapers: *The Sydney Morning Herald* (12/02/2019), *The Australian Financial Review* (12/02/2019), and *The Australian* (13/02/2019).
- The BAWCiv is not a private degree, but rather a regular UOW degree course funded by an external partner, designed and delivered by UOW, and governed by all applicable UOW rules and regulations.
- UOW may soon be joined by two other university partners. Last month, UQ's Senate gave approval for UQ to proceed with concluding a MOU with the Ramsay Centre. Likewise talks between USyd and the Ramsay Centre are ongoing over their draft MOU.
- Professor Winchester conducted a review of academic governance at UOW in 2017, as part of the university's successful re-registration application to TEQSA. In her Report, Professor Winchester took note of the fast track approval process at UOW. The VC noted that he was not in position to comment on the apparent contradiction between Dr Winchester's Report in 2017 and her comments as reported in *The Australian* on 20 February 2019.
- LHA sought fast track approval for the BAWCiv given the very tight deadlines for listing the course with UAC. According to the documented process, the fast track approval process does not require a proposal to go to FEC before it is submitted to the DVC(A) for consideration, and the FEC was not scheduled to meet between the signing of the MOU with the Ramsay Centre on 14 December and the request for fast track approval, submitted to DVC(A) on 17 January.
- LHA does not have a procedure that requires consultation with discipline groups when determining which Majors to make available to students on a new undergraduate course. The Majors that are listed as options for students taking the BAWCiv are all cognate disciplines, and accordingly appropriate. It is the logistical arrangement of subjects allowing the major to mesh seamlessly with the BAWCiv core that has determined the Majors that are currently available with the course.
- An Advisory Board has been established to advise academics in SOLA on further curriculum development. However, a larger panel of over twenty external advisors was consulted on the curriculum design. This included senior academics from the four Liberal Arts programs on which we have modelled our BAWCiv: the President of St. John's College, the Dean of Zaytuna College, and senior colleagues from Yale-NUS Liberal Arts Program and St. Olaf College. Also consulted were a large number of world-leading philosophers, including Baroness Professor Onora O'Neil (University of Cambridge), Professor Ruth Millikan (University of Connecticut), Professor Sonia Sikka (University of Ottawa), Distinguished Professor Robert Brandom (University of Pittsburgh), Professor Francis Egan (Rutgers University), Professor Mari Hatavara (University of Tampere), and Professor Scott Sturgeon (University of Birmingham). Within Australia, feedback on the proposed curriculum was received from Dr. Monima Chadha (Head of Philosophy, Monash University), Professor Phil Gerrans (University of Adelaide), and Professor Mark Alfano (Australian Catholic University). Finally, the Faculty also consulted with the Pro Vice Chancellor for Inclusion and Outreach, Professor Paul Chandler prior to submitting the course for approval.

Any inference that the curriculum was not considered by a sufficiently experienced and diverse panel of advisors is clearly unwarranted.

- The paper fails to draw the distinction between the body of experts who were consulted, and the International Advisory Committee established by the School of Liberal Arts.

In closing the VC made the following remarks:

1. Colleagues on social media and in these Senate papers have categorised this degree as a Ramsay Centre and a private degree. Neither are true.
2. The fast-track approval process has been in use at UOW for about 20 years, and on average is used about five times a year. Hence it forms part of standard academic governance at UOW.
3. Many other Australian universities use the fast-track approval process where faculties need flexibility to deal with market circumstances.
4. AQS has confirmed that the application of the BAWCiv was fully compliant with all the requirements of the fast-track approval process.
5. During the discussion at the last Council meeting on the use of the fast-track approval process for the BAWCiv, several people noted the process had been applied appropriately in this case.

A member commented that the fast-track policy is justified but it says nothing about the nature of our association with the contracting party. To be able to assess the use of the fast-track policy and the risks to quality and reputation, we must look at and understand the nature of our association with the Ramsay Centre. The DVC(A) in his response to the QONs stated that UOW is “not hosting Ramsay Centre”, consequently the member asked what the nature of the relationship between UOW and the Ramsay was and what policies apply to that.

The member noted that he has looked closely at UOW’s policies and suggested two possibilities, either the relationship is a commercial activity or a collaborative delivery; these are two different things which have two different policy guidelines. If this is a commercial activity then, in accordance with the Commercial Activity Guidelines 4.2.i “Any third parties of the university contracts, should be subject to the appropriate due diligent checks, and should have where appropriate a proven track record in the area concerned”. He noted that under fast-track policy, our reputation should be measured by the nature of the third party with whom we contract, suggested that the track record of the Ramsay Centre, since it was established, is that its academic program has been rejected by other universities. He contended that Ramsay has no expertise or experience in teaching and learning. He then noted that if the arrangement is a collaborative delivery, “the university will only enter into collaborative arrangement with other institutions, whose quality of visions, missions, visions are compatible with its own”. He suggested that the Ramsay Centre’s mission, values, and vision were not compatible given that the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ramsay Centre, John Howard, and Tony Abbott have stated that the Ramsay Centre is not just about western civilisation but in favour of it.

The member concluded that since the announcement of the relationship with the Ramsay Centre, there have been numerous damaging articles published on the ABC and SBS websites, on NITV online, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Conversation*, *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and *The Illawarra Mercury*, that members of parliament at both state and federal level have criticised the deal, and there is much criticism in social media. The Senate member continued to read several media headlines. He noted that the reputational damage has not been contained. He concluded that he was in favour of the draft resolutions.

A member asked about the risk assessment that had been carried out, and asked if there was any consideration given for the impact on future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students selecting UOW as their university of first choice. She noted that there were three Indigenous students who had been offered full accommodation scholarships in 2019 but who had declined them based on the impact of the BAWCiv being offered. She also noted that it had been stated that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Inclusion and Outreach) (PVC(I&O)) was consulted about the degree. However, she suggested he had attended a presentation and sought clarification about the level of consultation in which the PVC(I&O) had been included on the decision about the Ramsay Centre.

The Executive Dean of LHA (ED(LHA)) responded on the VC’s behalf. He stated that the overall risk assessment included reputational risk and that this was being managed and addressed in successful communication campaigns which have highlighted the innovative aspects of the degree and

curriculum. He noted that the curriculum has 16 subjects, eight of which explore interactions between western and non-western thoughts and ideas within these core subjects. The ED(LHA) stated that he was confident in the course's design, being a progressive philosophy course. In addition, he advised that he had consulted with the PVC(I&O) as had HOS Professor Dan Hutto in several meetings including on course design and curriculum noting its inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and that the consultation with the PVC(I&O) had been appropriate.

A student member asked how the University would ensure that students who may be interested in the degree did not feel vilified to do so, especially given recent protests. The VC replied that this was an important issue and relates to how the University engages with students, irrespective of where they come from, what their social circumstances are, or what their political views might be. The University has a set of values as an institution that form part of the 2030 vision which are about mutual respect, diversity, empowerment and academic freedom. Furthermore the VC expressed that it would be unacceptable if there were students being discriminated against based on their scholarship and that the University would not tolerate discrimination based on such student choices. The ED LHA added that this point had been discussed at the Strategic Course Development Committee (SCDC) and the portfolio will work with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) (PVC(Students)) to have a strategy in place to address this.

A member asked whether fast-track was the right approval mechanism and noted that part of the confusion is that the policies are silent on what happens within the faculty. He suggested that had Professor Winchester known such proposals would not go through the FEC she may have had a stronger view. His own interpretation of the process would be that all fast-track proposals should go through the FEC as is custom and practice at the moment. The DVCA's team had interpreted this process in a particular way, but from a faculty point of view the FEC is an integral part of fast-track process. The member questioned the use of fast-track processes when there were reputational issues and suggested that the rationale of being first to market didn't match the UAC publishing dates.

The VC noted a correction on p142, advising the agenda deadline for SCDC was 23 January with the meeting to be held on 13 February and the deadline for UAC fell between the two, necessitating the fast-track process.

A member enquired about how much weight should be given to the wishes of the academic staff that will be most affected. The VC noted that, at USyd and UQ, the program would be taught via majors and that current staff therefore needed to be involved in the discussions. However, at UOW there is a new school and a separate course. While appropriate consultations still needed to take place, the distinction in approaches means that there are less staff directly affected at UOW.

A member asked about the timeline, noting the statement that the degree was in development through half of 2018 and asked how it got to be in a time critical situation which prevented consultation with any of the bodies that may have had insights in relation to this offering. She raised concerns about racing to be first in market, given the hurt to UOW's reputation and the impact on Indigenous Students and colleagues. The VC commented on the timeline issue, noting that universities were invited by the Ramsay Centre to put an expression of interest (EOI) in the last quarter of 2017, with the closing date around November. There were a large number of universities that were eligible and he understood that around ten universities submitted an EOI. After that, feedback was received that UOW had put in a strong EOI, but that was followed by a long silent period where Ramsay were talking to other institutions, including a very long discussion with the ANU which resulted in MOU negotiations which later collapsed due to governance issues. This was around July 2018 and UOW next heard back from the Ramsay Centre in the last quarter of 2018. Consequently the proposal from Ramsay didn't come back until late 2018 when the MOU discussions commenced. The ED(LHA) added that UOW didn't hear back from the Ramsay Centre until late November 2018 with less than a month to negotiate, ensure academic freedom and governance aspects were in place and reach agreement on the MOU.

The ED LHA responded to issues and points raised by members:

1. The suggestion that the BAWCiv runs in parallel to the BA is inaccurate, and a course mapping exercise showed that only three subjects in the entire faculty partially overlapped.
2. The suggestion that the degree does not support existing areas of study at UOW is inaccurate. To launch a liberal arts degree not seen elsewhere on the Australian landscape enhances our

research capacity and enables us to offer a robust philosophy-based program while other philosophy departments in the sector are at risk or have closed.

3. The fast-track process was undertaken in accordance with the policy provisions and the degree did not go to FEC as it had not come up through a school and was an initiative from the centre of the faculty. Experts were engaged to ensure the academic rigour of the course.
4. With regard to timing, fast-tracking was needed to meet the UAC deadlines with the view to be ready for the Early Admissions process. UOW is offering the opportunity to have a diverse student group. USyd and UQ are sandstone universities while our forte is that UOW has a diverse student body and diversity among the BAWCiv students is a priority.

The HOS, HSI had her right of reply and stated in response to the VC comments about the description as a private degree that the Ramsay Centre refers to the BAWCiv as “our degree” on their website. The point about the nature of the relationship with the Ramsay Centre is important as Ramsay will have an office on campus, and be involved in the recruitment selection panel. She noted that there should be ongoing consultations with Indigenous students current and future. However, given the long debate the member suggested the resolution be put.

The DVC(A) raised a procedural motion to amend part (ii) of the draft resolution to take into account the fact that the University has already agreed to review our course approval procedures at the end of 2019. He requested the draft resolution request the review of fast-track occurred within the context of the wider review. The right of reply was waived by the HOS HSI. The amendment was approved.

Each part of the two part resolution was moved separately. Part (1) was passed with 28 for and 16 against. Part two as amended was carried by a clear majority with 46 for and none against.

RESOLVED 2019/4:

that Academic Senate:

- (i) *objects to the use of Fast-Track Approval Process in Course and subject approval procedures – New offerings and discontinuations (section 10) in relation to Bachelor of Arts Western Civilisation; and*
- (ii) *notes the upcoming review of UOW’s course approval procedures planned for later in 2019 will take into consideration, in addition to the impact of the new COSMOS system, the Fast-Track course approval process and the role of the Faculty Education Committees, the Strategic Course Development committee and Academic Senate therein.*

2.3 Standards for the Finalisation of Student Results

RESOLVED 2019/5:

that Academic Senate:

- (i) *endorse the draft revised Standards for the Finalisation of Student Results, as attached to the agenda paper;*
- (ii) *endorse the proposed consequential amendments to the General Course Rules, Delegations of Authority Policy and Supplementary Assessment Procedure, as attached to the agenda paper; and*
- (iii) *forward the revised Standards for the Finalisation of Student Results, General Course Rules, Delegations of Authority Policy and Supplementary Assessment Procedure to the delegated authority for approval, to become effective from 29 July 2019.*

PART 3: COURSE APPROVALS

3.1 2019 Course Review Schedule

RESOLVED 2019/6:

that Academic Senate note the Annual Report of Course Reviews for 2018 and the Course Review Schedule for 2019, as attached to the agenda papers.

3.2 Course Review and Re-approval - EMBA Cluster: Faculty of Business

RESOLVED 2019/7:

that consequent upon the review of the EMBA Cluster, the Academic Senate:

- (i) *re-approve the Master of Business Administration (Executive) (441), subject to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approval, as outlined in the agenda papers, to be offered for an additional five year period until 2024; and*
- (ii) *note the outcome of the review to discontinue the Master of Business Administration (Executive) - Dubai (1648), as outlined in the agenda papers.*

3.3 Course Review and Re-approval – Postgraduate Business Cluster: Faculty of Business

RESOLVED 2019/8:

that consequent upon the review of the Postgraduate Business Cluster, Academic Senate:

- (i) *re-approve the Master of Business (1528/1529) (and specialisations), subject to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approval, to be offered for an interim period no longer than five years (2024) pending approval of the revised Faculty of Business postgraduate offer; and*
- (ii) *re-approve the following courses within the Postgraduate Business Cluster, subject to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approval, to be offered for an additional five year period until 2024:*
 - a) *Master of Business (Single/Double Specialisation)(1442/1443)*
 - b) *Graduate Certificate in Business (2120)*
 - c) *Graduate Certificate in Business - Dubai (2113)*
 - d) *Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management (1195)*
 - e) *Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management - Dubai (2114)*
 - f) *Graduate Certificate in Marketing (1196)*
 - g) *Graduate Certificate in Marketing - Dubai (2115); and*
- (iii) *note the outcome of the review to discontinue the financial management specialisation onshore and offshore, as outlined in the agenda papers.*

3.4 Course Review and Re-approval – Postgraduate Education (Special Education) Cluster: Faculty of Social Sciences

RESOLVED 2019/9:

that consequent upon the review of the Postgraduate Education (Special Education) Cluster, Academic Senate re-approve the Special Education specialisation, subject to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approval, as outlined in the agenda papers, to be offered for an additional five year period until 2024.

3.5 Course Review and Re-approval – Undergraduate Languages Cluster: Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

RESOLVED 2019/10:

that consequent upon the review of the Undergraduate Languages Cluster, Academic Senate re-approve the course and majors, subject to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) approval, as outlined in the agenda papers, to be offered for an additional five year period until 2024.

3.6 Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation – 2020LHA10 Suite of Discontinuations – 2019EIS04 Bachelor of Computer Science (Cyber Security) 2020EIS01 Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) – 2019SMAH20 Fast-Track Course Approvals

RESOLVED 2019/11:

that Academic Senate note:

- (i) *the use of the Fast-Track Approval Process to introduce the following new courses from Autumn 2020:*
 - a) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation (3019)*
 - b) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation (Honours) (3020)*
 - c) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation - Bachelor of Creative Arts (3021)*
 - d) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation - Bachelor of International Studies (3022)*
 - e) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation - Bachelor of Laws (3023)*
 - f) *Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation - Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (3024).*
- (ii) *the use of the Fast-Track Approval Process to discontinue the following courses from 2019:*
 - a) *Graduate Diploma in Medical Radiation Physics (676)*
 - b) *Graduate Diploma in Computer Science (687)*
 - c) *Master of Medical Radiation Physics (1545)*
 - d) *Master of Engineering (Electrical Traction Networks) (1637)*
 - e) *Master of Information Technology Studies Advanced (1611).*
- (iii) *the use of the Fast-Track Approval Process to discontinue the following major from 2019:*
 - a) *Photonics Major within the Bachelor of Science (Physics) (757).*
- (iv) *the use of the Fast-Track Approval Process to introduce new delivery locations for the following:*
 - a) *the Cyber Security major, available in the Bachelor of Computer Science (766) at Singapore Institute of Management from January 2019;*
 - b) *the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) (862) at South Western Sydney Campus from Autumn, 2019.*

3.7 Course Review – Doctor of Business Administration Cluster: Faculty of Business

RESOLVED 2019/12:

that consequent upon the review of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Cluster, Academic Senate note the outcome of the review to discontinue the courses in the DBA Cluster, as outlined in the agenda papers.

3.8 Bachelor of Nursing Advanced – 2019SMAH16: Course Discontinuation

RESOLVED 2019/13:

that Academic Senate approve the proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Nursing Advanced, as outlined in the agenda papers, to become effective from Autumn Session, 2019.

3.9 Bachelor of Science (Honours) – 2019SMAH18: Course Discontinuation

RESOLVED 2019/14:

that Academic Senate approve the proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Science (Honours) (748), as outlined in the agenda papers, to become effective from Autumn Session, 2019.

3.10 Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care – 2019SMAH17: Course Discontinuation

RESOLVED 2019/15:

that Academic Senate approve the proposal to discontinue the Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care, as outlined in the agenda papers, to become effective from Autumn Session, 2019.

3.11 Master of International Studies and Master of International Studies Advanced – 2020LHA098 Course Discontinuations

RESOLVED 2019/16:

that Academic Senate approve the proposal to discontinue the Master of International Studies and Master of International Studies Advanced at Wollongong Campus, as outlined in the agenda, to become effective from Autumn Session, 2020.

PART 4: MEMBER'S REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

***4.1 Reports from Senior Executive**

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (DVC(R&I)) reported that the ERA Impact and Engagement results are due in the coming weeks. He advised that UOW is sending a delegation of 15 people to the annual UGPN meeting, which will be held 1-3 April in North Carolina. This will be led by the incoming DVC(R&I), Professor Jenny Martin.

The DVC(A) reported that a Review of the Learning and Teaching Curriculum Division is about to commence. The Terms of Reference have been approved and the review panel will consist of an external Chair, Professor Jeffrey Cripps of UNSW who will soon be the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education at ANU, Professor Sally Kift, DVC(A) at James Cook University, Professor Grace McCarthy, Dean of the Sydney Business School, Associate Professor Rodney Vickers from EIS, Dr Jennifer Heath from AIIM and Ms Julie Sikora from the DVC(A) Portfolio. A schedule for the review is currently being drafted and the panel will meet with key stakeholders, faculties and students. The Review will commence in early May.

The Chief Administrative Officer thanked academic staff for their support and input during the student recruitment cycle for 2019.

***4.2 Members' Reports**

There were no members' reports.

***4.3 Student Members' Reports**

There were no student member's report

***4.4 Questions on Notice**

Refer Item 2.2

PART 5: ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

***5.1 Business from Academic Senate Committees**

There was no business reported from Academic Senate Committees

5.2 University Education Committee 2018 Summary Report

RESOLVED 2019/18:

that Academic Senate note the University Education Committee 2018 Summary Report, as attached to the agenda papers.

5.3 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED 2019/19

that Academic Senate note the minutes from the following Academic Senate Committee meetings, as attached to the agenda paper:

- i) UEC Minutes 31 October 2018 - Ratified;*
- ii) SCDC Minutes 7 November 2018 – Ratified; and*
- iii) UOWD Academic Board 4 October 2018 – Ratified.*

PART 6: FUTURE MEETINGS AND OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 2019 Meeting Dates

Wednesday, 15 May 2019

Wednesday, 10 July 2019

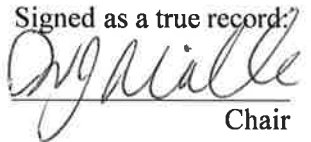
Wednesday, 4 September 2019

Wednesday, 20 November 2019

*6.2 Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 9:30am on Wednesday, 15 May 2019.

Meeting closed at 11:48 am

Signed as a true record:

Chair

15 15 / 2019

