

# Policy Snapshot



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

### STANDARD ON UOW POLICY

An October 2021 Australian Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CoCABS) sector survey highlighted the complexities in distinguishing between academic and operational policy. In response to this, and issues raised at the November Academic Senate meeting in relation to the consultation process for the Special Studies Program Policy, the Chair of Academic Senate proposed a small working group of Academic Senate members to review and clarify the determination of academic versus operational policies at UOW and the most suitable consultation and approval pathway.

The *Standard on UOW Policy* provides robust guidance for stakeholders on policy writing and revision, it provides definitions of academic and operational policies and establishes a consistent and enforceable system for the development, approval, implementation and review of policy documents at the UOW. It was identified, however, that some minor amendments to section 8 - *Stages of Policy Development* would be beneficial in guiding stakeholders in determining the most appropriate consultation and approval pathways, particularly in instances where it is difficult to determine if a policy is academic or operational.

#### KEY ELEMENTS

The key elements of the revised policy are:

- Improved guidance on differentiating between corporate and academic governance and approval pathways specifically where there is interdependence.
- Greater clarity in relation to delegations for defining whether a policy is academic or operational and for determining the corresponding academic consultation and approval pathway.
- Guidance on consultation and approval pathways where operational and administrative matters may affect the capacity, resources and opportunities to undertake academic work.
- Updates to reflect revised committee structure, specifically the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and the People and Culture Committee.
- Updates to s.8, *Stages of UOW Policy Development* to provide more robust guidance for stakeholders on consultation and approval pathways.

This revision is proposed to align further the UOW processes with TEQSA *standard 6.3* which recognises that the separation between corporate and academic governance has been a longstanding tradition in Australian Universities, irrespective of the structural arrangements.

You are invited to provide feedback on the draft Standard on UOW Policy to Governance at [gld\\_governance@uow.edu.au](mailto:gld_governance@uow.edu.au) by Wednesday 15 June 2022.