



ACADEMIC SENATE

Academic Senate met from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesday 3 July 2024 via videoconference.

Members Present:

Prof Nina Reynolds (Chair, Academic Senate)

Prof Penny Van Bergen (Deputy Chair, Academic Senate)

Prof John Dewar (Interim Vice-Chancellor and President)

S/Prof Sue Bennett (Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life))

S/Prof Eileen McLaughlin (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Sustainable Futures))

Prof Christian Ritz (Dean, Global Academic Affairs)

Prof Peter Kelly (Interim Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

S/Prof Gursel Alici (Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

Prof Dilan Thampapillai (Interim Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law)

Matthew Wright (Acting Chief Operating Officer)

Jaymee Beveridge (Vice-President Indigenous Strategy & Engagement)

John Littrich (Student Ombudsman)

Dr Joshua Lobb (Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of

the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

Prof Ann Rogerson (Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of Business and Law)

A/Prof Montse Ros (Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

Prof Tracey Kuit (Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

Prof Stuart Johnstone (Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

Prof Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett (Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

Dr Sam Moreton (Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

A/Prof Andy Schmulow (Faculty of Business and Law)

Dr Sarah Lothian (Faculty of Business and Law)

A/Prof Hongtao Zhu (Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

A/Prof Jun Yan (Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

Dr Jie (Jack) Yang (Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

Prof Faisal Hai (Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

Prof Lezanne Ooi (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

A/Prof Rebekkah Middleton (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health);

Dr Jeremy Lum (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

Prof Yenna Salamonsen (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

A/Prof Khay Wai See (Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM))

A/Prof Bonnie Dean (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum)

Prof Peter Innis (Non-faculty)

Dr Kate Bowles (Associate Deans (International) Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

Joshua Lane (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Connor Da Lapa-Soares (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Durga Tandon (Postgraduate Student Representative)

Bharadwaja Satya Vinod Tondapu (Onshore International Student Representative)

Attendees:

Allison Clode (Academic Policy & Quality Specialist)

James Conroy (Associate Director, Digital Strategy)

Brenden Hooke (Returning Officer & Executive Officer Academic Senate, Deputy Chief Governance Officer)

Theresa Hoynes (Director, Student Life)

Dr Anthony McKnight (Senior Lecturer, Curriculum Transformation Lead)

Prof. Simon Moss (Dean of Graduate Research)

Prof. Trish Mundy (Chief Integrity Officer)

Emma Pinfold (Administration Officer)

Dr Kellie Ridges (Director, Student Administration Services)

Dominic Riordan (Director, Academic Quality and Standards)

Tammy Small (Manager Projects, Indigenous Advancement)

Jan Sullivan (Manager, Academic Policy and Standards)

Prof Susan Thomas (Dean of Research Integrity Development and Ethic)

Aimee Wall (Interim Associate Director, Research Integrity & Ethics)

Alyssa White (Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary)

Michael Valceski (Postgraduate Student (Observer))



Apologies:

Prof David Currow (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Sustainable Futures))

Prof Sean Brawley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy & Assurance))

Adam Malouf (Chief Operating Officer)

A/Prof Tracey Kuit (Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

Dr Gai Lindsay (Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)

Prof Lee Moerman (Faculty of Business and Law)

Dr Nadia Zainuddin (Faculty of Business and Law)

Prof Jun Shen (Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences)

A/Prof Gokhan Tolun (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health)

Vacant (Associate Deans (Research) Representative);

Vacant (Associate Deans (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Representative)

Amity Lees (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Abbey Dawson (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Muhammad Sarwar (Postgraduate Student Representative)

04/2024

CONFIRMED MINUTES

1 PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Resolution AS-24/04-01

Academic Senate resolved to note the welcomes and apologies as reported at the meeting.

Note for the Record

The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members, attendees and visitors to the 374th meeting of Academic Senate.

The Chair welcomed the Interim Vice-Chancellor President (Prof. John Dewar) to his first meeting of Academic Senate since joining the University. The Chair welcomed the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures) (S/Prof Eileen McLaughlin) and noted that the Acting Chief Operating Officer (Matthew Wright) would join the meeting to provide the Senior Executive Report for his portfolio. The Chair conveyed an apology from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Assurance) (Prof. Sean Brawley).

1.2 Arrangement of Agenda

1.2.1 Declaration of Interests

Resolution AS-24/04-02

Academic Senate resolved to note there were no declarations of interest.

1.2.2 Confidential Items

Resolution AS-24/04-03

Academic Senate resolved to note there were no confidential items.

1.2.3 Starring of Items

Resolution AS-24/04-04

1. Academic Senate resolved to star items 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.11; and
2. adopt all unstarred items.

Note for the Record

The Chair informed members that due to illness the Chief Risk and Assurance Officer (Robert Oldfield) would not be attending the meeting and consequently item 2.4 would be held over to the next meeting of Academic Senate. The item would still be discussed for the purpose of collecting questions on notice.

To support timely progression through the meeting's agenda the Chair requested presenters avoid reporting content already contained within the papers; and asked that members focus discussion on policy proposals to purpose, function and unintended consequences of the changes.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24 April 2024; 19-25 June 2024)

Resolution AS-24/04-05

Academic Senate resolved to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 April 2024, and 19 June 2024 to 25 June 2024, as a true and accurate record.

1.4 Actions Arising

Resolution AS-24/04-06

Academic Senate resolved to note the progress on the Schedule of Actions Arising.

1.5 Report of the Chair

Resolution AS-24/04-07

Academic Senate resolved to note the report of the Chair of Academic Senate.

Note for the Record

The Chair commenced the report with a brief update on the Academic Governance Review Action Plan. Council approved the plan on 24 May 2024 and work had commenced across many of its actions. The Chair noted that this meeting's agenda included a focus topic on Academic Risk, and several starred items on Research matters, in line with the Review's recommendations. Work was underway to constitute the Senate Terms of Reference and Membership (STORM) Working Group tasked with reviewing the current structure of Senate and its committees.

The Chair provided an overview of the second meeting of NSW/ACT CoCABS (Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates) this year, hosted by UOW on 13 June 2024. Key areas of discussion included Academic Risk, impacts of the immigration strategy for universities, and strengthening the role and voice of academic governance.

The Chair updated members on the development of the next UOW strategic plan. Staff round tables focussed on teaching and learning, research impacts, and innovation and success enablers were taking place. An update on strategy's development is expected to be presented to Academic Senate in September.

The Chair informed members that revisions to the People and Culture policy suite were nearing finalisation for University-wide consultation, and encouraged members to participate in the feedback process.

1.6 Report of the Vice-Chancellor and President

Resolution AS-24/04-08

Academic Senate resolved to note the report of the Report of the Vice-Chancellor and President.

Note for the Record

The Interim Vice-Chancellor and President (Prof. John Dewar) began by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and expressing his desire to meet members of the university community, encouraging people to approach him on campus.

The Interim Vice-Chancellor and President reported on a recent visit to Canberra, where he met with the Education Minister and Department of Education Secretary to discuss the significant changes taking place in the higher education sector. The Interim Vice-Chancellor emphasised that these changes represent the most substantial policy and funding shifts since the early 1990s. Key changes include the creation of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), the reduction of international students, and changes to casual employment regulations.

The Interim Vice-Chancellor explained that the approval rates for international student visas had been reduced, with the Department of Home Affairs prioritising processing based on institutional risk assessment levels. This had already impacted Wollongong's international student numbers. New legislation will allow the Education Minister to impose caps on international student enrolments for each institution, aiming to reduce net overseas migration. These changes present substantial challenges for the University to adapt and respond to.

The Interim Vice-Chancellor announced upcoming meetings with university leadership and staff to provide preliminary assessments of the financial impact of these changes. The Interim Vice-Chancellor also noted ATEC's future role in managing student load and the implementation of a managed growth funding model from 2026.

Addressing the imminent changes to casual employment regulations, the Interim Vice-Chancellor indicated that adjustments to the University's employment practices would be necessary.

The Interim Vice-Chancellor concluded by emphasising the unprecedented nature of these rapid changes in Australian higher education, and the need for the university community to collectively navigate this dynamic period.

1.7 Membership Business

1.7.1 Chair of Academic Senate Election

Resolution AS-24/04-09

Academic Senate resolved to note the results of the 2024 Chair of Academic Senate election.

Note for the Record

The Returning Officer for the Chair of Academic Senate Election (Brenden Hooke) provided a brief overview of the outcome of the election.

At the conclusion of the nomination period two valid nominations were received, Professor Nina Reynolds and Associate Professor Hassan Hosseinzadeh.

An election was held through a meeting of Academic Senate by circular resolution from 19 June 2024 to 25 June 2024. There were 49 persons eligible to vote and 36 valid ballots received at the close of voting.

Following the counting of ballots, Professor Nina Reynolds was declared elected for a term commencing on 1 July 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2026.

2 GENERAL BUSINESS

2.1 UOW's new Healing and Recognition Track Framework and Calls to Action

Resolution AS-24/04-10

Academic Senate resolved to note the repositioning of the reconciliation journey at UOW and review the proposed Calls to Actions in the Priority Areas that are directly related to the responsibilities of this Committee.

Note for the Record

The Vice President, Indigenous Strategy and Engagement (Jaymee Beveridge) introduced the item. The new Healing and Recognition Track (HART) Framework had been shaped by the outcome of the 2023 Australian Indigenous Voice referendum and shifted focus from reconciliation drivers set out in the UOW Reconciliation Action Plan to truth-telling and healing.

The Manager Projects, Indigenous Advancement (Tammy Small) and Senior Lecturer, Curriculum Transformation Lead (Dr Anthony McKnight) provided members with an overview of the extensive consultation process to develop the HART Framework, which included off campus experiences, yarning circles, creation of an all-Indigenous sub-committee and steering committee.

Five key academic aligned deliverables had been developed for the HART Framework focused on integrating a Country centred approach to teaching and research, and developing resources to support Indigenous data sovereignty, cultural and intellectual property.

The University aims to implement the HART Framework by mid-October 2024, positioning itself as one of the first Australian universities to adopt such an approach. The presenters encouraged feedback from Academic Senate members and noted the engagement that the development of the Framework had received across the University.

Members discussed how best to support the objectives of the Framework and opportunities to align the Framework with the next UOW strategic plan. The importance of establishing realistic and flexible timeframes for deliverables was highlighted as a key learning from the prior Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Chair thanked the Vice President, Indigenous Strategy and Engagement, Manager Projects, Indigenous Advancement and Manager Projects, Indigenous Advancement for the presentation.

2.2 TEQSA Re-registration Update

Resolution AS-24/04-11

Academic Senate resolved to note the TEQSA Re-registration Update as provided in the agenda papers.

Note for the Record

The Director, Academic Quality and Standards (Dominic Riordan) presented an update on the University's re-registration process with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Since the 24 April 2024 update, TEQSA has confirmed that the University's reporting and evidence requirements will focus on the core standards of academic and corporate governance (Domain 6 of the Higher Education Standards Framework). TEQSA also expects the self-assurance report to address recruitment of non-genuine international students, third-party

delivery quality risk management, and sexual harm and gender-based violence risk management. All providers have been encouraged to also consider addressing sector-wide risks such as academic integrity, cyber security, and staff remuneration practices.

The Director, Academic Quality and Standards drew members attention to the Higher Education Standards Framework Compliance and Quality Improvement Report, and the ESOS Compliance and Quality Improvement Quarterly Summary Report attached to the agenda papers. Separate registers have been developed to assess the University's current compliance and areas of risk against the relevant regulatory frameworks. Current focus areas include improving reporting to track academic performance of students admitted through pathway programs and ensuring compliance with the Australian Qualifications Framework +1 policy.

The Director confirmed that progress towards the University's re-registration submission is on schedule, with an expected response from TEQSA within 6 months of submission.

2.3 UOW Response to TEQSA RFI - Mitigating Risks of GenAI on Award Integrity

Resolution AS-24/04-12

Academic Senate resolved to note the 'UOW Response to TEQSA RFI - Mitigating Risks of GenAI on Award Integrity' for submission to TEQSA on 3 July 2024.

Note for the Record

The Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) (S/Prof. Sue Bennett) presented this item.

The University's submission to the TEQSA's Request for Information (RFI) on mitigating the risks of generative AI on award integrity was submitted to TEQSA on 1 July 2024, ahead of the 3 July deadline.

The submission was prepared by a TEQSA RFI Task & Finish Group, reporting to the AI Working Group. The submission includes a comprehensive action plan that covers all areas of the University, including international campuses, and outlines significant work on assessment redesign. The AI Working Group will oversee the implementation of the plan, including determining resource requirements.

The Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) emphasised that TEQSA sought a credible plan rather than completed actions, recognising the rapidly evolving nature of AI technology. As such, the University's response will continue to adapt over time and the submission should be considered as an evolving document for which there will be future opportunities to contribute to its further development and to discussions on implementation issues.

The Chair thanked the Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) for the submission and their ongoing work in this area.

2.4 Academic Risk Report

Resolution AS-24/04-13

Academic Senate resolved to note that the Academic Risk Report would be held over to the 11 September 2024 meeting of Academic Senate.

Note for the Record

The Chair informed members that due to illness, the Chief Risk and Assurance Officer (Robert Oldfield) was unable to attend the meeting and no alternative presenter arrangements could be made on short notice. The report would be held over to the next meeting of Academic Senate on 11 September 2024, however the Chair requested members raise any questions or feedback that could be relayed to the Chief Risk and Assurance Officer.

Members raised questions about the report's risk identification and ranking methodologies, querying whether the risk collation process assumed risks were faculty-specific rather than University-wide, given the ordering of listed risks. Some members noted that the ranking of academic integrity and misconduct risks appeared lower than they had anticipated, given their importance to the University.

2.5 2024 Annual Research Performance Report

Resolution AS-24/04-14

Academic Senate resolved to note the 2024 Annual Research Performance Report.

Note for the Record

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures) (S/Prof. Eileen McLaughlin) presented the 2024 Annual Research Performance Report.

The report highlighted an increase in competitive grant income, though it was noted that this relies on a small number of large grants that may not be guaranteed in the future. Other categories of research income have slightly decreased and remain below peer group levels. In response, the University has invested in enhancing its business development capabilities to assist in developing new business proposals and large grant applications.

Global rankings have shown improvement or been maintained across key indices, with strong citation performance contributing to these results. The University has also seen significant success in research commercialisation, including recent spin-out companies employing postgraduate research students.

Members briefly discussed commercial research funding guidelines and spending, including ongoing projects to improve researcher access to and management of funds while ensuring appropriate University oversight.

2.6 UOW Strategy on HDR Supervision Training and Development

Resolution AS-24/04-15

Academic Senate resolved to endorse the proposed UOW Strategy on HDR Supervision Training and Development, subject to University Executive endorsement of resourcing implications.

Note for the Record

The Dean of Graduate Research (Prof. Simon Moss) presented the UOW Strategy on HDR Supervision Training and Development. The strategy aims to enhance the engagement of supervisors in training and development opportunities, particularly targeting those who may be less inclined to participate voluntarily.

The Dean highlighted the critical role of supervisor support in HDR candidate experience and discussed current challenges in engaging supervisors who would most benefit from skills improvement. The Dean outlined proposed initiatives to increase participation, such as gamified point systems, digital badges, and tangible rewards for exemplary supervisors.

The Dean invited feedback from Academic Senate on potential initiatives and challenges. He also noted the importance of item 2.12, which addresses updates to instructions for HDR examiners. Members discussed the potential alignment of supervisor development with the academic promotion process and ongoing conversations about including supervision in the academic performance framework. Indigenous research strategy was also identified as an area for future collaboration.

2.7 Student Complaints and Appeals Report 2023

Resolution AS-24/04-16

Academic Senate resolved to note the Student Complaints and Appeals Report 2023 and endorse the Report's recommendations.

Note for the Record

The Chief Integrity Officer (Prof. Trish Mundy) presented the Student Complaints and Appeals Report for 2023. The annual report, prepared by the Integrity Division and Academic Quality and Standards Division, details student complaints and appeals data for 2023 and trends over time, and reviews the effectiveness of the University's complaint resolution and appeal processes.

Key findings included minor increases in appeals to the Student Ombudsman and general student complaints. Academic appeals remained relatively stable, with the majority of formal requests for review relating to assessments. The most common general complaints concerned teaching methods and perceived unfair treatment by staff. It was noted that 85% of complaints relating to academic decisions or review of grades were resolved at the first stage of review within the school or faculty.

The report made eight recommendations focusing on improving communication, assessment practices, and complaint management processes. These included reminders about assessment timing, consistent approaches to late submission penalties, and the continued development of a centralised complaints management model. The Chief Integrity Officer emphasised the intention to work collaboratively with relevant areas to implement these recommendations.

The Student Ombudsman (John Littrich) provided additional context, particularly regarding HDR complaints. He highlighted the upcoming transition of HDR complaints to an online system, aligning with the process for undergraduate academic appeals. This change aims to streamline the process and potentially increase accessibility for HDR students to raise concerns.

Members discussed various aspects of the report, including policy implications, the handling of anonymous HDR complaints, and patterns in upheld appeals. The importance of capturing and utilising informal feedback to improve the HDR experience was noted, with the Chief Integrity Officer expressing interest in receiving such information to inform their work.

The Chief Integrity Officer also acknowledged the outgoing Student Ombudsman, John Littrich, for his excellent work over his two-year term, which concludes on 17 July 2024.

2.8 Teaching and Assessment Policy Suite Review and *Delegations of Authority Policy*

Resolution AS-24/04-17

Academic Senate resolved to:

- 1) endorse and recommend that the Vice-Chancellor approve:
 - a) the amendments to the Code of Practice – Learning and Teaching (formerly Teaching and Assessment: Code of Practice Teaching);
 - b) the rescission of the Code of Practice – Casual Academic Teaching;
 - c) the amendments to the Assessment and Feedback Policy (formerly Teaching and Assessment: Assessment and Feedback Policy) and consequential amendments to the Honours Policy; and
 - d) the amendments to the Subject Delivery Policy;
- 2) endorse and recommend the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) approve the amendments to the Lecture Recording Procedures;
- 3) endorse and recommend Council rescind the Examination Rules; and
- 4) endorse and recommend Council approve the amendments to Academic delegations 28.00 (Subject Delivery) and 29.00 (Assessment) of the Delegations of Authority Policy

Note for the Record

The Senior Manager, Academic Policy and Standards (Jan Sullivan) presented this item.

The Teaching and Assessment Policy Suite (TAPS) review was conducted over 16 months and overseen by a dedicated working group. The review involved extensive consultation with staff and students and multiple draft versions submitted for committee review. The Senior Manager, Academic Policy and Standards, directed members to the Academic Senate Moodle site should they wish to review the collated feedback provide during the review process.

The revised suite includes amendments to the *Code of Practice - Learning and Teaching*, *Assessment and Feedback Policy*, *Subject Delivery Policy*, and *Lecture Recording Procedures*.

Key changes include policy rationalisation, with the *Code of Practice - Casual Academic Teaching and Examination Rules* being incorporated into other policies and proposed for rescission. New provisions address emerging challenges, including those posed by generative artificial intelligence and increasing rates of academic misconduct. Implementation is planned for the start of the 2025 academic year, with a six-month preparation period and formation of an implementation team.

The Senior Manager, Academic Policy and Standards thanked all involved in the review process, including the TAPS working group members and those who provided feedback during consultations.

No questions or concerns were raised by members. The Chair reminded members to direct any specific wording issues to the policy owners.

Secretary's Note: *Clause (2) has been amended to reflect the correct delegate for approving changes to the Lecture Recording Procedures: the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life)*

2.9 Amendments to the Coursework Rules and Delegations of Authority Policy

Resolution AS-24/04-18

Academic Senate resolved to endorse and recommend Council:

- 1) approve the minor amendments to the *Coursework Rules*; and
- 2) approve the amendments to Academic delegations 27.00 (Enrolment) of the *Delegations of Authority Policy*

2.10 Academic Integrity Policy Amendments

Resolution AS-24/04-19

Academic Senate resolved to endorse and recommend the Vice-Chancellor approve the amendments to the Academic Integrity Policy.

2.11 Authorship Policy Suite Review

Resolution AS-24/04-20

Academic Senate resolved to:

- 1) endorse and recommend the Vice-Chancellor approve the revised Authorship Policy; and
- 2) endorse and recommend the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures) approve the Authorship Acknowledgement Procedures and the revised Authorship Dispute Resolution Procedure (formerly titled the Authorship Grievance Procedure)

Note for the Record

The Dean Research Integrity Development and Ethics (A/Prof. Susan Thomas) presented this item, providing members with an overview of the changes within the Authorship Policy Suite.

Key changes to the *Authorship Policy* include updated definitions of authorship criteria to align with National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines, a new position

statement on authorship and generative artificial intelligence tools, additional principles including those related to students, and greater clarity around supervisors' obligations and support for HDR candidates. The revised policy also emphasises the need to use authorship agreement forms at the outset of research projects.

The *Authorship Acknowledgement Procedure* has been updated to include a framework for acknowledging contributions other than authorship, strengthen HDR supervisors' obligations to formalise agreements with students, and provide clearer procedures for disputes and available support. The procedure also addresses the importance of data management and includes statements on the use of generative artificial intelligence.

Changes to the *Authorship Dispute Procedure* (formerly *Authorship Grievance Procedure*) include a more comprehensive approach to dispute resolution, reflecting current practices and addressing power imbalances between supervisors and HDR students. The procedure now outlines steps from initial informal resolution to more formal stages if needed.

2.12 Instructions to HDR Examiners

Resolution AS-24/04-21

Academic Senate resolved to endorse the Instructions to HDR Examiners.

2.13 Honorary Award Nominations

Resolution AS-24/04-22

Academic Senate resolved to note the Honorary Award Nominations report.

3 COURSE APPROVALS

No business under this section

4 MEMBERS' REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4.1 Reports from Senior Executive

Resolution AS-24/04-23

Academic Senate resolved note to the reports from Senior Executive.

Note for the Record

The **Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures)** provided an update on recent achievements and ongoing initiatives within the Research portfolio. Highlights included the appointment of four new Vice Chancellor's Fellowships, significant success in various Australian Research Council (ARC) funding schemes, and progress on key strategic plans. The University has made strides in research excellence, industry collaboration, and sustainability efforts. Ongoing work includes the development of a new research strategy, an indigenous research plan, and sustainability initiatives, all of which are progressing through various stages of consultation and implementation.

The **Vice-President, Indigenous Strategy and Engagement** (Jaymee Beveridge) updated members on plans to welcome visiting indigenous students from three Canadian colleges, the result of an 18-month collaboration. The project involved creating avatars in a virtual reality (VR) world, showcasing UOW and indigenous content in an extended reality (XR) indigenous environment. This initiative will support promoting the UOW experience to prospective students from remote communities.

The **Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life)** (Snr Prof. Sue Bennett) noted the ongoing engagement, consultation, and advocacy taking place across the University in response to Commonwealth lead changes to the higher education. Recent changes include

increased visa application fees for international students and modifications to post-study work rights for coursework students, effective from 1 July.

The Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) provided members with key highlights across several portfolio initiatives. These included an organisational change to move the Global Strategy Division into the DVCA portfolio, ongoing strategy work across leadership and culture, and several course portfolio projects to redesign assessment in response to generative AI. The recent Open Day at Wollongong campus was highlighted for its record-breaking attendance, returning to pre-COVID levels of interest.

The **Acting Chief Operating Officer** (Matthew Wright) joined the meeting to provide an update on major projects and areas of focus within the portfolio. These included progress on the University's pay remediation project, design and configuration work for the Unibiz project, and further consideration of options to drive the Liverpool growth strategy. The University was also developing an assessment of its financial position given the impact of declining international student enrolments and potential future implications for the institution.

4.2 Student Members' Reports

Resolution AS-24/04-24

Academic Senate resolved to note the report of the Student Members.

Note for the Record

Undergraduate Student Representative Joshua Lane provided the Student Members' Report. Members of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) had participated in University strategy development workshops, demonstrating the UOWs commitment to the Student-as-Partners framework. SAC members had also implemented a major project to support female students by providing free sanitary products across libraries on all university campuses.

4.3 Members' Reports

Resolution AS-24/04-25

Academic Senate resolved to note there were no further reports from Members.

4.4 Questions on Notice

No business under this item.

5 ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Report of the University Internationalisation Committee

Resolution AS-24/04-26

Academic Senate resolved to note the University Internationalisation Committee Report from the meeting held on 3 June 2024.

5.2 University Research Committee Terms of Reference Update

Resolution AS-24/04-27

Academic Senate resolved to approve the amendments to the University Research Committee Terms of Reference Update, effective immediately.

5.3 Academic Senate Committee Minutes

Resolution AS-24/04-28

Academic Senate resolved to note:

- 1) the minutes of the Quality Assurance Review Group meeting held on 14 March 2024, 18 April 2024, and 23 April 2024;
- 2) the minutes of the University Internationalisation Committee meeting held on 25 March 2024;
- 3) the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 14 February 2024; and
- 4) the minutes of the University Education Committee held on 27 March 2024.

6 FUTURE MEETINGS AND OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Rolling Agenda and 2024 Meeting Dates

Resolution AS-24/04-29

Academic Senate resolved to note the rolling agenda and 2024 meeting dates.

6.2 Any Other Business

No other business was raised at this meeting.

Meeting close 11:50am

Upcoming Academic Senate Meetings

Date	Time
11 September 2024	9:30am – 12:30pm
20 November 2024	9:30am – 12:30pm