

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2024
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

1/2024

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
(Chairperson)
Prof Andrew Beer
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Prof Jon Buckley
Dr Ryan Causby
Ms Tracey Coleman
Dr Xin Deng
Ms Jessica Ford
Prof Sanjay Garg
Prof Paula Geldens
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Mr Brendan Hughes
Prof Tracey Humphrey
Mr Phil Johnson
Dr Masud Karim
Ms Argani Kashyap
Prof Marta Krasowska
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof David Lloyd
Prof John Medlin
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Dr Fanke Peng
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Mr Yeshaiah Varona
Prof Rachael Vernon
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Dr Paula Zito
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Prof Amie Albrecht
Prof Craig Batty
Mr Bill Le Blanc
Mr Alan Brideson
Prof Joanne Cys
Prof Shane Dawson
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Richard Irons
Dr Evangeline Mantzioris
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Mr Tom Steer
Mr Henry Zampoli

ALTERNATES:

Ms Danielle Gericke
(for Ms Karla Gotting)
Ms K Gillespie
(for Mr B Le Blanc)

OBSERVERS:

Dr Tiernan Cross
Prof John Williams

- 1 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, observers, and in particular she welcomed the new student members, the new Academic Director: UniSA Online, Assoc Prof Jodie George, and Prof John Williams AM from the University of Adelaide. Prof Tedmanson also acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on lands never ceded by the Kaurna people, and extended her respect to Kaurna elders past, present, and emerging, as well as Aboriginal people present at the meeting.

1.2 TABLED PAPERS

2 There were no tabled papers.

1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

3 Agenda Items 1, 3, 4, 5.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 8.1 and 8.2 were starred for discussion.

1.4 NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4 Prof David Lloyd and Prof Deirdre Tedmanson both declared their positions as co-Vice Chancellor of the Adelaide University and co-Chair of the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board respectively.

1.5 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2024/1/1 Academic Board resolved:

that all unstarred items be received and noted or approved without discussion.

Moved: Assoc Prof Gary Owens

Seconded: Prof Marta Krasowska

CARRIED

1.6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2024/1/2 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2023 as a correct record subject to minor amendment.

Moved: Prof Elspeth McInnes Seconded: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5 There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

6 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported on the March 2024 meeting of UniSA University Council and the 2024 Annual Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CABS) Conference in Canberra. Prof Tedmanson also reported that the *Adelaide University Act* took effect as proclaimed on 8 March 2024 when the Transitional Adelaide Council met. The Adelaide University Transitional Council also met on this day for the first time. She explained that the Transitional Council had specific responsibilities as defined in the legislation and one of

these was to create subcommittees such as the Transitional Academic Board, which it did on 8 March, including approving the Transitional Academic Board Terms of Reference. As there was some urgency to progress Adelaide University program material for TEQSA and CRICOS approvals, the Council approved interim members, as specified in the approved Terms of Reference. The Transition Council also determined that the two current Chairs of the Academic Boards of UniSA and the University of Adelaide would be co-Chairs of the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board.

- 7 Prof Tedmanson advised that the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board had subsequently met on 15 March 2024. The interim membership besides the co-Chairs and ex officio members: Prof David Lloyd, Prof Joanne Cys, Distinguished Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Mr Richard Irons, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, and Prof Scott Smith had comprised: Prof Tracey Humphrey, Assoc Prof Stephen Ward, Ms Jessica Ford, Ms Karla Gotting, Mr Oliver Shepard-Bayly and Ms Lucy Fawcett. The Transitional Academic Board would continue to operate up until 31 December 2025, and a decision would need to be made by the UniSA Academic Board whether it wished to confirm the interim UniSA membership listed or re-open nominations for the positions to be elected by and from the current UniSA Academic Board in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- 8 Prof Tedmanson then introduced Prof John Williams AM, Provost for the University of Adelaide and Domain lead for Governance and Legislation with the Integration Management Office (IMO), who briefed members on some of the legislative and regulatory approvals required for the establishment of the new Adelaide University. The *Adelaide University Act* had been passed by both houses of the South Australian Parliament in 2023 and had since received Royal Assent from the Governor in Council. The Transitional Academic Board was a Committee of the Adelaide University Transitional Council that had been established in accordance with Schedule 1, Part 7, Division 5, Clause 14 of the Adelaide University Act. Its Terms of Reference were approved by the Transitional Council on 8 March 2024. Due to a matter of timing, the Transitional Council also approved an interim membership until such time as both the Academic Boards of UniSA and the University of Adelaide had met.
- 9 Prof Williams reported that the Transitional Academic Board would assist the Adelaide University Transition Council and the co-Vice Chancellors in fulfilling their responsibilities for monitoring and managing academic standards and to meet the legislated requirements for the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021*. In addition, the TEQSA legislation required a long application process for the new university to be completed early in 2024. The timelines were very tight with the application process requiring a transitional Academic Board to be established with traditional Terms of Reference, and new academic policies and one new program to be approved for registration. This was all before new students arrived on campus and while many staff were on leave, so besides ex officio members from the senior management of the two universities, interim academic and professional staff as well as student members were chosen for the inaugural Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board meeting on 15 March 2024. The TEQSA application for the new university was subsequently completed, and it was now down to UniSA Academic Board to confirm academic and professional staff members and students to sit on the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board for the remaining 4-5 meetings in 2024 as well as further meetings in 2025.
- 10 Prof Tedmanson thanked Prof Williams and suggested that the discussion on membership of the Transitional Academic Board be resumed at the conclusion of the meeting under any other business.

2024/1/3

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Chairperson's Report.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 4 – VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

- 11 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced his written report, which was taken as read, by drawing members’ attention to the Commonwealth Government’s recently released Australian Universities Accord Final Report, as well as the upcoming Federal Budget in May 2024, and their overlap with developments in relation to, and likely funding implications for, the establishment of Adelaide University. Prof Lloyd commended the work of the Accord Panel and its 47 recommendations for change and their potential positive impact on driving future reform in the higher education system.

2024/1/4 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Vice Chancellor’s Report.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 1/2024

5.1 UNISA ALLIED HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

5.1.1 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REACCREDITATION REVIEW REPORT – BACHELOR OF HEALTH STUDIES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/5 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Health Studies until 2029 inclusive.

5.1.2 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – MASTER OF RESEARCH (POPULATION HEALTH PRACTICE)

2024/1/6 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Master of Research (Population Health Practice) effective from Study Period 3, 2024.

5.2 UNISA BUSINESS

5.2.1 MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE IELTS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF DIGITAL BUSINESS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/7

Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning to lower the IELTS/English language entry requirements for DBDB for immediate implementation.

5.3 UNISA STEM

5.3.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/8

Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning of the program amendment to the Graduate Certificate in Project Management effective from Study Period 1, 2024.

5.4 OTHER MATTERS

5.4.1 EXTENSION OF THE INTERNAL ACCREDITATION OF UNISA PROGRAMS UNTIL 2026

12 The Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Esther May, reported that on 9 February 2024, Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) unanimously endorsed a proposal out-of-session to extend the internal accreditation period for all UniSA programs. ASSQC members strongly supported the exception to policy (A35A) to extend the internal review and re-accreditation period for all programs from 5 years to 7 years, which was allowable within the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021*. Members believed that it was very sensible to extend accreditations for all programs until they are carried over into the new Adelaide University, at which time they would be reviewed in accordance with the policy of the new institution. Accordingly, Student and Academic Services (SAS) would formally notify Academic Units due to review their programs in 2024 or 2025 that they would now no longer be required to do so and ASSQC would not need to approve any more reviews. According to the A35A records in the Program and Course Management System (PCMS) there would have been 40 remaining programs to be reviewed before the commencement of the new University in 2026.

2024/1/9

Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval of the extension of the internal accreditation of the programs below listed from five to seven years, removing the need to complete any accreditation reviews on UniSA programs until 2026.

Moved: Prof Jacqui Ramagge Seconded: Prof Jon Buckley

CARRIED

5.4.2 ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT TO SUSPEND INTAKES TO COURSEWORK PROGRAMS FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2

- 13 Members noted that at its meeting held on 8 March 2024, Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) discussed recently approved and future requests to suspend intakes to coursework programs in light of the *Heads of Agreement* between the University of South Australia and The University of Adelaide towards the creation of a *University for the Future*. Specifically, discussion centred on whether oversight by a central body such as ASSQC was warranted during 2024 and 2025.
- 14 It was further noted that Student and Academic Services (SAS) operated a workflow to capture requests, collect relevant input from central units and record Academic Unit Executive Dean approvals for temporarily suspending intakes into coursework programs. This process was used only in cases where the program had initially opened for application in a current admissions cycle, and where that program was not seeking a formal withdrawal. While suspending intakes was by definition a temporary measure, most suspended programs were eventually withdrawn. The process was designed to rapidly close applications and avoid wasted effort and cost (including SATAC application fees) by prospects. Academic Units had requested and approved suspension of 10 intakes since the Universities' Councils approved the feasibility of the amalgamation in July 2023:
- 15 The Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Esther May, advised that commitments made by the University of South Australia described within the *Comprehensive Summary Heads of Agreement* might require requests to suspend intakes to be subject to an additional layer of review. Clause 4.1 *Conduct of business by UoA and UniSA during Current State* included:
- Subject to limited exceptions, UniSA and UoA must not undertake certain activities unless expressly provided for in the Agreement or with the other party's written consent. Broadly, these activities include [...] certain changes to teaching offerings [...].
- 16 Prof May also noted that in addition to the technical operation of the *Heads of Agreement*, ASSQC might wish to consider risks of unintended perceptions by the public. In various forums, representatives of both institutions had stated that the future university would continue to deliver offerings across the existing range of programs currently delivered by both institutions. While these statements were best understood as subject to emerging circumstances related to program demand and viability, such judgements might be best made by a central committee such as ASSQC.
- 17 Following discussion, it was agreed that all requests approved by Executive Deans for suspending program intakes be referred to ASSQC for an additional, central approval step as long as this did not slow down the process, and to overcome any potential delays requests would be considered out of session.

2024/1/10

Academic Board resolved:

to note the new requirement that locally approved requests to suspend program intakes be escalated to ASSQC for final decision before promotional materials and applications were closed.

5.4.3 AMENDED HONOURS DEGREE PROGRAMS POLICY, PROCEDURE AND APPENDIX

- 18 Members noted that on 27 November 2023, the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Esther May, on behalf of Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) gave out-of-session endorsement to the proposed amendments to the following documents: *AB-42.16 Bachelor Honours Degree Program Policy*, and *AB-42.16 Bachelor Honours Degree Program Procedure including Appendix: Responsibilities: Research in Bachelor Honours Degree Programs*.
- 19 It was further noted that *A-42.15 Bachelor Honours Degree Program Policy* and *Code of Good Practice: Research in honours degree programs* was the current policy and code governing honours degrees at UniSA. Amendments to the policy were drafted in 2018, but further review of the policy and code was deferred until 2023. The policy review undertaken in 2023 had drawn on this earlier work with further refinements to ensure currency. Alongside the review, the policy and code were transitioned into the University's Policy Framework (Framework) resulting in a policy, procedure, and appendix.
- 20 The policy, procedure and appendix were discussed at length at the September 2023 meeting of ASSQC, where several issues such as entry criteria, supervision and examination of the Honours Project in Professional Honours options were raised by the Dean of Programs (Allied Health), Prof Shylie Mackintosh. These issues were worked through in discussions with the Manager(s) Programs and Policy with SAS and resolved, but not in time for the November meeting of ASSQC. Accordingly, the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning and Chair of ASSQC was requested to endorse the documents out-of-session for progression to Academic Board for approval in the new year.

2024/1/11

Academic Board resolved:

that the Academic Board approve proposed amendments to the *AB-42.16 Bachelor Honours Degree Program Policy*, *AB-42.16 P1 Bachelor Honours Degree Program Procedure* and *Appendix: Responsibilities: Research in Bachelor Honours Degree Programs*.

Moved: Prof Tracey Humphrey

Seconded: Prof Jon Buckley

CARRIED

5.4.4 ANNUAL QUALITY SELF-ASSESSMENT OF SHORT PROGRAMS AND SHORT COURSES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/12

Academic Board resolved:

to note the review and recommendations for the continuation or discontinuation of programs and courses.

ITEM 6 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 1/2024

6.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/13

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.

6.2 2023 ETHOS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/14 Academic Board resolved:

to note the Ethos Community of Practice in 2023 and the proposed plans for 2024.

6.3 HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/15 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the High-Performance Computing Services Advisory Group Report.

6.4 2023 RESEARCH ETHICS AND SAFETY COMMITTEES & RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL REPORTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/16 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the 2023 Annual Reports and overarching analysis of activities for : Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), Animal Ethics Committee (AEC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), University Chemical Advisory Safety Committee (UCASC), Radiation Safety Committee (RCC), and Research Integrity.

6.5 2023 RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE KEY RESEARCH STRATEGY PAPERS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/17 Academic Board resolved:

to note the 2023 Research Leadership Committee key strategy papers.

ITEM 7 – BUSINESS

7.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIONAL VOICE REFERENDUM OUTCOME – STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT

21 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington, introduced a proposal seeking Academic Board's approval to publish a Statement that acknowledged the outcome of the First Nations Voice to Parliament Federal Referendum which was held in October 2023. In February 2023 Academic Board unanimously approved the principle of enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution. Members supported the principle as an ongoing reflection of the University's commitment to building and strengthening mutually respectful relationships. They believed that it aligned with the University's principles and ambition of enabling ongoing two-way dialogue and creating an environment for First Nation Aboriginal People's culture and ways to be valued, respected, and celebrated. Following the defeat of the Federal Referendum there had been a period of 'mourning' to work through the process of response.

- 22 Members noted that UniSA National Reconciliation Week (NRW) Steering and Working Groups ('the Groups'), which were formal subgroups of Yaitya Warra-itya, and responsible for the development and delivery of reconciliation events and communications across the University, had subsequently prepared a Statement to acknowledge the outcome of the First Nations Voice to Parliament Referendum. The Statement prepared by the Groups reconfirmed the importance of reconciliation, and UniSA's unwavering commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and engagement. It recognised that the University's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025 continued to guide its collaborative efforts in teaching, research, employment, and community engagement activities. In December 2023, Yaitya Warra-itya endorsed the Statement and agreed that it be transmitted to Academic Board for consideration. Subject to the Board's approval the Statement would be published in UniSA's staff and student announcements; and tailored and displayed across the University's campus screens from March 2024.
- 23 Members strongly supported the Statement in the belief that it 'spoke to the essence of the university' and following the result of the referendum UniSA's dedication to reconciliation had not wavered and become even more crucial.

2024/1/18 Academic Board resolved:

to approve A Statement to acknowledge the outcome of the First Nations Voice to Parliament Referendum.

Moved: Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington Seconded: Prof David Lloyd

CARRIED (unanimously)

7.2 HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENT

- 24 Members considered the appointment of a new academic staff member to fill an HREC membership vacancy for an Aboriginal academic researcher on the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) for a two-year period. Academic Board was responsible for appointing members to HREC in accordance with the University's (RES-2.3). Assoc Prof Karen Sinclair had been nominated and was seen as an excellent candidate. She was also a member of the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board.

2024/1/19 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the appointment to the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) for a two-year period.

Moved: Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington Seconded: Prof Paula Geldens

CARRIED

7.3 ABORIGINAL MASTER OF RESEARCH STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/20 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the establishment of the Aboriginal Master of Research Student Scholarship scheme in 2024.

7.4 ALKIRA BURROWS ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP

2024/1/21 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Alkira Burrows Aboriginal Scholarship with the addition of an academic researcher from Allied Health and Human Performance and/or the Nursing discipline on the selection panel.

Moved: Dr Ryan Causby Seconded: Prof Rachel Vernon

CARRIED

7.5 BETTY CAN: DO4 KIDS SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/22 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Betty Can: Do4 Kids Scholarship.

7.6 DESTINATION AUSTRALIA SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/23 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Destination Australia Scholarship.

7.7 MCLEARY MURCHLAND PHD SCHOLARHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/24 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Mc Leary Murchland PhD Scholarship.

7.8 RICHTER DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICE ACCESS GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/25 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Richter Disability Support Service Access Grant.

7.9 WHYALLA BUSINESS AND TOURISM REGIONAL EDUCATION STUDENT GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/26 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Whyalla Business and Tourism Regional Education Student Grant.

ITEM 8 – FOR INFORMATION

8.1 VICE CHANCELLOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

25 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced his new Higher Education Policy Update Report, which was taken as read, by drawing members' attention to the new independent National Student Ombudsman position which had been established to investigate student complaints and resolve disputes with universities. The new Ombudsman was part of the Action Plan to address gender-based violence in higher education, agreed to by Education Ministers in February 2024.

2024/1/27 **Academic Board resolved:**

to receive and note the Higher Education Policy Update Report.

8.2 2023 CURRICULUM INNOVATION PROCESS (CIP) ANNUAL REPORT

26 The Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Esther May, reported that the Curriculum Innovation Process (CIP) was initiated in 2013 as a series of annual data-informed conversations with Schools on their programs and courses, student engagement and satisfaction, graduate outcomes, teaching-and-research alignment, workforce, and financial performance. Following the Academic Organisational Transformation in 2020, this same process had continued with the seven new Academic Units.

27 Members noted that the CIP sought to take a whole of enterprise view of disciplines that underpinned UniSA curriculum, including alignment with our research strengths, the quality of the University's facilities, and future workforce needs, and improve student satisfaction, student retention, and graduate employment (assessed on statistics), particularly in our key discipline areas. At the same time the CIP aimed to enhance teaching quality through supporting and developing the University's academic workforce, ensuring that adequate resources were made available to sustain unique programs in areas of future workforce need and those that were of strategic value to the institution and the community, as well as to improve the quality and consistency of UniSA online learning resources and delivery.

28 Prof May advised that the CIP performed an integral role in the University's quality assurance and risk management processes and was a vital review and improvement process with regarding the University's accreditation with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). In November 2023, Prof May and the Provost & Chief Academic Officer, Prof Joanne Cys, had held CIP discussions with each Academic Unit and met with the Executive Dean, Deans of Programs, Deans of Research, and Academic Unit General Managers. Ms Jessica Ford, Portfolio Manager: Office of the Provost & Chief Academic Officer attended all CIP meetings; Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, Dean: Work Integrated Learning attended five meetings; and the relevant Strategic People Partner from People, Talent & Culture participated in the workforce section of each meeting. The 2023 CIP meetings also included a relevant Program Director for the program deep-dive discussion, and the Executive Director: UniSA Online and the Academic Director: UniSA Online to participate in a dedicated discussion of UniSA Online programs and courses during each meeting.

29 In 2023 UniSA had 72 core undergraduate programs with commencing load. There were also 24 undergraduate programs offered via UniSA Online, most of which aligned to on campus programs. An additional 5 one-year Honours programs, 1 offshore program, and 11 double degrees had commencing load in 2023. Overall, since academic areas were requested to commence reducing their small enrolment programs as part of the CIP, the number of core undergraduate programs with an intake has reduced slightly from a peak of 79 programs in 2015 to 72 programs in 2023.

30 At the postgraduate coursework level, UniSA had 37 Master's programs with an intake in 2023. When adding in shorter postgraduate qualifications (Graduate Certificates and Graduate

Diplomas), most of which formed nested program suites, there were a total of 81 programs with commencing load, with 1 OUA program, 1 UniSA Online program and 2 offshore programs. There had been a significant reduction in the postgraduate coursework programs with commencing load over recent years, from 128 programs in 2013 to 81 programs in 2023, which reflected a strong focus through the CIP to concentrate the quality of postgraduate coursework teaching.

- 31 Student satisfaction remained relatively buoyant since the CIP commenced in 2013 as measured by *myCourseExperience*. There had been a slight decrease in university-wide course satisfaction (exclusive of OUA) to 77.3% in 2023, compared with 77.4% and 77.7% in 2022 and 2021 respectively. There had been a slight increase in teacher satisfaction to 86.3% in 2023, from 86% in 2022 and 86.1% in 2021. CIP data suggested lower rates of course satisfaction and lower retention rates for UniSA Online programs in 2023, which might influence overall Academic Unit data.
- 32 Overall, the University's retention rate had declined over recent years. The overall retention of students into 2023 was 76.6%, compared with 80.4% into 2022. The retention rates for each of our undergraduate programs were monitored annually, with a focus on ensuring that first-year students are being adequately supported through their transition to university studies. For 2023, in total there were 74 undergraduate programs that fell short of the 75% commencing student retention rate target, compared with 48 programs in 2022. All Academic Units shared a CIP action to work with SAS to implement retention and re-engagement activities and campaigns.
- 33 In 2023, the CIP included discussion of Aboriginal student outcomes, in support of the *Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25 Deliverable 12.4: Curriculum Innovation Process* reviews considered Aboriginal student outcomes. Discussion focused on Aboriginal student numbers at the Academic Unit level, with a net decrease in 2023 to 570 students, compared with 584 in 2022.
- 34 University and the higher education sector more broadly which showed a decrease in equity students since 2021. Discussions with Academic Units highlighted the impact the strong employment market and rising costs of living was having on both commencing and continuing Aboriginal students. Despite the overall University trend, four Academic Units were able to increase the number of Aboriginal students enrolled in 2023.
- 35 The decrease in demand from Aboriginal students from 2021 to 2023 was particularly marked for Enabling programs offered by UniSA College (part of UniSA Education Futures), which included the Aboriginal Pathway Program (APP). However, when reviewing both the Grade Point Average (GPA) and retention from 2020 to 2022, both indicators showed improvement. The average GPA for students in the APP rose from 2.98 in 2020, to 3.63 in 2022, and the retention rate rose from 34.3% in 2020 to 48% in 2022. UniSA College continued to work closely with their Aboriginal student cohort and communities to understand emerging barriers, and to deliver bespoke and culturally appropriate services to enable students to succeed.
- 36 In addition to specific actions for each Academic Unit, a suite of common CIP actions for *all* Academic Units were identified as part of the process, identifying key priorities for 2023 to continue to innovate, and enhance, our overall curriculum, which included:
- 36.1 Continued implementation of low-EFTSL course consolidations as per Academic Unit schedules for 2024-25, enabling continued focus on high quality curricula and supporting decision making around the number of courses delivered each year within available expertise and capacity.
- 36.2 Continued review and assessment of the timetabling of elective courses, as part of the course consolidation schedule for 2024-25.

- 36.3 Continued monitoring of 2023 SP5 courses recording declining course overall satisfaction and teacher overall satisfaction scores across 2022-23, with a view to revisiting these courses as part of the 2024 Curriculum Innovation Process (CIP).
- 36.4 To work with SAS, SEU and UI to explore opportunities to strengthen the student experience and increase active enrolment.
- 36.5 To work with PCAO and PTC to consider opportunities to strengthen the support and guidance available to Teaching Academics in documenting their Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) activities, with a view to increasing visibility of this work and supporting future promotion applications.
- 36.6 To work with Strategic People Partners to strengthen the induction for casual academic staff, with a focus on teaching and learning support and the UniSA, Academic Unit, and program contexts.
- 36.7 Academic Board members also expressed concerns about the quality assurance process particularly in relation to student evaluations and requested that this issue be reviewed in the next CIP.

2024/1/28 Academic Board resolved:

to note the finding and actions emanating from the 2023 round of the Curriculum Innovation Process.

8.3 2023 YAITYA WARRA-ITYA'S ANNUAL REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/29 Academic Board resolved:

to note the major business undertaken by Yaitya Warra-itya in 2023.

8.4 2023 ANNUAL REPORT – ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO POLICIES BY THE REGISTRAR AND DIRECTOR: STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/30 Academic Board resolved:

to note the administrative amendments to policies by the Registrar and Director: Student and Academic Services in 2023.

8.5 2023 ACADEMIC BOARD EVALUATION (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/1/31 Academic Board resolved:

to note the 2023 Academic Board Evaluation.

ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY TRANSITIONAL ACADEMIC BOARD

37 Members noted that as previously advised that the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board had met on 15 March 2024. Due to a matter of timing, the Transitional Council had approved an interim membership until both the Academic Boards of UniSA and the University

of Adelaide had the opportunity to meet. The interim UniSA membership besides the ex officio members had comprised: Prof Tracey Humphrey, Assoc Prof Stephen Ward, Ms Jessica Ford, Ms Karla Gotting, Mr Oliver Shepard-Bayly and Ms Lucy Fawcett. The Transitional Academic Board would continue to operate up until 31 December 2025, and a decision needed to be made whether to confirm the interim UniSA membership or re-open nominations for the positions to be elected by and from the current UniSA Academic Board.

- 38 It was further noted that the transitional structure appeared to be working well and that there wasn't a problem with the process or the interim nominees for positions on the Transitional Academic Board to date. Nevertheless, members believed that there was a need for transparency to allay any fears in the university community about a perceived lack of consultation. Communication was the key it was felt in the successful transition to the new university, and it was agreed that a process and procedure be put in place for the nomination and election of two academic staff members, two professional staff members and two students to the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board from the UniSA Academic Board.

2024/1/32 Academic Board resolved:

to authorise the Chair to establish a process for the election of members to the Adelaide University Transitional Academic Board.

Moved: Prof Jacqui Ramagge Seconded: Prof Paula Geldens

CARRIED

ITEM 10 – CLOSURE

- 39 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.55 pm. Prof Tedmanson also thanked the Academic Director: UniSA Online, Prof John Medlin, who was retiring, for his significant contribution to Academic Board. Prof Medlin had served many terms on Academic Board and had been a foundation member of the first UniSA Board in 1992. Along with Prof Tracey Humphrey and other members she also expressed condolences on behalf of Academic Board to the family and friends of Dr Catherine King whose funeral had been held earlier in the day and was well attended by university staff.

ITEM 10 – NEXT MEETING

- 40 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 24 May 2024, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 13 May 2024.

**PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**