

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 28 MARCH 2025
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

1/2025

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
(Chairperson)
Prof Amie Albrecht
Prof Craig Batty
Prof Andrew Beer
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Dr Ryan Causby
Ms Tracey Coleman
Prof Shane Dawson
Dr Xin Deng
Prof Sanjay Garg
Prof Paula Geldens
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Brendan Hughes
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Ms Dasuni Imansa Jaburuthugoda
Gamarachchige
Mr Edwin John
Mr Phil Johnson
Dr Masud Karim
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof David Lloyd
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Dr Fanke Peng
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Mr Yeshaiah Varona
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward
Ms Sibel Yildirimci
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Alan Brideson
Prof Tina Brodie
Prof Jon Buckley
Ms Jessica Ford
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Prof Tracy Humphrey
Mr Richard Irons
Prof Marta Krasowska
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Prof Peter Murphy
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Mr Tom Steer
Prof Rachael Vernon
Dr Paula Zito

ALTERNATES:

Dr Tiernan Cross
(for Prof Tina Brodie)
Ms Katrina Gillespie
(for Mr Tony Dalwood)
Ms Tania Kanellos
(for Mr Richard Irons)
Assoc Prof Sally Plush
(for Prof Sandra Orgeig)

OBSERVERS:

Prof Esther May
Ms Tess Penglis
Mr Matthew Rickard

- 1 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, and observers. 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, 7.5 and 9.1 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2025/1/1 Academic Board resolved:

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

Moved: Dr Shashi Nallaya Seconded: Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington

CARRIED

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2025/1/2 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2024 as a correct record subject to minor amendment.

Moved: Prof Jacqui Ramagge Seconded: Prof Elspeth McInnes

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4 There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

5 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported on the Universities Australia Solutions Summit Conference in Canberra in February 2025 which had brought together over 1,000 people, 50 partners and exhibitors, as well as over 70 local and global leaders from academia, government and industry to forge new collaborations, face challenges and seize opportunities around the future of higher education in Australia. Prof Tedmanson had co-chaired two meetings of the Transitional Academic Board which had approved over 600 courses, in addition to research policies and guidelines. She had also attended two meetings of Council in March 2025 where discussions had focussed, inter alia, on the recruitment of a new Vice Chancellor for Adelaide University. In concluding her report, Prof Tedmanson welcomed the soft launch of the exciting new UniSA Time Capsule bespoke website, which was being managed by the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Distinguished Prof Marnie Hughes Warrington AO, and featured project ambassadors including the long-serving Academic Board Executive Officer, Mr Peter Cardwell.

2025/1/3

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

- 6 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced his written report, which was taken as read, by briefly drawing members' attention to several matters including: the very successful first joint UniSA-University of Adelaide Alumni event in London; the Adelaide University Staff Transition Framework which had been supported in principle by the Councils of Adelaide University, UniSA and the University of Adelaide; UniSA plans to build an Aboriginal Knowledges Centre at City West Campus in the second half of 2025; Adelaide University's announcement of a new partnership with Adelaide Football Club including the offering of a new joint Diploma in Sports Management; UniSA's significant ARC and NHMRC research funding outcomes for 2024-2025; the final and very successful Study Period 2 Orientation Week for UniSA which was delivered across six campuses and online in late February 2025; and two well organised graduation ceremonies which were held at Pridham Hall, City West, in late December 2024 with 538 graduates attending many of whom were international students.
- 7 The Executive Dean for Justice & Society, Prof Paula Geldens, reported on the very positive feedback of a student from an Afghani refugee background who wanted to speak about what the University did, its 'incredible impact' and the value of their education at graduations, particularly because women were denied the benefits of an education in Afghanistan. Prof Geldens also sought to make a correction to the Vice Chancellor's Report. In the final section, Mr Ben Raw was erroneously aligned with UniSA Business when in fact he had been General Manager of Justice & Society but had since left the University, and the Academic Unit's two Program Services Managers had stepped into his role for the remainder of 2025.

2025/1/4

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) 1/2025

5.1 UNISA CLINICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

5.1.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NURSING & GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MIDWIFERY (SA HEALTH CLINICAL SPECIALISATION PROGRAMS) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/5 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the changes to the entry requirements of the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (ICNS) and the Graduate Certificate in Midwifery (ICMW) to enable SA Health sponsored students to enrol in programs.

5.2 UNISA STEM

5.2.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN ENGINEERING (XTEN-E)

2025/1/6 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Associate Degree in Engineering (XTEN-E) effective from Study Period 1, 2025.

5.3 ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQ) ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2025/1/7 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the ASSQC Annual Report 2024.

ITEM 6 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 1/2025

6.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/8 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.

6.2 ETHOS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/9 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Ethos Community of Practice Report.

6.3 RESEARCH ETHICS AND SAFETY COMMITTEES & RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL REPORTS 2024 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/10 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Research Ethics and Safety Committees & Research Integrity Annual Reports 2024.

6.4 RESEARCH LEADERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2024 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/11 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Research Leadership Committee Annual Report 2024.

6.5 GUIDELINE: GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & RESEARCH

8 The Dean of Graduate Studies, Assoc Prof Sally Plush, introduced minor amendments to the *Generative Artificial Intelligence and Research Guideline*, which reflected recent developments, best practice, and new resources, and followed a six-monthly review under UniSA's Policy Framework to ensure that it remained relevant, effective, and aligned with the University's objectives. The guideline had been updated to further clarify researchers' responsibilities when using GenAI, with a stronger emphasis on maintaining research integrity. Assoc Prof Plush thanked Ms Sandra Elias who had done a lot of work on the proposed amendments which had been endorsed by Research Degrees Committee (RDC) on 6 February 2025 and Research leadership Committee (RLC) on 28 February 2025.

2025/1/12 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amendments to the Generative Artificial Intelligence and Research Guideline.

Moved: Ms Camilla Liddy Seconded: Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington

CARRIED

6.6 LIBRARY READ AND PUBLISH AGREEMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/13 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the information on Library Read and Publish Agreements 2024 uptake.

6.7 CECILIE BEARUP MASTER OF RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/14 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Cecilie Bearup Master of Research Scholarship.

ITEM 7 – BUSINESS

7.1 HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/15 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the Human Research Ethics Committee appointments for a two year period as specified.

7.2 CENTRAL ADELAIDE LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK RADIATION THERAPY GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/16 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Central Adelaide Local Health Network Radiation Therapy Grant.

7.3 KNUCK-IVY'S STRONG SPIRIT ABORIGINAL NURSING GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/17 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Knuck-Ivy's Strong Aboriginal Nursing Grant.

7.4 KEMP FAMILY ABORIGINAL PSYCHOLOGY GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/18 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Kemp Family Aboriginal Psychology Grant.

7.5 WHYALLA SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK KIMBERLEY PURSCHE GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/19 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Whyalla Suicide Prevention Network Kimberley Pursche Grant.

ITEM 8 – FOR INFORMATION

8.1 HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE AND OTHER ISSUES

9 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, provided an update on some higher education policy issues. He reported that higher education was not an issue in the upcoming Federal election. However, immigration would be a major issue and the impact of further cuts to international student numbers could be dramatic if the Coalition was elected to government. The *Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024* was passed by both Houses of Parliament in late 2024. The Bill included measures to make student HELP repayments fairer, including the introduction of a new minimum repayment threshold and marginal repayment rates applicable only to earnings above the threshold. Some 21 VET providers already offered bachelor's degrees, and this was set to increase. There were 760 places available with a competitive process in place to secure these. It was clear that there would be greater operability between VET and the university sector in the future.

10 The Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Distinguished Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington, reported on the official opening of the UniSA cutting-edge Sport Science Hub, a key component of the new \$88 million South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) facility at Mile End. Launch of the Institute marked a significant leap forward in sports education, research, and high-performance athlete development, poised to deliver substantial social and economic benefits to the state. The precinct's official opening on Friday 28 March brought together key stakeholders including representatives from UniSA including Prof Jon Buckley, Executive Dean: UniSA Allied Health & Human Performance, the SA Government (represented by the Honourable

Emily Bourke, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing), and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (represented by Mr Tim Nicholas, Acting Chief Executive, Mr Adam Trottman, Director of Infrastructure and Planning and Mr Wes Battams, former SASI Director). The event served to formally introduce SASI, UniSA and industry partners, and featured facility tours, a panel discussion, official speeches, and networking opportunities. Located near the SA Athletics Stadium and Netball SA Stadium, the new SASI facility at Mile End established a comprehensive sports precinct designed to elevate South Australia's sporting capabilities on a national and international scale. The UniSA Sport Science Hub occupied the entire second floor of the SASI building and was named after the late Prof Roger Eston.

- 11 Members noted that the prevalence and impact of racism had become a major issue in Australian universities. The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) had commenced a *Study into the Prevalence and Impact of Racism in Australian Universities* in mid-2024 with an interim report released in December 2024. The study examined antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of Aboriginal people in Australian universities. Universities Australia (UA) had been engaging with the AHRC on the development of a component of the broader study, namely, the Racism@Uni Survey. The Race Discrimination Commissioner had also commenced direct consultations with the sector to distribute the survey to staff and students nationwide. To inform the survey, universities including UniSA were asked to provide comprehensive information regarding policies, training, curriculum review and incident reporting and resolution practices by 28 February 2025. The Group of Eight Universities had also developed a definition of antisemitism which was presented to a plenary of UA. The definition had been presented to TEQSA as well. At the same time, Murdoch University had come up with a very good definition.
- 12 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, provided some follow up from the November 2024 Academic Board meeting on the wide ranging and vigorous in camera discussion on the role of universities and academic boards in relation to staff and student wellbeing during prolonged crises such as currently occurring in the Middle East. Support services for students and the wellbeing of staff were critical in these difficult times. The role of Academic Board as a forum for the debate of academic issues was important, as was maintaining the integrity of its terms of reference. An electronic platform was being developed where staff would be able to share information and discussion on important issues. The point was made that there was a clear distinction between academic freedom and freedom of speech. A member expressed the view that she was grateful for the discussion and was pleased to see that it was managed so effectively.

2025/1/20 Academic Board resolved:
to note the Higher Education Policy discussion.

8.2 UNISA RISK STATUS REPORT & UNI-WIDE RISK REGISTER (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/1/21 Academic Board resolved:
to note the UniSA Risk Status Report & Uni-Wide Risk Register.

ITEM 11 – CLOSURE

- 13 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.15 pm.

- 14 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 27 June 2025, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 16 June 2025.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER