The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates and observers. She acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains, and paid respect to their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationships with the land. Prof Waye went on to acknowledge the passing of Aunty Alice (Alitya) Rigney, who was respected Elder and matriarch of the Kaurna and Narungga Aboriginal Nations. A graduate of the Delissa Institute and an Honorary Doctor of UniSA, Aunty Alice was a good friend of the University, and in tribute to her memory Academic Board observed a minute’s silence.
1.2 TABLED PAPERS

There were no tabled papers.

1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Items 1, 3, 4, 5.2.3, 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2017/3/41 Academic Board resolved:

that all unstarred items be received or approved without discussion.

Moved: Dr Shamsul Khan Seconded: Mr Ryan Kennealy
CARRIED

1.5 NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It was noted that no members had given notice of a potential conflict of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda for consideration at the meeting.

1.6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2017/3/42 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2017 as a correct record.

Moved: Mr Brendan Hughes Seconded: Dr John Medlin
CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

The Chairperson, Prof Vicki Waye, reported that members had raised a number of matters of interest for discussion at Academic Board. Since the last meeting in March at the behest of Board members the following discussion papers had been arranged: ‘Academic Risk’ by the Director of Assurance Services Mr Warren Einarson in September; ‘English Language Support’ by the Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Engagement and Equity), Dr Laura-Anne Bull in October; and ‘Sessional Staff Support’ by Dr Gavin Sanderson in November. In addition, USASA had requested assistance with the preparation of an organisational chart to help identify those involved in program management and quality assurance throughout the University and to help identify students and the fora where
students were able to exercise voice in academic affairs. School managers had been very helpful in providing the information which would be collated when all replies were received.

Following the last Academic Board meeting ceremonies celebrating the achievement of UniSA graduates were held at the Convention Centre, Mount Gambier and Whyalla. As the Vice Chancellor noted in his report UniSA graduated 3264 graduates. Prof Waye attended three of these ceremonies and confirmed what ‘a wonderful uplifting experience’ it was to see so many of the University’s students achieve their goals and to celebrate their achievements with family and friends. The occasional addresses that Prof Waye heard from Dr Ian Gould, Mrs Janet Holmes a Court and Mr Adam Goodes were thoughtful and inspiring. It also confirmed to her how lucky we were to work in an environment full of young (and sometimes not so young) intelligent people and to help them to realise their aspirations.

Two weeks later, Prof Waye attended the University Council meeting on 13 April 2017. The meeting discussed a number of matters including this Board’s Annual Report, the Safety and Well Being Report, the Annual Financial Statements and a number of confidential reports regarding corporate performance, audit and risk management, senior remuneration and confidential reports from the Student Ombudsman and the Student Appeals Committee. In addition, the Vice Chancellor outlined a number of matters of strategic significance, most of which were outlined in his report which was before the Board. The April meeting of Council approved the 2016 Academic Board Annual Report without qualification, while noting the breadth and significance of its business. Other matter discussed included:

8.1 The Safety and WellBeing Report which outlined a number of improvements including a very positive Return to Work SA evaluation including a recommendation for a 5 year renewal of UniSA’s self-insured registration; 99% conformance with the Health and Safety Local Action Plan, a reduction in workers’ compensation claims. Further the average days lost per WHS incident had substantially decreased from 27 to 11. The report also noted that a Wellbeing Steering Committee was in the process of finalising the University Well Being Action Plan with a primary focus on mental health education. Given that mental illnesses were the third leading cause of disability burden in Australia, accounting for an estimated 27% of the total years lost due to the disability – this would be an important development.

8.2 Council approved the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2016. In 2016 the University achieved a strong financial result, and met all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall Operating Income exceeded Budget by $13.3 million, and Operating Costs were $15.4 million below Budget. Teaching revenue exceeded Budget by $10.4 million (underpinned by $11.0 million refund of the Commonwealth Government Efficiency Dividend from 2015 and 2016). Research and Consultancy revenue was $4.2 million above Budget (supported by an increase in Research Block Grant funding of $2.4 million). The Consolidated Underlying Operating Result was $37.8 million, which was $30.8 million higher than Budget, and the revised Consolidated Underlying Operating Result was $37.1 million. The revised underlying safety margin (underlying operating result as a percentage of total income) was 6.1%. Income increased by 2.5% to $609.3 million. The University’s consolidated financial position remained sound during 2016 with net assets of $1,174 billion. Cash balances were $317.8 million at year’s end.

8.3 While Prof Waye could not share the confidential details of the Corporate Performance Report and the Corporate Key Performance Indicators Report, she reported that overall the University was tracking well against its objectives, especially those related to graduate employment, and as confirmed in the Vice Chancellor’s report was rapidly rising in global rankings. In spite of the fact that the University was doing well financially, and was making a surplus it would be subject to budgetary changes in government policy which the Provost, Prof Allan Evans would discuss in more detail later in the meeting.
On Friday 19 May 2017, along with many other UniSA staff and Council members Prof Waye attended two important events: the 2017 National Reconciliation Week Breakfast; and the CEDA, Higher Education Review with the Federal Minister of Education Senator Simon Birmingham and a panel of all South Australian Vice Chancellors. The Minister outlined the rationale and framework for the higher education reforms, which were defended on the basis of the need to ensure sustainability in university funding, whereas the Vice Chancellors questioned whether it was appropriate to extract more in fees from students, and whether the proposed efficiency dividend was justifiable. The Reconciliation Week Breakfast celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 referendum. It highlighted areas of progress but noted that there was still much ground to be made up. The pervasive and damaging nature of racism in Australian society was particularly stressed as an area in need of change and clearly this was an area where UniSA was well placed to make a strong contribution towards improvement.

2017/3/43

Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Chairperson’s Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 4 – VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

In the absence of Prof David Lloyd, who was unable to attend the meeting, the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Prof Allan Evans, introduced the Vice Chancellor’s written report, which was taken as read, and drew members’ attention to a number of matters. Prof Evans reported that:

9.1 UniSA had risen 25 places to be ranked number 32 in the latest Times Higher Education rankings of world universities aged under 50 years. In a global field of 200, UniSA ranked fourth among eligible Australian institutions behind the University of Technology Sydney, Queensland University of Technology and University of Wollongong. The University was also the youngest, highest ranked in the nation, and the biggest mover and in the top 50 world universities under 50 years old. It put UniSA in the two most widely recognised rankings tables, the Times Higher Education ranking and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings. The rankings measured the same 13 separate indicators as the World University Rankings, but the Young University Rankings 2017 methodology had been recalibrated to reflect the special characteristics of younger universities, giving less weight to subjective indicators of academic reputation.

9.2 At the recent graduation ceremonies held in Adelaide in March, Mt Gambier in April and Whyalla in May, a total of 3,264 graduates attended, and 4,199 degrees were conferred. Of these graduates, 34 were Aboriginal including 3 PhD graduates. The majority of Aboriginal graduates completed their studies in education/teaching (15), nursing (4), or Aboriginal studies (4); of these were seven AnTEP graduates (Anangu Tertiary Education Program) who lived and worked as Aboriginal Education Workers on the APY Lands. AnTEP (the program had no further intakes) offered students who would not otherwise be able to get a tertiary education due to difficulties of living in a remote community, the opportunity to study at university. Specifically designed to meet the needs of Aboriginal people, the program was taught through a flexible delivery mode, allowing students to remain in their communities while studying. In these ceremonies, the University conferred Honorary Doctorates on Mr Thomas Keneally, AO, Dr Ian Gould AM, Mrs Janet Holmes a Court AC, and Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin Sallik AO. The University also conferred the honorary award of Emeritus Professor on Prof Richard Head. Occasional speakers included: Mr Thomas Keneally AO, Dr Ian Gould AM, Mrs Janet Holmes a Court AC, Emeritus
9.3 The University had entered into a number of new industry partnerships. Leading defence systems company, Saab Australia were partnering with UniSA and investing about $40 million to establish the new Saab Australia-UniSA Defence Technologies Institute. Underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 4 May 2017 in the presence of the Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne, the new Defence Institute would provide a key education and research pipeline for highly skilled systems engineers, now very much in demand, as new defence industry projects come on-line. The Institute would be located in a new purpose-built wing at Saab’s Mawson Lakes HQ, in close proximity to our Mawson Lakes campus. It would provide a unique industry-based environment for students to experience real-life projects as an integral part of their studies, ensuring graduates were well-equipped to succeed in the defence sector. A new partnership between UniSA and the Alliance Francaise d’Adelaide would promote French society, language and culture and the relationship between France and Australia, with a focus on key themes such as the emerging defence relationship between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to foster a new era of academic exchange and cooperation had been signed between UniSA and Alliance Francaise d’Adelaide which would build on UniSA’s strategic engagement with French industry and universities in the context of building skills and the research and development base required for the DCNS submarine contract, which was a crucial component of the future South Australian economy. The partnership was launched on 19 April 2017 by Mr Brian Fahy, President of Alliance Francaise d’Adelaide, Mr Laurent Pointud, Director, Alliance Francaise d’Adelaide and His Excellency Mr Christophe Lecourtier, Ambassador of the Republic of France to Australia.

2017/3/44 Academic Board resolved:

- to receive the Vice Chancellor’s Report.

  Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

  CARRIED

ITEM 5 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASQC) 3/2017

5.1 FOR RESOLUTION

5.1.1 BUSINESS SCHOOL

5.1.1.1 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REACCREDITATION REVIEW REPORT – BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (SPORT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2017/3/45 Academic Board resolved:

- to approve the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Business (Sport and Recreation Management) for the period 2016-2022 inclusive.
5.1.2 DIVISION OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

5.1.2.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – BACHELOR OF ARTS (INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2017/3/46 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amended new Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Cultures and Australian Society) and the withdrawal of the Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Cultures and Australian Society) with effect from Study Period 1, 2018.

5.2 OTHER MATTERS

5.2.1 POLICY RESCISSION – A31: ACADEMIC STAFF ENROLLED IN UNIVERSITY COURSES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2017/3/47 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the rescission of Policy A31: Academic Staff Enrolled in University Programs to be effective immediately.

5.2.2 POLICY RESCISSION – A55: PROGRAM NOMENCLATURE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2017/3/48 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the rescission of Policy A55: Program Nomenclature to be effective immediately.

5.2.3 GUIDELINE RESCISSION – SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS ON APPROVED COURSE ACTIVITY

The Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Prof Allan Evans, introduced a proposal to rescind the Short Term Accommodation for Students on an Approved Course Activity Guidelines. He reported that the guidelines were now quite dated and the University had sought legal advice from Minter Ellison Lawyers in relation to them. The request was for advice if the existing guidelines were still required, and if so whether they needed to be as extensive and detailed as they currently were, with Minter concluding that ‘they did not appear to serve any effective mitigation purpose’. In light of the legal advice, the course information material provided to students prior to enrolments had been updated by Student and Academic Services (SAS) to reflect requirements for participating in placements, Section 2 Course Outline of the Assessment Policies and Procedures Manual (APPM) was amended to include all conditions associated with placements, and the student’s declaration in myEnrolment was also updated to confirm waiver of indemnity.

In response to a question, Prof Evans said he believed that if the guidelines were rescinded travel and accommodation reimbursements would still be available to students at the School level in keeping with relevant legislative requirements, and given the changes implemented by SAS in providing clear information to students prior to or at the time of enrolment any perceived risks relating to the provision of assistance with placement-related travel and accommodation arrangements were negligible. A review was also being undertaken and students’ views would be taken into consideration in the development of more appropriate guidelines as an outcome of the review.
Academic Board resolved:

to approve the rescission of the Short Term Accommodation for Students on approved Course Activity to be effective immediately.

Moved: Prof Allan Evans Seconded: Prof Carol Grech

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – MATTERS FROM RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE (RDC) 3/2017

6.1 FOR INFORMATION

6.1.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to receive the report from Research Degrees Committee.

6.2 FOR RESOLUTION

6.1.2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND MEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM PLANS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved to approve:

1. The introduction of a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Science (PHSC-IPHD) in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Science.

2. The introduction of 3 Masters by Research program plans in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Science: Medical Science (MEDSC-IMHC); Pharmacology (PHARC-IMHC); and Public Health (PHLTB-IMHC); and

3. The withdrawal of the existing Masters by Research (LABT-IMHC) Laboratory Technology program plan in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences.

ITEM 7 - BUSINESS

7.1 BUSINESS SCHOOL - NEW GRANTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Advanced Economics and Finance in Business Program Grants.

8.2 DIVISION OF IT, ENGINEERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT – DELOITTEE CYBER SECURITY PRIZE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Deloittee Cyber Security Prize.
8.1 HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS

Prof Evans reported that the impact of the ‘efficiency dividend’ on the University’s budget would be $4.6 million in 2018, and $9.3 million in 2019, increasing thereafter in line with anticipated changes in student load. The maximum extent of the risk for UniSA of the 7.5% CGS cluster funding performance requirements would be $13 million per annum. Compliance with new Commonwealth requirements would require a lot more information being given to the government, and was a significant administrative imposition. The changes announced in the budget would in all likelihood also favour larger and wealthier metropolitan universities over institutions like UniSA with a social mission, which catered for students from disadvantaged and lower socio economic backgrounds. From 2018, the Commonwealth would reduce postgraduate coursework degree funding eventually leading to a situation where all postgraduate degrees would be fee-paying. The implications of the elimination of enabling load and changes to sub-bachelor load would have significant implications for the University’s UniSA College. UniSA’s current enabling funding was $1.1 million, and the impact would be negative if the University was forced to absorb the student contribution in full in 2018. The University was starting to examine its options, for example, a decision would need to be made about whether to charge UniSA College students. The lack of detail for some of the changes, however, made planning difficult. The University was not supportive of the package as a whole, and believed that measures contained in it contradicted the Commonwealth’s statement that the reforms were intended to create a more sustainable higher education sector.

The President of USASA, Ms Kayla Dickeson, noted that the Commonwealth Government had characterised the May 2017 Budget package as “student-focused” and “sustainable”, but she believed there was little if anything in it that could be considered as such. Ms Dickeson said that like many UniSA students she had grown up in regional South Australia into a working-class family, and when she first came to Adelaide to study she was working in two jobs below the minimum wage, receiving $76 a fortnight from Centrelink, and struggled to get by. Raising the student HECS contribution fee by 7.5%, would affect all students, but especially those living below the poverty line, and would be another barrier to achieving higher education. When this was coupled with the lowering of the HECS repayment threshold to $42,000, it became a significant deterrent to studying. Students were once again being expected to pay more. Students across Australia in 2017 had been consistently rallying against a government that continued to make accessible education more difficult to obtain. With the axing of the ‘fee-free’ enabling program model at UniSA College, this would put further pressure on disadvantaged students, and become yet another significant barrier to obtaining a degree. Introducing a scholarship system for postgraduate coursework students and axing Commonwealth Supported places would also make
postgraduate study inaccessible for many. Students were suffering – with two thirds living below the poverty line. The cost of textbooks kept increasing, rents were rising, along with grocery and petrol bills. An increasing number of students were on the verge of homelessness, not knowing where or when they would find their next meal or sleep for the night. How could the government expect students to pay back university fees on a $42,000 income if they couldn’t even afford a place to live? USASA believed that education should be a right and not a privilege.

Other members expressed support for the USASA President in her remarks. There were particular concerns expressed in relation to the Commonwealth’s decision to abolish enabling loading from 1 January 2018, and replace it with a maximum student contribution rate of $3271 per student. UniSA College students were among the students who needed free education the most, with 85% of them coming from low socio economic backgrounds. Members also expressed concerns about the replacement of the current allocation of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for postgraduate coursework places by a scholarship system, and moves from 2018 to reduce the total allocation of postgraduate CSPs by around 3,000 places nationally, and believed that this was the ‘thin edge of the wedge’ for making all postgraduate degrees fee paying. In concluding the discussion, the Chair thanked members for their contribution, Prof Waye also on advised that the University was keeping a watching brief on developments and preparing a submission to the Senate Inquiry.

2017/3/55 Academic Board resolved:

to note the Higher Education Briefing.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

8.2 REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY’S POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSES TO, SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON CAMPUS AND IN THE UNIVERSITY

The Director of the Office of the Vice Chancellor and Strategic Programs, Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis, introduced for noting the scope and terms of reference of a review to ensure that the University had in place the appropriate policies, structures and supports to provide a safe, positive and nurturing environment for students. The review would undertake a comprehensive analysis, including benchmarking against best practice, of the University’s policies, procedures and support structures for the prevention of, and responses to sexual harassment. For the purposes of this review, responses would be sought from students who had experienced sexual harassment both on and off-campus. The findings and recommendations of the review would be provided to Senior Management Group (SMG) for consideration. The Review Report and Implementation Plan for the agreed recommendations of the review would then be provided to Academic Board and Council. The Review Working Group comprised: Dr Laura-Anne Bull, Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Engagement and Equity) (Chair), Ms Sharna Bremner, External Consultant, Ms Kayla Dickeson, USASA President, Mr Brendan Hughes, Director: Student Engagement, Ms Louise Kyriaki, USASA Postgraduate Student Representative, Prof Kurt Lushington, Head: School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy, Ms Vanessa Matthews, Deputy Director: Student Services, and Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis, Director: Office of the Vice Chancellor. The Working Group would consult with and seek advice from all relevant areas within the University, and additional members might added to the Working Group as required.
Academic Board resolved:

to note the review report and terms of reference.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

8.3 BUSINESS SCHOOL ADVISORY STRUCTURES ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Business School Advisory Structures Annual Report 2016.

8.4 DIVISION OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ADVISORY STRUCTURES ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 AND 2016 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences Advisory Structures Annual Reports 2015 and 2016.

8.5 DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES ADVISORY STRUCTURES ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 AND 2016 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Division of Health Sciences Advisory Structures Annual Reports 2015 and 2016.

8.6 DIVISION OF IT, ENGINEERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY STRUCTURES ANNUAL REPORT 2016

A member sought clarification on the title for advisory structures under Academic Policy A38.8: Advisory Structures. It was noted that the nomenclature for these groups varied across the University, but that the title ‘committee’ was restricted to sub-committees of Council and Academic Board. The Director of the Office of the Vice Chancellor and Strategic Programs, Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis, agreed to have a look at Council policy in relation to the matter, with the view to possibly revisiting the policy.

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Division of IT, Engineering and the Environment Advisory Structures Annual Report 2016.
2017/3/61 Academic Board resolved:

   to note the Annual Report.

ITEM 10 – CLOSURE

18 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.45 pm

ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING

19 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday 23 June, 2017, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 12 June, 2017.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER