

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 28 JUNE 2024
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

3/2024

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
(Chairperson)
Prof Amie Albrecht
Prof Craig Batty
Mr Alan Brideson
Prof Jon Buckley
Ms Tracey Coleman
Prof Joanne Cys
Prof Shane Dawson
Ms Lucy Fawcett
Ms Jessica Ford
Prof Paula Geldens
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Brendan Hughes
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Prof Tracey Humphrey
Mr Phil Johnson
Dr Masud Karim
Ms Argani Kashyap
Prof Marta Krasowska
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Dr Fanke Peng
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Mr Yeshaiah Varona
Prof Rachael Vernon
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward
Dr Paula Zito
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Bill Le Blanc
Prof Andrew Beer
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Dr Ryan Causby
Dr Xin Deng
Prof Sanjay Garg
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Mr Richard Irons
Prof Marta Krasowska
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof David Lloyd
Dr Evangeline Mantzioris
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Dr Fanke Peng
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Mr Tom Steer
Mr Henry Zampoli

ALTERNATES:

Ms Tammie Blackmore
(for Ms Camilla Liddy)
Ms Katrina Gillespie
(for Mr Bill Le Blanc)
Ms Vanessa Matthews
(for Mr Richard Irons)
Assoc Prof Sally Plush
(for Prof Sandra Orgeig)

OBSERVERS:

Ms Emily Adcock
Ms Michelle Brereton

- 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, 6.1 and 8.1 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2024/3/52 **Academic Board resolved:**

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

Moved: Ms Tracey Coleman Seconded: Prof Rachael Vernon

CARRIED

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2024/3/53 **Academic Board resolved:**

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2024 as a correct record subject to minor amendment.

Moved: Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly Seconded: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4 There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

8 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported on the ‘dynamic and animated discussions’ at Adelaide University’s Transition Council and the Transition Academic Board, which she believed augured well for the strategic directions of the new university. Student members were commended for their involvement in the co-creation activities. The Co-Chairs of the Transition Academic Board, Prof Tedmanson and Prof Scott Smith, were involved in discussions in relation to the Board’s sub-committees along the lines of Academic Strategy Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC), Research Degrees Committee (RDC), and Research Leadership Committee (RLC). On 15 July 2024, the new university’s first in-person all staff events would take place to collectively reflect on the significant progress made to date and to commemorate the launch of Adelaide University to the world. This would be an opportunity to come together and acknowledge the two institutions’ proud respective legacies as the next chapter for the future was unveiled, including the new Adelaide University brand and logo.

2024/3/54

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

- 9 In the absence of Prof David Lloyd, who was on leave, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Joanne Cys, introduced the Vice Chancellor's report, which was taken as read. Prof Cys reported that:
- 9.1 Following an extensive application process, Adelaide University had received registration from the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as an Australian University higher education provider, and for the maximum possible period of seven years. TEQSA approval signified that the new university had the robust governance and academic provisions in place to meet the independent regulator's registration requirements. This was a significant milestone and an important step in the formal regulatory process in the creation of the new Adelaide University. Additional regulatory approvals would now progress including amendments to the *Higher Education Support Act* (HESA) to establish Adelaide University as a Table A Australian Public University, along with approval for the new institution's CRICOS provider registration and CRICOS registration of the first suite of programs.
- 9.2 The Times Higher Education (THE) released its 2024 Young University Rankings on 14 May 2024. The 2024 ranking included 673 universities, up from 605 in 2023. UniSA was ranked #43 in the world, up from #52 in 2023. UniSA ranked #9 in Australia out of 22 universities, up from #12 in Australia in 2023. UniSA ranked in the top 50 in the world in three out of the five ranking indicators: #11 in the world for industry income, up from #21 in 2023; and #40 in the world for research quality, an increase from #169 in 2023 based on updated methodology. UniSA ranked in the top 10 in Australia in two out of five ranking indicators: #1 in Australia for industry income, which had been maintained since 2021; and #4 in Australia for research environment, which was the same as for 2023. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released its 2025 QS World University Rankings on 4 June 2024. QS ranked UniSA 340th in the world, with the University's overall score increasing for the second year in a row from 32.7 to 33.2.
- 9.3 The Wellbeing Gateway (WBG) app was launched on 3 June 2024. This new offering for all UniSA staff members (continuing, fixed term and casual) was designed to enable all staff to tailor and prioritise their health and wellbeing. The app provided multiple ways to engage in wellbeing activities and the online platform provided additional support, complementing the suite of information and resources already provided by UniSA. Prof Cys took a question on notice from a member in relation to the security and storage of personal information within the Wellbeing Gateway app and agreed to provide further information to the July meeting of Academic Board on the matter.

- 9.4 Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO FTSE celebrated his 100th birthday on 3 June 2024 at UniSA's Mawson Lakes Library. Sir Eric had made a deep and lasting contribution to the wellbeing of South Australia and the nation, and UniSA had the honour and privilege of enjoying a long friendship with him. Sir Eric was an alumnus of the University who trained as an engineer at the South Australian School of Mines, an antecedent institution of UniSA, and his successful engineering career led to service with several companies before being appointed to the office of the Governor of South Australia serving until 2001. Sir Eric received a knighthood in 1982, was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988, a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1992, and named Australian Business Magazine's Businessman of the Year in 1987. Following his retirement as Governor, Sir Eric was Chancellor of Flinders University from 2002-2010, Chair of the South Australian Government Road Safety Advisory Council from 2003-2011 and chaired the South Australian Veteran's Advisory Council from 2009 until 2016. Sir Eric had also been a valued patron of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and an extremely generous donor. The University proudly named a library after him – the Sir Eric Neal Library at Mawson Lakes Campus – in recognition of his contribution to the community and to Australia's minerals sector, where aspiring engineers came to learn the skills they needed to follow in his footsteps.
- 9.5 In significant appointments, the Vice Chancellor had been appointed to the Australian Universities Accord Advisory Committee with its focus on needs-based funding. Former UniSA employee Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis had been appointed Acting Chief Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

2024/3/55

Academic Board resolved:

- 1. To receive and note the Vice Chancellor's Report.**
- 2. To congratulate Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis on her appointment as Acting Chief Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.**

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – AN UPDATE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- 10 The Executive Dean of UniSA STEM, Prof Jacqui Ramage, gave a special presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The main points from the presentation included:
- 10.1 AI was the emerging use of machines to do things, particularly those things normally expected to require intelligent human intervention. Most people only thought of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) which was that branch of artificial intelligence systems that were capable of producing human-like responses to specified user input, usually in the form of text prompts, images (static and moving), audio (speech and music), and synthetic data. However, AI also included: Data Analysis, which was statistical analysis of data and could be descriptive, diagnostic, predictive, or prescriptive; Machine Learning (ML) which involved algorithmic development of models using input-output data, and could be statistical and/or computational used for predictive analytics; Natural Language Processing which involved processing language recognition and generation, including speech recognition, speech synthesis, and large language models (LLMs) for text; Image Processing which involved enhancing or extracting information from an image, including computer vision (3D from 2D) and virtual reality; and autonomous systems which involved analyses of complex environments for safe decisions.

- 10.2 There had been a massive growth in the computational power and speed of AI in recent times. Moore's Law described the empirical regularity that the number of transistors on integrated circuits were doubling every two years. Transistor count had increased from 1000 in 1971 to 50 billion in 2020. In general, the speed of supercomputers was measured and benchmarked in FLOPS (floating-point operations per second). The number of floating-point operations carried out per second by the fastest supercomputers in any given year was expressed in gigaFLOPS which had increased from 1,000 in 1993 to 1 billion in 2022. Supercomputers generally aimed for the maximum in capability computing, which was typically thought of as using the maximum computing power to solve large or complex problems in the shortest amount of time. Often a capability system was able to solve a problem of a complexity that no other computer could.
- 10.3 AI and supercomputers had been employed in a real and meaningful way to help achieve a range of goals. For example, in 2006, desktop software *Deep Fritz* beat reigning world Chess Champion, Vladimir Kramnik. In 2017, DeepMind's *AlphaGo* beat the world's top-ranked Go player, Ke Jie. In 2022, *Midjourney* (text-to-image) won a digital art competition. In November 2022, OpenAI launched *ChatGPT*. In 2023, *ChatGPT* outperformed human doctors responding to online medical questions having been trained on reddit threads. *VALL-E* (text-to-sound) could mimic a voice within 3 seconds of a sample. *Pro Gen* generated functional protein sequences with predictable function. In 2024, *OpenAI* entered a partnership with Arizona University to provide a compulsory Mathematics component in all degrees for 145k students. Experts estimated that AI could contribute to nearly 80 percent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets. Examples included AI systems forecasting extreme weather events, enhancing agricultural productivity to combat hunger, predicting and responding to disease outbreaks, and building clean energy infrastructure. In March 2024, the United Nations resolved to use safe, secure, and trustworthy AI for SDGs. The use of AI in the November 2024 US elections could not be underestimated.
- 11 A discussion followed that focussed on some of the risks as well as the potential for AI to revolutionise people's lives for the better by automating routine activities which could save time, money, and resources, and improve the quality and consistency of output. AI had the potential to augment student capabilities and enable them to do more complex and creative work. AI driven personalised learning platforms could be developed to analyse students' learning patterns and preferences to recommend tailored study materials or adaptive learning paths. AI based virtual tutoring tools could provide students with assistance for example in exam preparation. AI could help teachers personalise learning and aid critical thinking and analysis. However, the educational challenge would be to deliver these without losing the understanding of how and why things worked. It would also be important to ensure that AI was developed and implemented in a way that was ethical and transparent. Academic integrity was an issue and there was a need to develop policies and procedures to address the issue. At the same time, some of the biggest risks associated with AI included things like a decrease in trust levels, the risk of biased programming, and unclear legal and policy regulation leading to the need for increased cybersecurity. The educational challenges around AI centred around assessment, academic integrity, and reputation. An overreliance on AI raised concerns about its ethical use, including data privacy, security and data protection standards, and the potential for bias in algorithms, as well as the threat of diminishing critical thinking and problem-solving in students, as they became accustomed to technology-driven solutions.

2024/3/56

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the update on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Moved: Prof Deidre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 3/2024

6.1 UNISA CREATIVE

6.1.1 3+1 PATHWAY TO THE MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

- 12 Members noted that at its meeting held on 14 June 2024, Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) had endorsed a 3+1 pathway specialisation for the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (DBAE) to the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (DMUR) and the creation of a new SATAC code in accordance with the University's Program Development Procedures.
- 13 The Dean of Programs, Assoc Prof Stephen Ward, introduced the proposal. He reported that the Government of South Australia and the Planning Institute of Australia had identified a skills shortage in urban and regional planning, and the lack of undergraduate degrees in urban and regional planning in the state. The introduction of an accelerated pathway with a unique SATAC code between the Bachelor of Architectural Studies and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning would help increase the visibility of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning with the view to increasing enrolments in the program. The UniSA Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours) was withdrawn in 2019 due to low enrolments.
- 14 Assoc Prof Ward advised that the pathway would provide credit for 0.875 EFTSL of AQF 8 coursework from DBAE into DMUR. In this case, 7xAQF courses from first year of DMUR substituted for the 7xAQF 7 advanced courses in the third year of the DBAE. Students would complete 108 units of study with Year 1 and Year 2 establishing basic skills and concepts in design theory, creativity, environmental awareness, communication and technology, and Year 3 developing competence in 36 units of AQF 8 study drawn from the Master of Urban Planning (DMUR) program.
- 15 Academic Board welcomed the proposal and UniSA Creative was commended for developing the exciting new pathway which would provide increased employment opportunities for planning graduates.

2024/3/57

Academic Board resolved:

to approve 3+1 Pathway Specialisation for the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (DBAE) to the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (DMUR) and the creation of a new SATAC code, effective from Study Period 1, 2025.

Moved: Prof Rachael Vernon Seconded: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

CARRIED

6.2 UNISA JUSTICE AND SOCIETY

6.2.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/58

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the proposed amendment to the Master of Social Work (MMSK) effective from Study Period 1, 2025.

6.3 UNSIA STEM

6.3.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPACE STUDIES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/59

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the proposed amendment to the Graduate Certificate in Space Studies effective from Study Period 1, 2025.

6.3.2 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DATA SCIENCE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/60

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Graduate Certificate in Data Science effective from Study Period 1, 2025.

6.4 UNISA ONLINE

6.4.1 NEW PROGRAMS – UNISA ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, UNISA ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/61

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the proposed UniSA Online Undergraduate Certificates in Construction Management and Psychology for introduction in Study Period 6, 2024.

6.5 OTHER MATTERS

6.5.1 REVISIONS TO THE ASSQC TERMS OF REFERENCE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/62

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the proposed changes to the ASSQC Terms of Reference.

ITEM 7 – BUSINESS

7.1 UNISA ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/63 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the UniSA Aboriginal Pathway Program Grant.

7.2 GAVIN WANGANEEN ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/3/64 Academic Board resolved:

to approve Gavin Wanganeen Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Scholarship.

ITEM 8 – FOR INFORMATION

8.1 VICE CHANCELLOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

16 The Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Joanne Cys, introduced the Higher Education Policy Update, which was taken as read. Prof Cys reported that she had accompanied the Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Prof Peter Høj, on a trip to Canberra for meetings with the Minister for Education, Hon Jason Clare MP, and the Secretary of the Department, Mr Tony Cook PSM, to provide them with an update on the establishment of the new Adelaide University, and to discuss topical matters such as changes to international student enrolments in the recent Federal Budget. UniSA and the University of Adelaide had made a joint submission in response to the Draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework for consultation on how to implement a system of sustainable, managed growth in international student enrolments. The legislation to support the Framework allowed the Commonwealth to set an allocation for the maximum number of new international student enrolments education providers could offer. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) University of South Australia Integrity Survey 2023 had also been received and would be discussed at the July Academic Board meeting.

2024/3/65 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Higher Education Policy Update Report.

ITEM 9 – CLOSURE

17 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.35 pm.

18 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 26 July 2024, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 15 July 2024.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER