

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2025
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

3/2025

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
(Chairperson)
Prof Amie Albrecht
Prof Craig Batty
Prof Andrew Beer
Mr Alan Brideson
Prof Jon Buckley
Prof Shane Dawson
Dr Xin Deng
Ms Jessica Ford
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Ms Karla Gotting
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Ms Dasuni Jabururuthugoda
Dr Masud Karim
Ms Argani Kashyap
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof David Lloyd
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Dr Fanke Peng
Assoc Prof Sally Plush
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Prof Rachael Vernon
Assoc Prof Michael Ward
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward
Ms Sibel Yildirimci
Dr Paula Zito
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Prof Andrew Beer
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Prof Tina Brodie
Dr Ryan Causby
Ms Tracey Coleman
Mr Tony Dalwood
Prof Sanjay Garg
Prof Paula Geldens
Ms Katrina Gillespie
Mr Brendan Hughes
Mr Richard Irons
Mr Edwin John
Mr Phil Johnson
Prof Marta Krasowska
Prof Peter Murphy
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Mr Yeshaiah Varona
Mr Henry Zampoli

ALTERNATES:

Mr Husan Ara
(for Mr Yeshaiah Varona)
Dr Tiernan Cross
(for Prof Tina Brodie)
Prof Jill Dorian
(for Prof Paula Geldens)
Assoc Prof Sally Plush
(for Prof Sandra Orgeig)

OBSERVERS:

Prof Esther May
Mr Franco Parrella

- 1 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, observers, and in particular she welcomed Prof Jill Dorrian, Acting Executive Dean: Justice & Society, as well as Assoc Prof Michael Ward, Acting Executive Dean for Clinical and Health Sciences. 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, 6.3 and 8.2 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2025/3/42 Academic Board resolved:

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

Moved: Prof Jacqui Ramagge Seconded: Prof Jon Buckley

CARRIED

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2025/3/43 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2025 as a correct record.

Moved: Dr Masud Karim Seconded: Prof Elspeth McInnes

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

4 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported on the September 2025 meeting of University Council where the Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd’s sustained and distinguished service to UniSA for more than a decade was recognised through the approval for him to be awarded the honorary titles Doctor of the University and Emeritus Professor, as well as the naming of 9 Light Square, the UniSA Enterprise Hub, as the David Lloyd Building, which would also retain its existing Aboriginal name, Yangadlitya Kumangka (‘for the future, together’). At the same time, Council had approved the disestablishment of Academic Board and its subcommittees, Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, and Governance and Nominations Committee effective from 31 December 2025, and extended an invitation to the Chair of Academic Board and the President of USASA to continue to attend UniSA Council as observers until the governing body was dissolved in 2026. The Transition Council had also met and discussed the establishment of a new Adelaide University Academic Board, new Terms of Reference, and a timetable for potential elections in May 2026. A vacancy had arisen on the Transition Academic Board Which Prof Tedmanson proposed to discuss undany other business.

2025/3/44

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

- 5 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced his written report, which was taken as read, by drawing members' attention to a few matters. Prof Lloyd reported that:
- 5.1 On Wednesday, 24 September 2025, he had attended the State Funeral for Sir Eric James Neal AC CVO DUniv who had passed away earlier in September at the age of 101. Sir Eric had led an extraordinary life defined by his exceptional leadership and commitment to public service. His legacy had left an enduring impact on South Australia, higher education, and UniSA. Sir Eric was an alumnus of one of the University's antecedent institutions having trained as an engineer at the South Australian School of Mines. He was a former Governor of South Australia and Chancellor of Flinders University. At UniSA, Sir Eric's legacy was enshrined in the Sir Eric Neal Library which housed the University's Special Collections, including his own personal papers.
- 5.2 On 19 August 2025, the Commonwealth Government announced a consultation to expand the powers of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). The proposed reforms aimed to equip TEQSA with stronger tools to address systematic risks, including governance failures, student safety, and financial instability. Potential amendments included: a regulatory system that put students first; a modern regulator with powers to address emerging and systematic challenges; opportunities to streamline regulation for universities and other higher education providers; and a system that supported a joined together tertiary system, helping more Australians obtaining the skills and qualifications they needed. The Commonwealth Government had also released a consultation paper seeking feedback and ideas on, inter alia, the effectiveness of the current regulatory architecture and empowering TEQSA with a wider range of enforcement options.
- 5.3 The Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) had commenced interim operation and was intended to be fully operational by 2026, subject to the passage of legislation. Its establishment was one of the key recommendations of the *Australian Universities Accord*. ATEC was an independent steward for the higher education system, tasked with creating a better and fairer education system that delivered for students as well as on a range of national economic and social issues. The Senate Inquiry into University Governance and Vice Chancellor Salaries (from the last parliament) had also been reestablished by the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment. Submissions for both the *Quality of governance at Australian higher education providers* and the *Tertiary Education Legislation Amendment (There for Education, Not Profit) Bill 2025* were received at the end of August 2025. Public hearings for the inquiry into university governance concluded earlier in September with witnesses including the NTEU, Universities Australia, TEQSA and ATEC.

2025/3/45

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Vice Chancellor's Report.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – FINAL STUDENT OMBUD REPORT: LOOKING BACK – HERE AND NOW – LOOKING FORWARD

- 6 The UniSA Student Ombud, Mr Franco Parrella, gave a special presentation on the role of the Student Ombud. The main points from the presentation were:
- 6.1 The Student Ombud (the Ombud) provided a free, confidential, and impartial dispute resolution service for students and Mr Parrella was the fourth Ombud since the position was created at UniSA 23 years ago. UniSA was one of the first universities in the country to establish an ombudsman position. At one stage there were 18 student ombud positions at Australian universities, but currently there were only eight ombud positions nationally, and also a National Student Ombudsman Office (NSO) which was established early in 2025. Adelaide University would retain the student ombud role when the new university opened its doors in 2026. Mr Parrella acted as an advocate for fairness and was the ‘last port of call’ not the first ‘port of call’ with responsive educative and proactive responsibilities. The Ombud’s role was not to override University decisions, or to provide an emergency counselling service. At the same time, he did not represent the University, or act as an individual student’s representative. The Ombud acted as an advocate for fairness and took time with students to explore the best pathway(s), or referral options for them, while upholding confidentiality and impartiality.
- 6.2 The number of student complaints had declined between 2023 and 2024. The Ombud received a total of 71 service requests (SRs) in 2024 (compared with 102 in 2023). There was also a decrease in the number of ‘proactive’ requests received from staff for assistance in handling matters or seeking general advice from the Ombud. While the number of individual complaints dropped to 71 from 102 in 2023, key themes raised by students who approached the Ombud essentially remained much the same. These often-included fear and apprehension in formalising a complaint, dissatisfaction with administrative decisions and reasons provided and problems experienced whilst on placements, and some confusion and complexity over which external review options were appropriate to escalate their complaints if necessary.
- 6.3 The Adelaide University Student Ombud would act as a conduit to the National Student Ombudsman Office (NSO), which was a Statutory Authority and ‘part of’ the Commonwealth Ombudsman’s Office. The NSO began receiving complaints in February 2025, and considered complaints about student safety and wellbeing, gender-based violence, discrimination, racism, antisemitism and islamophobia, as well as issues related to student enrolment and exclusion, student applications for special consideration, changes to course structures, appeal procedures, and providers failure to clearly explain reasons for decisions. On the other hand, the NSO did not consider complaints related to VET courses, academic judgements (ie., grades), complaints related to employment with universities, or complaints related to education providers who were not TEQSA registered. In the first quarter of 2025, the NSO had received 1300 complaints from 1500 contacts, or around 1.7 million students. NSO outcomes might provide the basis for enforcement action by TEQSA. They could recommend formal apologies, the change or reconsideration of a decision, improvements in policy and procedures, alternative dispute resolution processes (including restorative engagement), new forms of action specific to a student’s complaint, and might refer complaints to other organisations.
- 7 The Chairperson thanked the Ombud for his dedication and commitment to his role and wished him well in his future position at Adelaide University.

2025/3/46

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from the UniSA Student Ombud.

Moved: Prof Deidre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 3/2025

6.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/3/47

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.

6.2 LARGE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE 2019-2025 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/3/48

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Large Research Infrastructure 2019-2025 report.

6.3 REVIEW OF PROGRESS: PREPARING FOR CANDIDATURE PROGRESS REVIEWS AT ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

8 The Dean of Graduate Studies, Assoc Prof Sally Plush, introduced a revised approach for the 2025 Review of Progress (RP) meeting schedule, mitigating the risk of lengthy periods without documented monitoring of research degree student progress, thereby supporting a smoother transition for research degree students to Adelaide University.

9 Members noted that Procedure AB-58-P3 required each research degree student, principal supervisor, and Research Degree Coordinator (RDC) to participate in at least two documented planning reviews per year (no more than six months apart). At a minimum, the RDC and student were required to meet face-to-face once a year, ideally with the principal supervisor present. This was in alignment with the University's obligations to the Higher Education Standards Framework to monitor the progress of research degree students. Currently at UniSA, students fell into a pattern of having reviews in either research period 1 and 3 (due May 1st and October 31st, respectively) or research periods 2 and 4 (due August 31st and February 28th the following year).

10 It was further noted that due to the transition to Adelaide University, the progress review cadence would change significantly. There would be an initial review (at 6 months), a confirmation of candidature review (at 12 months), a mid-candidature review (due 31 October each year until submission), and finally a completion review (at 36/21 months FTE for PhD/MPhil). Any student who had completed either their confirmation of candidature or a full year of candidature would complete only a single mid-candidature review each year until the final completion review. Master's students would not participate in mid-candidature reviews. This shift to a single review was in alignment with other Go8 universities.

- 11 Assoc Prof Plush reported that in the first year, the transition to this new cadence had the potential to create significant gaps in monitoring the progress of our research degree students. For example, an RP2/4 student who participated in one face-to-face meeting a year, and which occurred in RP4 (which was due 28 February 2025), might not have another meeting with an RDC (or equivalent AU role) until 31 October 2026 (a period of 20 months). For the RP1/3 student, this gap could be approximately 18 months if the face-to-face meeting occurred in RP1.
- 12 Assoc Prof Plush advised that the approach proposed addressed the issue through a short-term transition plan, to be implemented until new supervision structures and review processes were fully established. There was a potential workload implication, however this could not be quantified as reviews of progress meetings completed face-to-face were currently not recorded. The additional workload existed for RDCs who completed only the minimum of a single face-to-face meeting a year and they completed this in RP4 (February 2025) or RP1 (May 2025) and would not have anticipated conducting another face-to-face review until early 2026. Any RDC who met research degree students more often or was only due to conduct their minimum meeting in RP2 or 3 of 2025 would not be impacted. To meet compliance responsibilities, while avoiding additional burden on RDCs who had already met the minimum requirements earlier in 2025, a light touch was proposed.
- 13 It was noted that the proposal was presented to, and endorsed by, Research Degrees Committee (RDC) in July 2025 and Research Leadership Committee (RLC) in August. Simultaneously with being presented to RLC this proposal was also presented to the Provost and Executive Deans of each Academic Unit. The Executive Deans were supportive of the proposal. The student representatives on RDC were also very supportive of the proposed approach. Following discussion, Academic Board approved the short-term change in practice. The Board acknowledged the potential additional workload but agreed on the need to prioritise the student experience and wellbeing through regular engagement.

2025/3/49 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve that the 2025 RP2 and RP3 reviews be conducted via meetings (face-to-face, phone or virtual), attended by individual research degree students, the RDC, and ideally the Principal Supervisor. For RDCs who had already met with their student in RP4 (from 2024) or RP1 (2025), an intentional connection with their graduate research student would be sufficient. This might take the form of a phone call, online meeting, or engaged email correspondence, if a face-to-face meeting was not possible. This ensured reassurance that the student was making appropriate progress while meeting compliance requirements.

Moved: Assoc Prof Sally Plush

Seconded: Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili

CARRIED

ITEM 7 – BUSINESS

7.1 ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA PRIZE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/3/50 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the new Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia Prize.

7.2 CAM ROGERS LEGAL – PRIZE FOR INNOVATIVE STORYTELLING (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/3/51 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Cam Rogers Legal - Prize for Innovative Storytelling.

ITEM 8 – FOR INFORMATION

8.1 ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE PLAN 2021-2025 ANNUAL REPORT and FINAL REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD

2025/3/52 Academic Board resolved:

to note the completion of the UniSA *Academic Enterprise Plan 2021-2025*.

8.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 2024

14 Director: Teaching Innovation Unit (TIU), Assoc. Prof. Sheridan Gentili, introduced the 2024 Annual Academic Integrity Summary Report, which detailed the academic misconduct cases recorded in the Academic Integrity (AI) Database for the 2024 academic year. Assoc Prof Gentili reported that this was the final report for UniSA and that the AI data in 2024 was, in most cases, comparable to 2023, with a slight decrease in case numbers.

15 Members noted that key points from the report included the following:

15.1 A total of 2,835 suspected academic misconduct cases were reported in 2024. A total of 1,981 cases were recorded as confirmed misconduct (70% of cases). No misconduct and no investigation determined in 854 cases (30% of cases). The confirmed misconduct cases included plagiarism, third-party assistance, examination breaches, and falsification.

15.2 There were 5.67 cases of academic misconduct per 100 enrolled students. Plagiarism remained the most reported category of academic misconduct.

15.3 The most common detection method of plagiarism in 2024 was 'Turnitin' through automatic scans completed during assessment submission via Moodle. The emergence of generative artificial intelligence (genAI) tools and text editing tools within the Microsoft Office suite (or similar), such as 'Grammarly' and 'Copilot', increased the use of paraphrasing. However, there was a decrease in plagiarism which contributed to the overall decrease in cases in 2024.

15.4 In 2024, five assessment types were associated with 64% of misconduct breaches by assessment type (examination 26.6%; programming exercise 10.9%; report 10.4%; essay 8.4%; and case study 7.6%). The high rate of examination by type was due primarily to the use of 'Remote Proctor Now' (RPNOW) invigilation software and the reporting requirements associated with online examinations. A total of 2,912 or 24% of reviewed examinations were referred to the Course Coordinator and Academic Integrity Officers (AIO) for investigation.

15.5 In 2024, at least 80% of all cases involved students who had no prior breaches of academic integrity. Consistent with the previous year, the percentage of misconduct

cases decreased with increasing academic year level. However, postgraduate courses did see a rise, accounting for 11.8% of all misconduct cases, which was a drop compared to 2023.

- 16 There was some discussion around generative artificial intelligence (genAI) and Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) workloads. Reported for the first time in 2024, genAI had become the second most common category for misconduct cases. This was mainly due to the widespread use of genAI tools since the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022. GenAI as a type of misconduct was detected in the previous year; however, the previous Academic Integrity Database (AIDB) did not allow for it to be identified as a type of misconduct. New versions of ChatGPT, artificial intelligence tools integrated into popular Microsoft and Apple applications, and improvements in grammar-checking tools (eg., Grammarly) meant that genAI use was often unavoidable. The increase in the availability of such tools continued to add a layer of complexity to the number and type of cases reported for academic misconduct. In 2024, UniSA continued to review guidelines and released communications to ensure that academic staff maintained their vigilance in identifying instances where students were not achieving learning outcomes due to academic misconduct. AIO workload related to academic misconduct investigations remained a major concern among staff leading these investigations at UniSA.
- 17 The Chairperson advised that the Transition Academic Board would be looking at Academic Integrity (AI) issues at its October 2025 meeting. Prof Tedmanson also commended the TIU on its diligent and valuable work in the AI area at UniSA over the years.

2025/3/53 Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Academic Integrity Annual Summary Report 2024.

Moved: Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili Seconded: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

CARRIED

8.3 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS 2025 – LEVEL B AND LEVEL C (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/3/54 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Academic Promotions to Level B and Level C for 2025

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

2025/3/55 Academic Board resolved:

to note the UniSA Risk Status Report & Uni-Wide Risk Register.

ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 TRANSITION ACADEMIC BOARD AND RELATED MATTERS

- 18 The Chairperson advised that nominations would be called in coming weeks for a replacement on the Transition Academic Board for Prof Tracey Humprey from amongst academic staff on UniSA Academic Board. Prof Tedmanson also advised that at its September 2025 meeting University Council had referred to Academic Board for review relevant advice relating to the requirements pertaining to conferral of awards and any necessary policy amendments to

support academic governance during the transition period to the new Adelaide University. These matters would be discussed at the November Board meeting.

ITEM 11 – CLOSURE

- 19 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.50 pm.

- 20 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 17 November 2025.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER