ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Vicki Waye (Chairperson)
Ms Bridget Barletta
Prof Simon Beecham
Prof Pat Buckley
Prof Joanne Cys
Dr Helena de Anstiss
Prof Shane Dawson
Ms Arunika Dutta
Prof Carol Grech
Mr Brendan Hughes
Mr Richard Irons
Ms Terry Jones
Assoc Prof Ivan Kempson
Assoc Prof Sharron King
Assoc Prof S Kumar
Assoc Prof Jane Lawrence
Dr Sally Lewis
Dr Sarah List
Assoc Prof Shylie Mackintosh
Assoc Prof John Medlin
Prof Julie Mills
Dr Sev Nagalingam
Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis
Assoc Prof Barbara Parker
Prof Ruth Rentschler
Dr Saras Sastrowardoyo
Dr Ross Smith
Assoc Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
Prof Irene Watson
Mr Rhys Williams
Prof Marie Wilson
Mr Peter Cardwell (Executive Officer)

OBSERVERS:

Ms Tania Kanellos
Ms Susan Lamont
Ms Vanessa Mathews
Dr Ross McLennan
Ms Sue Mikilewicz

APOLOGIES:

Ms Nida Baig
Ms Grace Dixon
Prof Roger Eston
Prof Allan Evans
Prof David Lloyd
Assoc Prof Jun Ma
Prof Angela Scarino
Mr Paul Sherlock

1 The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates and observers
1.2 TABLED PAPERS
2 There were no tabled papers.

1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS
3 Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 3 and 8.1 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2019/4/74 Academic Board resolved:
that all unstarred items be received or approved without discussion.

Moved: Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis Seconded: Prof Marie Wilson
CARRIED

1.5 NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
4 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

2019/4/75 Academic Board resolved:
to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2019 as a correct record.

Moved: Prof Carol Grech Seconded: Prof Joanne Cys
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 Vicki Waye introduced her written report which was taken as read. Prof Waye went on to report on the major item of business at the June 2019 University Council meeting. The Council heard a presentation from the Provost Prof Allan Evans explaining proposed structural changes that would be introduced to academic units to support UniSA’s Enterprise 25 strategy. The major reasons for the structural changes that would be introduced were outlined by the Provost including: a better focus on degree quality, student retention and success; improved efficiencies in academic administration which would be reinvested in the employment of additional academic staff; and greater opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration. The new structure would involve two layers of management, and 7 academic units with consistent structures and resourcing that facilitated collaboration. The academic units would be built around a program focus. Heads of academic units would report directly to the Provost. Timelines for the proposed changes were
discussed: Stage 1 Preparation would take place between 1 July 2019 and 31 May 2020; Stage 2 Transition would occur between 1 June 2020 and 1 July 2020; and Stage 3 Consolidation would take place between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2021. Following a series of questions and discussions, Council approved the proposed framework for change including a plan for staff consultation.

2019/4/76 Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Chairperson’s Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 4 – VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

7 In the absence of Prof David Lloyd, who was unable to attend the meeting because he was overseas on University business, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Mr Paul Beard, introduced the Vice Chancellor’s written report, which was taken as read, by drawing members’ attention to two matters. Mr Beard reported that:

7.1 Higher education policy did not figure highly in the recent Federal Election campaigns of either of the major parties, which was disappointing. With the return of the Federal Liberal National Party Government and appointment of the Hon Dan Tehan as Minister for Education, the University anticipated a continuation of the policy directions emerging earlier in the year, including the introduction of performance-based funding; continuation of the cap on the sector with future growth tied to population growth; and a potential redistribution of enabling and sub-bachelor load; as well as a reduction in postgraduate Commonwealth supported places. In terms of administrative arrangements, responsibility for vocational education and training had been transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business. Responsibility for the ARC and university research policy remained within the Department of Education under Minister Tehan rather than being transferred to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Sciences.

7.2 UniSA had ranked 22 in the world for overall University Impact in the inaugural Times Higher Education University Impact Ranking, which measured how well universities performed against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The new ranking was a bid to capture the impact of universities in society, beyond a single definition of their role as educators, and measured institutions against a subset of the 17 SDGs. The rankings included a group of more than 450 universities from 76 countries around the world. UniSA was assessed in seven categories, looking at Reduced Inequality, Quality Education, Good Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Decent Work and Economic Growth and Partnership for the Goals. It was pleasing to see UniSA had performed well in these rankings, particularly in the rating for Reduced Inequalities (UniSA ranked #3 globally), acknowledging the great work of UniSA College, our regional campuses and education hubs and UniSA Online and our partnerships with groups such as AIME, which was designed to support and nurture young Aboriginal people and open up educational opportunities. It also underlines the importance and value of the cross-cultural training we provided for our staff and the commitments we have made institutionally to reconciliation actions. UniSA was ranked #8 globally and #1 in Australia for Quality Education, reflecting UniSA’s educational outreach through vibrant public programs such as The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre public lecture program, Samstag Museum of Art, and MOD.
Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Vice Chancellor’s Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – RESEARCH AND INNOVATION UPDATE

In 2018, the Australian Research Council (ARC) conducted its fourth Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment of research. ERA 2018 assessed UniSA across 39 detailed (4-digit) fields of research (two more than in ERA 2015) and rated all 39 at world standard or above. The University achieved a 97 per cent rating on this metric. UniSA achieved the maximum ’5’ rating for research excellence (well above world standard) in 20 research fields, two more than in ERA 2015. UniSA’s success was across a range of disciplines, for example, Psychology, Mathematics, Engineering, Environmental Science and Statistics all rated ’5’ (well above world standard) at both the 2-digit and 4-digit levels, while Statistics was assessed for the first time and achieved a rating of ‘5’, and Nursing, Pharmacology & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Human Movement & Sports Science, Nutrition & Dietetics, Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Medical Physiology and Physical Chemistry were also all rated ’5’.

UniSA received the outright highest ERA rating in South Australia for the 2-Digit fields of Environmental Science, Psychology & Cognitive Science, and Commerce, Management, Tourism & Services. The University received outright highest ERA rating in South Australia for the 4-Digit fields of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Education Systems, Specialist Studies in Education, Business & Management, Human Movement & Sports Science, Sociology, and Psychology. UniSA and the University of Adelaide were the only two institutions across Australia to obtain ERA 5’s for all their assessed Engineering (2-digit and 4-digit). Overall, this was very good for the University, building on the 2015 results, and placing us just below the University of Adelaide and the GO8 universities.

In 2018, the ARC undertook its first Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment to assess the translation of university research into economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits. Assessment was made at the 2-digit Field of Research (FOR) level, with two additional disciplines, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and interdisciplinary research also included. Overall UniSA was ranked #1 in Australia on a combined metric (Impact, Approach to Impact and Engagement) with a score of 65 per cent. A total of 79 per cent per cent of UniSA’s assessed research was awarded the highest Impact of Research level, placing UniSA equal #1 in Australia. In addition, 63 per cent of UniSA’s assessed research was awarded the highest level, placing the University #3 in Australia. These outstanding results were confirmation of our Australia’s University of Enterprise approach.

UniSA’s successful Cooperative Research Centre for Smart Satellite Technologies and Analytics (SmartSat CRC) bid was announced recently. SmartSat would be the biggest investment in space industry R&D in our history and would contribute to meeting the Australian Space Agency’s goal of lifting Australia’s space industry to $12 billion, generating an extra 20,000 jobs by 2030. The bid was the culmination of more than 18 months’ work and was developed by UniSA in partnership with Nova Systems under the...
leadership of UniSA’s Prof Andy Koronios. SmartSat would be headquartered in South Australia, but was a national program involving some of the leading universities in the country, as well as the CSIRO and DST Group. It would ensure nation-wide involvement in the development of smart satellite technologies to meet Australia’s need to secure its defence, telecommunications and monitoring technologies into the future. SmartSat CRC included a $190 million cash and in-kind investment from 84 local, national and international research and industry partners.

9.1 In concluding his presentation, Prof Beecham reported on research measures of success, which were developed in 2016 to assess UniSA’s performance against the objectives of Inspired Partnered Excellence. Performance against the following measures had exceeded the 2018 targets: Research Leadership Capacity had exceeded the target with the appointment of 240 new Teaching-and-Research Professors and Associate Professors; Recognition and Engagement had grown from 85 per cent in 2017 to 87 per cent in 2018 with the continued emphasis on external engagement, and was well above the original 2020 target of 80 per cent; HDR Completions were 76 per cent in 2018 and were exceeding both the 2018 target of 70 per cent, and the original 2020 target of 75 per cent; PhD candidates with end-user advisors was at 22 per cent in 2018 and marginally above the target of 20 per cent; Research Income at $80 million and research engagement at 71 per cent were above their 2018 targets; repeat business as an indicator of UniSA’s ability to nurture effective partnerships was tracking at $29.5 million, which was well above the 2018 target of $25 million; publication quality was 62 per cent in 2018, and had well exceeded the target for the year of 50 per cent; Research Translation, or the percentage of researchers engaging the services of UniSA Ventures, was 10 per cent and above the baseline 2018 target of 8 per cent; Teaching-Research Nexus – Staff showed the percentage of research only staff with significant contributions to teaching at 18 per cent for 2018 exceeding the 15 per cent target; and Teaching-Research Nexus– Programs showed 74 per cent of UniSA’s top undergraduate programs aligned with our areas of ERA strength.

2019/4/78 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the research and innovation update.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASQC) 4/2019

6.1 DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES

6.1.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENTS – MASTER OF MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/79 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the program amendments to the Master of Medical Sonography effective from Study Period 1, 2020.

6.2 DIVISION OF IT, ENGINEERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

7.4.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN ENGINEERING VIA OUA (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/80 Academic Board resolved:
to approve the withdrawal of the Associate Degree in Engineering via OUA with effect from Study Period 1, 2020.

7.4.2 NEW OFFSHORE PROGRAM – DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/81 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Diploma in Information Technology in collaboration with Sichuan University College of International Studies in Chengdu China from Study Period 1, 2020.

6.3 OTHER MATTERS

6.3.1 ACADEMIC POLICY AMENDMENTS

10 The Deputy Director: Student and Academic Services, Ms Tania Kanellos, introduced proposed amendments to the following academic policies: Recognition of Prior Learning (A-13), Selection and Entry (A-18), Student Mobility (A-36), Fees and Loans (A-47), and Enrolment (A-48), which had been endorsed by Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC), subject to minor changes to the credit clauses related to the entry requirements to Master’s degrees, at its meeting held on 14 June 2019.

11 Members noted that UniSA Online (UO) commenced teaching in January 2018, delivering 12 programs to domestic undergraduate students from across Australia. UO had seen higher than expected growth in student numbers, exceeding initial targets and had attracted many enquiries from non-target groups, such as international students residing overseas and domestic students enrolled in programs at Australian universities. In response to the popularity of the UniSA Online programs and courses, two new initiatives had been introduced for 2019: The Global Access Project (GAP) and the Individual Course Enrolments (ICE).

12 It was further noted that the implementation of the Global Access Project would enable international students residing overseas to study UO programs. Whilst the ICE project would enable all UniSA students to enrol in select UO courses and would also introduce cross-institutional and non-award enrolment.

14 Ms Kanellos reported that as part of these projects, a review of all academic policies was undertaken and a number of changes had been identified to enable a streamlined and high quality experience for our students. During the review process, issues raised since the last updates of these policies were also considered and deliberated through discussion at Academic Policy Advisory Group (SAPAG). All changes had been made in consultation with the Divisions and relevant units across the University through workshops and the Student and SAPAG). The changes included:

14.1 Recognition of Prior Learning (A-13)
  o Inclusion of maximum credit limits for current one-year Diploma programs
  o Confirmation of minimum study duration requirements for Master’s programs
  o Definition and appendix to clarify the application of Advanced Standing
  o Additional appendix showing maximum credit limits by program type, as a table

14.2 Selection and Entry (A-18)
  o Addition of Advanced Standing definition, amendments to clause 7
  o Amendment to 6.2 to ensure consistency relating to RPL assessment (from policy A13)
  o General editing
  o Amendment to clause 13.4
14.3 Student Mobility (A-36)
   o Amendment to clause 13.4 to ensure consistency with definitions and to travel grant
     application guidelines

2019/4/82 Academic Board resolved:
   to approve the Academic Policy Amendments.

   Moved: Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis           Seconded: Prof Marie Wilson
   CARRIED

ITEM 7 – MATTERS FROM RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE (RDC) 4/2019

7.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/83 Academic Board resolved:
   to receive the report from Research Degrees Committee.

ITEM 8 – BUSINESS

8.1 ABORIGINAL RESEARCH STRATEGY 2019-2025

15 The Pro Vice Chancellor (Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy), Prof Irene Watson, provided
   Academic Board with an update on the development of the University’s Aboriginal Research
   Strategy (ARS) 2019-2025. The release of the Universities Australia (UA) Indigenous Strategy 2017-
   2020 had been the catalyst for most Australian universities to develop their own Aboriginal Research
   Strategy. National funding agencies now required researchers to have appropriate cultural
   competency skills prior to undertaking research that involved Aboriginal Peoples. The Behrendt
   Review had also highlighted the role Australian universities had in enabling Aboriginal Peoples to
   succeed within the tertiary sector, including both research and research training. This was the
   national landscape in which UniSA had undertaken the development of its own ARS.

16 Prof Watson reported that in March 2018, Senior Management Group (SMG) approved the scope and
   process to develop UniSA’s ARS, which established a collaborative partnership between the Pro Vice
   Chancellor (Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy) and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and
   Innovation). The Research Leadership Committee (RLC) provided advice and guidance, and the
   Aboriginal Research Strategy Working Group (WG), chaired by Prof Watson, was established in
   April 2018. The WG reviewed a scan of national and international Aboriginal research strategies,
   confirming that Canadian and New Zealand universities were generally more advanced in their
   engagement with Aboriginal Peoples than Australian universities. The WG also reviewed internal
   data on Aboriginal research and confirmed that the breadth, depth and scale of Aboriginal research
   being undertaken was not captured in existing systems.

17 UniSA’s commitment was to be the University of Choice for Aboriginal Peoples. The University
   aspired to build truly two-way relationships across all areas of the institution’s business. The ARS
   had been developed to enable UniSA to work towards this goal. The process to develop the strategy
   had engaged research leaders, resulting in new insight about partnering with Aboriginal Peoples,
   and identified potential to extend research capability and position the University nationally. This
   involved a series of workshops, yarning circles with Aboriginal Elders and community
   representatives, as well as discussion with RLC, Yaitya Warra-itya and SMG. The resulting ARS
interacted with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the UniSA Research Strategy and Enterprise 25, and connected the key ambitions and goals of each strategy. The RAP was the University’s roadmap for engagement with Aboriginal Peoples, which was focussed on a two-way approach that acknowledged First Nation Peoples and their contributions to the University community which were actively sought out and appropriately valued. The shift to a two-way of working with Aboriginal Peoples had significant implications for research practice. A comparison with the traditional method by which research ideas were developed to the two-way model saw a shift from researcher-based gaps in western academe towards topics being an area of shared interest with the researcher and the community – with the community defining the benefits of the research. The shift from researcher determined to a two-way model was also seen in research design, with research framed to deliver benefits rather than address perceived deficits, as well as research approvals also requiring elders’ endorsement and the outputs constituting a broader suite.

Prof Watson advised that the commitment across the higher education sector was for a 3 per cent Aboriginal employment target, as set down in the UA Strategy. UniSA had signed up to this target, which was reflected in both the Aboriginal Employment Action Plan and the RAP. UniSA’s current academic cohort was 14.1 FTE, of which only four were continuing positions. Of this 14.4 FTE, 3.9 FTE would depart UniSA when Prof Alex Brown relocated to the University of Adelaide. This in turn would leave only 3 Aboriginal academic staff in ongoing positions. From the staff data reported to the department of Education and Training in 2018, UniSA’s current Aboriginal academic employment was 1.9 per cent. This captured both ongoing and fixed term appointments and excluded casuals. This would drop to 8.9 per cent in 2019, with the departure of Prof Alex Brown’ team, in the absence of any new appointments.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Simon Beecham observed that the UniSA approach to research was different, it was partnered, demonstrated impact and was informed by the University’s social justice values. The ARS reflected the collective contributions of many staff, research leaders and Aboriginal Peoples, and both the process and the Strategy were designed to model the two-way approach. The ARS provided a clear strategic narrative for Aboriginal research that aligned with the UniSA research agenda of end user engagement. It provided deliberate action sets that reflected staff experience and evidence about what worked to genuinely evolve our Aboriginal research practice. There was a clear insight from researchers through the development process that moving to a two-way practice would challenge discipline thinking. It would shift how research was framed from deficit to strength-based, and it would develop researcher capacity for active listening. The shared view was that these shifts would benefit and strengthen research at UniSA. It would take time but implementing the actions proposed would enable UniSA to build long-term relationships of trust and mutual benefit with Aboriginal People, and a strengthening of our foundations as the University of Choice for Aboriginal People.

2019/4/84 Academic Board resolved:

to endorse the Aboriginal Research Strategy 2019-2025 and recommend it to Council for approval.

Moved: Prof Irene Watson Seconded: Prof Simon Beechman

CARRIED

8.2 NEW GRANT – OWEN AND ANN BROUGHTON ART GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/85 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Owen and Ann Broughton Art Grant.
8.2 NEW SCHOLARSHIP – AN DE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2019/4/86 Academic Board resolved:

   to approve the establishment of the new An De College International Merit Scholarship Scheme.

ITEM 9 – CLOSURE

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

ITEM 12 – NEXT MEETING

21 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday 26 July 2019, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 15 July 2019.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER