

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 26 JULY 2024
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

4/2024

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
(Chairperson)
Prof Amie Albrecht
Prof Craig Batty
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Mr Alan Brideson
Prof Jon Buckley
Dr Ryan Causby
Prof Shane Dawson
Ms Lucy Fawcett
Prof Sanjay Garg
Prof Paula Geldens
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Brendan Hughes
Mr Richard Irons
Mr Phil Johnson
Dr Masud Karim
Prof Marta Krasowska
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof David Lloyd
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Dr Fanke Peng
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Mr Tom Steer
Mr Yashaiah Varona
Prof Rachael Vernon
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward
Dr Paula Zito
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Prof Andrew Beer
Ms Tracey Coleman
Prof Joanne Cys
Dr Xin Deng
Ms Jessica Ford
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Prof Tracey Humphrey
Ms Argani Kashyap
Prof Marta Krasowska
Mr Bill Le Blanc
Dr Evangeline Mantzioris
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Mr Henry Zampoli

ALTERNATES:

Prof Lin Crase
(for Prof Andrew Beer)
Prof Jill Dorrian
(for Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington)
Ms Katrina Gillespie
(for Mr Bill Le Blanc)
Ms Vanessa Matthews
Prof Esther May
(for Prof Joanne Cys)

OBSERVERS:

Ms Emily Adcock
Ms Michelle Brereton
Ms Heidi Mander

- 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, 7.4, 7.5 and 9.1 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2024/4/66 Academic Board resolved:

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

Moved: Dr Shashi Nallaya Seconded: Prof Jacqui Ramagge

CARRIED

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2024/4/67 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2024 as a correct record subject to minor amendment.

Moved: Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly Seconded: Prof Jacqui Ramagge

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2.1 2024 WELLBEING GATEWAY BRIEFING

4 Members noted a response from the Director: People, talent and Culture, Ms Miranda McDonald, to a question on notice arising from the Vice Chancellor's Report at the June 2024 Academic Board meeting raised by Prof Elspeth McInnes AM in relation to security and storage of personal information within the *Wellbeing Gateway* (WG) app. WG was a digital platform that could be accessed via the web or a mobile app. The platform contained mental health and wellbeing information across the broad topics of physical, emotional, social, financial, and career wellbeing. The platform included articles, videos, assessment tools, podcasts, e-learns, a financial planning tool and the ability to live chat with health professionals. All information on WG was stored encrypted within Australia, no data or information was stored or transmitted overseas. WG had an information security management system (ISMS) in accordance with *ISO 27001:2013* and had obtained certification. UniSA's Cyber Security team completed a full audit and risk management of the WG ISMS and approved the platform. No personal details were accessible via the dashboard and staff could not be individually identified by any data available on the dashboard.

2024/4/68

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the 2024 *Wellbeing Gateway* briefing and follow-up.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- 5 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported that on 15 July 2024, the new university’s first in-person all staff events took place at the Adelaide Convention Centre to launch Adelaide University to the world. The event provided a great opportunity for 3,000 UniSA and University of Adelaide staff to come together and acknowledge the two institutions’ proud respective legacies and the next chapter for the future was unveiled, including the new Adelaide University brand and logo. The event was hosted by Prof David Lloyd and Prof Peter Høj and included a speech by the Chancellor of the Adelaide University Transition Council, Ms Pauline Carr. The formalities were followed by several activities including photo booths, staff lanyard collection and a *Force for Firsts* activity, which asked staff to say what firsts they believed the new Adelaide University should aspire to achieve. Prof Tedmanson went on to report on Adelaide University’s Transition Council and the Transition Academic Board. The Co-Chairs of the Transition Academic Board, Prof Tedmanson and Prof Scott Smith, were involved in the development of 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).

2024/4/69

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:
- 6.1 The launch of the new Adelaide University and the important role of staff in making it a very successful event.
 - 6.2 The new Adelaide University website which went live on 15 July 2024 on the same day as the launch of the new university.
 - 6.3 The launch of the initial suite of Adelaide University policies and procedures required to meet regulatory and legislative compliance obligations.
 - 6.4 The appointment of the new Dean of Aboriginal Research, Education and Engagement Prof Tina Brodie.
 - 6.5 The adverse material impact on UniSA finances of the decrease in international student numbers.

- 6.6 The surplus of international student accommodation in Adelaide and the current 9 per cent vacancy rate.

2024/4/70 **Academic Board resolved:**

1. **To receive and note the Vice Chancellor's Report.**
2. **To acknowledge the work of academic and professional staff, in the co-creation and curriculum development for the new Adelaide University, and colleagues who have supported them in the process.**

Moved: Prof David Lloyd Seconded: Ms Gabrielle Rolan

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – USASA EMPOWERING YOU: ANNUAL REPORT 2023

- 7 The President of the University of South Australia Student Association (USASA), Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly, and the General Manager, Ms Heidi Mander, gave a special presentation on the activities of USASA in 2023. The main points from the presentation included:

- 7.1 2023 had been a great year for USASA (the Association). Indeed, the journey through the past year had been marked by significant challenges and achievements that had shaped the landscape of the Association and UniSA in unprecedented ways. The Student Voice project stood as a testament to its ongoing commitment to student concerns and aspirations, a milestone that was achieved alongside streamlining the Association's volunteer program and improving its retail spaces to better align with the evolving needs of students. The inauguration of the Clubhouse, the launch of a reconciliation strategy, the implementation of the preferred name project, and the expansion of mental and financial well-being programs underscored an ongoing dedication to creating an inclusive, supportive, and empowering environment for all students. The year saw notable leadership changes with President Mr Isaac Solomon completing his very successful two terms in office, and Ms Heidi Mander commencing as new General Manager.
- 7.2 The Association was a non-profit, student-owned organisation that strived to provide a diverse experience for students, defending their interests and welfare through representation and participation in university decision-making processes, promoting equity and access, as well as providing adequate educational, cultural activities, and recreational support services. The Association had four values: *empowerment*, providing students with the tools, platform, and advocacy they needed; *student led*, acknowledging the value of lived experience and championing the idea of students as partners while fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment; *equity* involving dedication to the principles of fairness, inclusion, and equal access; and *community* prioritising the creation of a vibrant, inclusive community that celebrated diversity.
- 7.3 The USASA Board was the peak decision-making committee of the Association consisting of 15 student representatives elected annually. In 2023, 39 students nominated for the Board, and 1,280 students voted in the elections for the Board. Commencing in 2022, Student Voice aimed to support student representation in every level of the University's decision-making. In 2023, five Student Voice delegates were recruited for Formal Inquiry panels. The Advocacy Officers of the Association were responsible for providing UniSA students with a wide range of information, advice, and service to manage processes relating to their academic performance and progress. During the year 1,074 students were helped through academic advocacy. A 14-week Academic Advocacy Internship Program was also organised that taught students about

the University's Assessment Policy and Procedures while helping them develop personal and professional skills. In 2023, the advocacy team conducted two rounds of internships with six interns in total.

- 7.4 The Association's Financial Wellbeing service had been supporting students in need since 2019. The Financial Wellbeing Support Officer provided support and assistance to students in areas including developing their own budget to help them come to terms with their financial situation; addressing cases of bad financial standing with the University; accessing emergency food support; and providing direct access to financial support and assistance. The Association continued to support the University Emergency Hardship Fund. During 2023, 151 students attended the Financial Wellbeing Service, 54 grant payments were provided, \$52,750 in grant money was distributed, and \$2,060 Food Vouchers were given out. The increased cost of living and decreased disposable income were two of the primary reasons why domestic students sought financial wellbeing services. International students, on the other hand, were mainly in need of services due to increased tuition fees and the worsening economic conditions for their families in their home countries.
- 7.5 The other areas of focus for the Association were student community, marketing, and social engagement, as well as shops and retail. The Clubs & Societies program allowed academic, cultural, social justice and special interest student-led groups establish and meet the needs and wants of students, as directed by themselves. A total of 102 clubs were active and supported in 2023 involving 6,154 members, receiving \$72,169 in grants. These clubs hosted a combined total of 504 events and activities during the year. The clubs provided a platform for active participation in leadership and fostered a culture of community involvement. In 2023, the Association received 112 grant applications from 51 clubs requesting \$104,359. Grants were distributed across 91 successful applications assisting 26 clubs to participate in Campus Fair and Orientation events, 7 career development programs, 35 social initiatives, 10 marketing and promotional activities, 8 cultural events and 5 graduate exhibitions. During the year 15,974 students attended USASA events, 76 student volunteers participated in events, 8,000 diary bags were distributed, and 1,229 promo t-shirts were given out. The Association's *Verse* magazine received 260 student contributions and 12,000 printed copies were distributed over six editions, as well as 92,748 online click reads. In 2023, student spaces were converted into USASA shops with net sales of \$232,638 almost double the sales in 2022, and \$10,460 commissions were paid to the University.
- 8 Members commended USASA on its important contribution to university-life, and a short discussion followed that focussed on progress with the development of a student organisation for the new Adelaide University.

2024/4/71

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the USASA Annual Report 2023.

Moved: Prof Deidre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 4/2024

6.1 UNISA STEM

6.1.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – BACHELOR OF AVIATION (FLIGHT) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/72 Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning of the withdrawal of Bachelor of Aviation (Flight) (LBAF) from Study Period 1, 2025.

ITEM 7 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 1/2024

7.1 GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & RESEARCH REVIEW (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/73 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Generative Artificial Intelligence & Research Review.

7.2 RESEARCH STUDENT SERVICES REVIEW 2023 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/74 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the SAS Research Student Services Review 2023.

7.3 READ & PUBLISH AGREEMENT UPTAKE REPORT 2023 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/75 Academic Board resolved:

to note the Report's recommendation that Read & Publish Agreements were the preferred option to make research outputs immediately available as open access.

7.4 COMPARATIVE COHORT AND YEAR-ON-YEAR ANALYSIS OF COMMENCEMENT, COMPLETION AND WITHDRAWAL RATES OF RESEARCH DEGREE STUDENTS 2023

9 The Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof Sandra Orgeig, introduced a report on the comparative year-on-year analysis of commencement, completion and withdrawal rates and reasons for withdrawal of Research Degree Students update for 2023. Prof Orgeig thanked Dr Noemi Llamas Gomez, Process Analyst: Research Student Services, who had prepared the analysis of the University's research degree candidature lifecycle between 2017 and 2023. Whilst the commencement to withdrawal ratios had improved for most Academic Units in 2023, the historical statistics remained a concern. Regarding candidature, full-time students demonstrated a tendency to withdraw earlier than part-time students. A high percentage of withdrawals still occurred within the first six months of candidature. 'Health' continued to be the most cited primary reason for withdrawal, with 'work pressure' a close second. The

percentage of students choosing 'supervisory issues' as their primary reason for withdrawal was on a par with 2022 data and rarely cited, which was good. In 2023, admission rates had trended downwards except for UniSA Education Futures, completion rates remained on a par for most Academic Units, with UniSA Business and UniSA STEM's steeply increasing their completion results which improved overall performance.

2024/4/76 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the 2023 update on completion and withdrawal rates and reasons for withdrawal of research degree students.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

7.5 ABORIGINAL RESEARCH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

10 The Partner Engagement Manager: Aboriginal Research Yangadlitya Kumangka, Ms Sophie Murray, introduced herself as a Dieri and Arabana woman working on Kurna Yarta with community. She provided a report on implementation of the targets set out in the *Aboriginal Research Strategy 2019-2025* (the Strategy) which had been endorsed by the Yaitya Warra-itya Committee (YWI). Launched in November 2019, the Strategy was one of the cornerstone commitments in the University's *Reconciliation Action Plan*. The Strategy was designed to grow Aboriginal research and guide staff engagement with Aboriginal elders across South Australia and UniSA staff. Seven principles had been established that collectively recognised the authority of Aboriginal owners in determining research practices and informing the importance of a two-way approach to Aboriginal research. At the same time, the Strategy was scaffolded around four pillars – institutional cultural competency; research the 'proppa way' from an Aboriginal perspective; securing the future; and Aboriginal governance and engagement.

11 Since its launch, significant progress had been made in delivering the actions outlined in the Strategy. Fifteen Actions had been completed in full, with six more Actions in progress. However, with a year and a half remaining for delivery of the Strategy, it was important to highlight that another 17 actions were at risk or on hold because of the Adelaide University transition. Seed funding for the program had been extended into 2024 with the inclusion of projects led by Aboriginal higher degree by research students with an additional \$75,000 committed. The next steps involved prioritising several actions including: an Aboriginal Staff Forum to support and inform the development of the Strategy for the new Adelaide University; progressing the Research Development Program with a focus on raising the cultural competency of staff undertaking Aboriginal research at UniSA; and developing a bespoke intellectual property policy which reflected ownership of Aboriginal knowledges by Aboriginal Peoples (with the inclusion of Data Sovereignty).

2024/4/77 Academic Board resolved:

to note the Aboriginal Research Strategy Implementation Update.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

7.6 IAN WARK RESEARCH MEDAL WINNER (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/78 Academic Board resolved:

to note the winner of the Ian Wark Medal.

7.7 NORTON JACKSON RESEARCH MEDAL WINNER (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/78 Academic Board resolved:

to note the winner of the Norton Jackson Medal.

ITEM 8 – BUSINESS

8.1 NEW SCHOLARSHIP: RAMIRA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NURSING SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/79 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the RAMIRA International Student Nursing Scholarship.

ITEM 8 – FOR INFORMATION

8.1 ICAC UNIVERSITY INTEGRITY SURVEY UNISA 2023

12 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) University of South Australia Integrity Survey 2023. He reported that in November 2023, the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, and the University of South Australia (UniSA) had once again participated in a public integrity survey of South Australia's public universities, from the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC). The voluntary and anonymous survey was undertaken every three years. The survey was constructed by ICAC and asked staff about their opinions and experiences regarding potential corruption and other impropriety. The results of the 2023 survey, which focused on the risks associated with the conduct of research, records management, and outside professional activities, was released in June 2024. Notably, UniSA staff reported a lower perception (17.7%) of vulnerability to corruption or other improper conduct than the total sector sample (21.5%) and were less likely to have suspected or personally encountered corrupt or improper conduct. In 2023, the Enterprise Leadership Team (ELT) had the development and coordination of a formal consultation process for a Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure. Following this extensive consultation, a revised draft Whistleblower Policy had been approved and the preferred approach had also been re-affirmed using an independent whistleblower service to receive disclosures. In relation to recruitment and staff selection processes all appointments were made on the basis of a merit selection process and no one at UniSA was appointed outside policy.

2024/4/80

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the ICAC University Integrity Survey UniSA 2023.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

8.2 HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/4/81

Academic Board resolved:

to note the Higher Education Policy Update.

ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 BACKPACKS 4 SA KIDS

- 13 The Executive Dean of UniSA Justice & Society (JUS), Prof Paula Geldens, reported that JUS had worked with *Backpacks 4 SA Kids* for two years as part of their staff and HDR student volunteering program. Collection boxes were stationed at JUS reception desks at City West and Magill all year round, and in addition a 'Pyjama Drive' was being held on 26 July aimed at generating additional donations for the organisation, either monetary, or by way of the donation of children's PJs. Prof Geldens extended an invitation to Academic Board members to join in the 'Pyjama Drive' effort. *Backpacks 4 SA Kids* made an extraordinary difference for children at a pivotal moment in their lives. The backpacks provided by the organisation provided help to relieve some of the stress and anxiety children faced when they were removed from their family, often in traumatic situations due to child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, and without the opportunity to take any personal belongings with them. The backpacks provided contained age-appropriate emergency clothing, toiletries, other necessary supplies (such as nappies, bottles, and cuddle toys), and personal items for children displaced from their home with just the clothes on their backs. Over 6,300 children were assisted each year with a backpack to help reduce stress and anxiety and provide reassurance and comfort in their changing worlds of 'out of home' care.

ITEM 10 – CLOSURE

- 14 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.05 pm.
- 15 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 27 September 2024, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 16 September 2024.

**PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**