

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2025**  
**AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,**  
**CITY WEST CAMPUS**

4/2025

**ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING**

**1.1 PRESENT:**

Prof Deirdre Tedmanson  
(Chairperson)  
Prof Craig Batty  
Prof Andrew Beer  
Mr Alan Brideson  
Prof Tina Brodie  
Dr Ryan Causby  
Ms Tracey Coleman  
Prof Shane Dawson  
Ms Jessica Ford  
Prof Paula Geldens  
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili  
Mr Brendan Hughes  
Ms Karla Gotting Marnie Hughes-  
Warrington  
Mr Phil Johnson  
Dr Masud Karim  
Ms Argani Kashyap  
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz  
Prof David Lloyd  
Assoc Prof Gary Owens  
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelentsov  
Assoc Prof Sally Plush  
Prof Jacqui Ramagge  
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly  
Prof Rachael Vernon  
Assoc Prof Stephen Ward  
Ms Sibel Yildirimci  
Dr Paula Zito  
Mr Peter Cardwell  
(Executive Officer)

**OBSERVERS:**

Ms Emily Adcock  
Mr Chris Crabbe  
Mr Andrew Christie  
Prof Sharron King  
Prof Esther May  
Mr Matthew Pickard  
Prof Rick Sarre  
Mr Ryan Turner  
Prof Vicki Waye

**APOLOGIES:**

Prof Amie Albrecht  
Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe  
Prof Jon Buckley  
Mr Tony Dalwood  
Dr Xin Deng  
Prof Sanjay Garg  
Assoc Prof Jodie George  
Ms Katrina Gillespie  
Ms Karla Gotting  
Mr Richard Irons  
Ms Dasuni Imansa  
Mr Edwin John  
Prof Marta Krasowska  
Ms Camila Liddy  
Prof Elspeth McInnes  
Prof Peter Murphy  
Dr Sashi Nallaya  
Prof Sandra Orgeig  
Dr Fanke Peng  
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly  
Mr Yeshaiah Varona  
Assoc Prof Michael Ward  
Mr Henry Zampoli

**ALTERNATES:**

Assoc Prof Claire Atchison  
(for Assoc Prof Jodie George)  
Ms Husan Ara  
(for Mr Yeshaiah Varona)  
Ms Tania Kanellos  
(for Mr Richard Irons)  
Assoc Prof Sally Plush  
(for Prof Sandra Orgeig)  
Ms Shaana Sihota  
(for Ms Dasuni Imansa)  
Ms Haider Surka  
(for Mr Oliver Shepard-Bayly)

1 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, opened the meeting and 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. Prof Tedmanson then welcomed members, alternates, observers, and in particular she welcomed Emeritus Prof Rick Sarre and Prof Vicki Waye former Chairs of Academic Board and members of Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) who had been invited to attend the last meeting of UniSA Academic Board.

## **1.2 TABLED PAPERS**

2 There were no tabled papers.

## **1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS**

3 Agenda Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 9.1 and 9.4 were starred for discussion.

## **1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS**

2025/4/56 **Academic Board resolved:**

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

**Moved: Prof Craig Batty                      Seconded: Ms Jessica Ford**

**CARRIED**

## **1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

2025/4/57 **Academic Board resolved:**

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

**Moved: Assoc Prof Gary Owens                      Seconded: Prof Rachael Vernon**

**CARRIED**

## **ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

4 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, thanked all members of Academic Board, and its sub-committees Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) and Research Leadership Committee (RLC) for their significant contributions to the good governance of the University during their terms in office. She reported that Council had approved the disestablishment of Academic Board and its subcommittees, as well as 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. Following the disestablishment of UniSA Academic Board completion of requirements for Research Degrees, during the transition to Adelaide University, would be reported for approval by the Registrar and Director of Student and Academic Services (SAS) directly to the March

2026 meeting of UniSA Council. 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 Transitional Academic Board and following a ballot of Board members Prof Jacqui Ramagge would take up the interim position with Prof Amie Albrecht as her alternate. Prof Tedmanson and Prof Scott Smith, the Chair of the University of Adelaide Academic Board, and Co-Chair of the Transitional Academic Board (Adelaide University) had recently attended the Annual Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CABS) Conference in Melbourne. Emeritus Professor Mary O’Kane AC, who was currently interim Chair of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission, had been keynote speaker at the conference and had discussed the Australian universities Accord highlighting the importance of higher education and its potential for innovation and economic growth. Prof Tedmanson and Prof Smith had addressed the conference on activities of the Transitional Academic Board. There was a very positive and strong interest at CABS in the co-creation and recognition of the ‘phenomenal’ Co Vice Chancellor leadership in the process.

2025/4/58

**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 UniSA’s Annual 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Grand Final was held on 4 September 2025 in the Allan Scott Auditorium at City West Campus, emceed by journalist and media presenter Ms Candice Prosser. 3MT was an international competition held in over 900 universities world-wide in which PhD candidates effectively explained their research and its significance to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. Seven finalists, as determined by local heats held in their respective Academic Units, participated in the final, co-hosted by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the Dean of Graduate Studies Office. 330 guests attended with a further 521 viewing via livestream. The reach was further amplified across social media platforms, extending to more than 21,000 people. This year’s prize winner was Namrata Nair, with a thesis entitled *Making Neighbourhoods Safer Through Inclusive Sanitation*, from UniSA Business. Following the UniSA 3MT Grand Final, Namrata represented UniSA at the Asia-Pacific 3MT Semi-Final and progressed as a finalist to the Asia Pacific 3MT Final held on 15 October 2025. In exciting news, Namrata was announced the winner of the Asia Pacific 3MT Final, the first time a UniSA student had won this prestigious competition.
- 5.2 The new Adelaide University had been ranked for the first time in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026, receiving a rank of #133 in the world and #10 in Australia. In the initial ranking, Adelaide University was ranked #176 in the world, however, this ranking contained a coding error and was reflective of the complexities and unprecedented nature of creating a new major university through the amalgamation of two world-leading universities. The THE had corrected this anomaly, which would be updated on their website in the not-too-distant future. The University of Adelaide was currently ranked #128 in the world and UniSA ranked #340 in the world in the 2025 release.

- 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.
- 5.4 In concluding his report the Vice Chancellor thanked the Academic Board Executive Officer, Mr Peter Cardwell, who was attending his 290<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board for his outstanding stewardship of the University's senior academic committee for almost 34 years. He also thanked Distinguished Professor Marni Hughes-Warrington AO for her work as Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Enterprise, and Standing Acting Vice Chancellor, in leading research excellence, translation, and impact, and research training at UniSA. As Standing Acting Vice Chancellor she was also the lead for the Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy, Advancement, and Communications, Marketing and Domestic Student portfolios at the University. The Vice Chancellor's thanks were acknowledged by the acclamation of members.

2025/4/59

**Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the Vice Chancellor's Report.**

**Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)**

**CARRIED**

#### **ITEM 5 – ORIENTATION: LOOKING BACK AT UNISA 2025 AND FORWARD TO ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY 2026**

- 6 The Coordinator: Orientation and Transition, Mr Ryan Turner, gave a special presentation on Orientation. Mr Turner reported that there had been a strong attendance at the UniSA Study Period 2 (SP2) 2025 Orientation with a total of 4,594 students attending including: 1784 at City East, 1174 at City West, 902 at Mawson Lakes, 686 at Magill, 40 at Mount Gambier, and 8 at Whyalla. An average of 70% of students had also attended Academic Unit Orientation activities. The SP2 Orientation Student Survey indicated that there was a 94.9% overall student satisfaction with their Orientation experience, 98.3% of students found staff to be friendly and helpful, and 92% felt confident to start their studies at UniSA. The Orientation activities had involved 70 staff volunteers and over 100 student volunteers. UniSA Study Period 5 (SP5) Orientation had seen a total turnout of 602 students across the university's campuses. The SP5 Orientation Student Survey indicated that there was a 97% overall satisfaction with the Orientation experience, 97.7% found staff to be friendly and helpful and 93.1% felt confident to start their studies. Orientation 2025 included *Connect Week* involving tours and student-led network sessions, *International Welcome Receptions* at Pridham Hall, *Campus Fair* activated across every metropolitan campus, *UniSA Services, Clubs, Sponsors and UniSA Sport* activated at each event, and *Data Collection* to capture key insights into Orientation attendance.
- 7 Members noted that the 2026 Adelaide University Orientation Framework provided a university wide strategy that aligned all commencing students under a cohesive experience,

connecting the personal, academic and social dimensions of university life. The Framework was designed to reduce friction, foster connection and deliver timely, and relevant information supported by an integrated communications plan. The approach was evidence based, informed by benchmarking, market research, and *Student Voice* – including the Adelaide University Student Advisory Panel. The Experience Themes would be *Connection* fostering relationships with peers, staff, and the university community to build a sense of belonging and identity; *Confidence* equipping students with the tools and knowledge to navigate university life and feel ready to succeed; and *Clarity* ensuring that students understood what’s expected, where to find support, and how to personalise their experience. The scale and complexity of the Adelaide University 2026 Orientation was huge with activities spanning eight campuses and online, including over 400 campus tours, and high energy campus fairs led by AUSA and AU Sport. There would also be over 190 degree welcomes and 6 international student welcomes. A total of 24,000 new students would be attending Adelaide University next year, including over 6,600 new international students, plus 50,000 continuing students. Over 12,000 students were anticipated to attend next year’s Orientation. The 2026 activities would be extended in the *Welcome to AU* phase for all continuing students. Delivering a world-class Orientation experience required the contribution of all staff; through core university work, event delivery, volunteering, and everyday interactions that made students feel seen, supported and part of Adelaide University.

- 8 The Manager: Student Life, Mr Chris Crabbe, thanked Mr Turner for the dedication and commitment he brought to his role and the great job he was doing in successfully overseeing such a huge project.

2025/4/60

**Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the report on UniSA and Adelaide University Orientation.**

**Moved: Prof Deidre Tedmanson (from the Chair)**

**CARRIED**

**ITEM 6 - MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 2/2025**

- 6.1 **ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025 (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/61

**Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the ASSQC Annual Report.**

**ITEM 7 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 4/2025**

- 7.1 **RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/62

**Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.**

**7.2 RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025 (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/63 Academic Board resolved:  
to receive and note the RLC Annual Report.

**7.3 RESEARCH ETHICS, SAFETY AND INTEGRITY ANNUAL REPORTS 2025 (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/64 Academic Board resolved:  
to receive and note the Research Ethics, Safety and Integrity Annual Reports 2025 and the overarching analysis.

**7.4 ETHOS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE 2025 REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/65 Academic Board resolved:  
to receive and note the Ethos Community of Practice Report 2025.

**7.5 UNISA 3MT GRAND FINAL 2025 (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/66 Academic Board resolved:  
to note the 2025 UniSA 3MT Grand Final.

**ITEM 8 – BUSINESS**

**8.1 BOB COWAN OAM FORESTRY RESEARCH GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/67 Academic Board resolved:  
to approve the new Bob Cowan OAM Forestry Research Grant.

**8.2 GAYLE COWAN OAM REGIONAL FINE ART SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/68 Academic Board resolved:  
to approve the new Gayle Cowan OAM Regional Fine Art Scholarship.

**8.3 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY NETBALL SA FIRST NATIONS SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2025/4/69 Academic Board resolved:  
to approve the new Adelaide University Netball SA First Nations Scholarship.

**8.4 DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT STUDY GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

**2025/4/70 Academic Board resolved:**

**to approve the new District Council of Grant Study Grant.**

**8.5 JUNCTION THRIVE ABORIGINAL GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

**2025/4/71 Academic Board resolved:**

**to approve the new Junction Thrive Aboriginal Grant.**

**ITEM 9 – FOR INFORMATION**

**9.1 2025 CURRICULUM INNOVATION PROCESS**

14 The Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Distinguished Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington, reported that the Curriculum Innovation Process (CIP) had reviewed all UniSA programs and courses in a series of data-informed conversations with the seven Academic Units, student engagement and satisfaction, graduate outcomes, teaching and research alignment, workforce, and financial performance. As the University worked towards Adelaide University, the opportunity was taken to adapt the CIP process to recognise the transition of staff to the new university by proclamation, and to reemphasise TEQSA's risk based and proportionate approach to quality assurance. To that end, the Enterprise Leadership Team (ELT) approved a reduction in the number of reports provided in the data pack – from 23 to six - and their provision online. All Academic Units expressed a positive preference for a more focussed dataset for the provision of that data online. Positive feedback was also given on the invitation to and feedback from the Pro Vice Chancellor Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy, Business Intelligence and Planning (BIP) and UniSA Online during the discussions. The RAP dashboard was very important, the positive impact of decasualisation was noted, the continuing focus on making postgraduate program suites more compact was important, and almost all actions from 2024 were closed out, and this brought the benefit of an enhanced student experience in particular courses. UniSA was 'going out strong' and with the completion of the 2025 CIP series for the University, implementation of a similar process for the new Adelaide University was recommended for consideration.

**2025/4/72 Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the key themes in the 2024-5 Curriculum Innovation Process discussions and note positive feedback on changes to the process which may be considered by Adelaide University.**

**Moved: Prof Deidre Tedmanson (from the Chair)**

**CARRIED**

**9.2 2025 ACADEMIC UNIT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

**2025/4/73 Academic Board resolved:**

**to receive and note the 2025 Academic Unit Board Annual Report.**

### 9.3 2025 ADVISORY BOARDS REPORT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2025/4/74 Academic Board resolved:

**to receive and note the 2025 Advisory Boards Annual Report.**

### 9.4 UNISA RISK STATUS REPORT (ACADEMIC RISKS)

15 The Head: Risk Assurance, Mr Matthew Rickard, introduced the UniSA risk status report with the institution's risk profile with a focus on the academic risks as at November 2025. The risk associated with finalising Adelaide University's Table A status had been reassessed, resulting in a change to the residual rating from High to low. This risk was trending downward. Following the formal signing and lodgement of the required documentation by the Minister for Education the Hon Jason Clare MP, the Table A designation of the new Adelaide University was confirmed, with the effective date set at 1 January 2026. Given these developments, the likelihood of any delay in the finalising of Adelaide University's status as a Table A higher education provider was considered low. Furthermore, the potential impact on UniSA funding allocations was also assessed as low, and the dedicated disestablishment process was proceeding well.

2025/4/74 Academic Board resolved:

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

## ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IN RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

16 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, presented the Academic Board Executive Officer, Mr Peter Cardwell, with a *Certificate of Appreciation* signed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, and the two previous Academic Board Chairs for his stewardship of the Board for almost 34 years. The other former Chairs of Academic Board, Emeritus Prof Rick Sarre (2011-2016) and Prof Vicki Waye (2017-2022) were present and spoke in support of the award in recognition of Mr Cardwell's outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the UniSA Academic Board since its inception in 1992, and his contribution to the advancement of academic governance and excellence at the University. They thanked Mr Cardwell for his dedication, insight, and expert advice which had left an enduring impact on the University community. In concluding her remarks, Prof Waye said she believed that Mr Cardwell certainly held the record for the longest serving Academic Board Executive Officer in the Australian higher education sector and perhaps the world. The Professors' thanks were acknowledged by the acclamation of members.

## ITEM 11 – CLOSURE

17 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.00pm. Prof Tedmanson invited members and guests at the close of business to join her and the Vice Chancellor for drinks and light refreshments to celebrate the 293<sup>rd</sup> and last meeting of UniSA Academic Board.

**PETER CARDWELL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**