

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2024
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

5/2024

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
Dr Ryan Causby
Prof Joanne Cys
Dr Xin Deng
Ms Lucy Fawcett
Ms Jessica Ford
Prof Sanjay Garg
Assoc Prof Jodie George
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Brendan Hughes
Prof Tracey Humphrey
Mr Richard Irons
Dr Masud Karim
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Ms Camilla Liddy
Prof Elspeth McInnes
Dr Shashi Nallaya
Dr Fanke Peng
Prof Jacqui Ramagge
Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly
Mr Yeshaiah Varona
Dr Paula Zito
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Assoc Prof Anton Blencowe
Ms Tracey Coleman
Prof Shane Dawson
Prof Paula Geldens
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Mr Phil Johnson
Ms Argani Kashyap
Prof Marta Krasowska
Mr Bill Le Blanc
Prof David Lloyd
Dr Evangeline Mantzioris
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Assoc Prof Gary Owens
Assoc Prof Lemuel Pelenstov
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Mr Tom Steer
Prof Rachael Vernon
Prof Stephen Ward
Mr Henry Zampoli

ALTERNATES:

Ms Vanessa Ely
(for Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington)
Ms Katrina Gillespie
(for Mr Bill Le Blanc)
Assoc Prof Sally Plush
(for Prof Sandra Orgeig)

OBSERVERS:

Ms Emily Adcock
Prof Tina Brodie
Dr Tiernan Cross
Hon John Hill
Mr Matthew Kauschke
Prof Esther May
Ms Vanessa Matthews
Prof Scott Smith

1 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, 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 opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, observers, and in particular she welcomed the Chancellor, the Hon John Hill, Prof Scott Smith, the Chair of the University of Adelaide Academic Board, and Co-Chair of the Transitional Academic Board (Adelaide University), Prof Tina Brodie, the new Dean of Aboriginal Research, Education and Engagement, as well as Dr Tiernan Cross, the Executive Officer of the Transitional Academic Board (Adelaide University).

1.2 TABLED PAPERS

2 There were no tabled papers.

1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

3 Agenda Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7.3, 8.1 and 9.3 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2024/5/82 Academic Board resolved:

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

Moved: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz Seconded: Prof Andrew Beer

CARRIED

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2024/5/83 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2024 as a correct record subject to minor amendment.

Moved: Mr Oliver Shephard-Bayly Seconded: Prof Jon Buckley

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4 There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3 – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

5 The Chairperson, Prof Deirdre Tedmanson, reported that the National Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (CABS) Conference would be held in Adelaide on 7- 8 November 2024 and hosted by Flinders University and there was much interest in the new university. Prof Tedmanson also reported on Adelaide University's Transition Academic Board. The Co-Chairs of the Transition Academic Board, Prof Tedmanson and Prof Scott Smith, were involved in the

development of Advisory Panels to assist the Board in its work. She went on to formally introduce the Chancellor, the Honourable John Hill, who was a graduate of Sydney University and the University of Adelaide, as well as a former schoolteacher. He had a parliamentary career spanning 16 years, with ministerial roles including SA Minister for the Environment and Conservation (2002-2006), Minister for Health (2005-2013) and Minister for the Arts (2002-2013). Mr Hill retired from Cabinet in 2013 and SA parliament in 2014. Currently, he was Chair of the Board of the Jam Factory and a member of various other Boards including Bellberry Ltd and private Healthcare Australia. Mr Hill was appointed Deputy Chancellor of UniSA in December 2018 and Chancellor in May 2024.

- 6 The Chancellor then shared a few thoughts with Academic Board members about UniSA and where it was going through the transition to the new university after 31 December 2025. Within the transition process, first and foremost, Mr Hill said that his focus was on ensuring that the next 18 months were a stellar affair. Mr Hill had much pride in the aims, identity, and achievements of UniSA, and he had complete confidence that Board members as well as other staff members of the institution wanted to celebrate that through the transition. UniSA had 240,000 graduates, and recent alumni events and graduation ceremonies had been very well attended and received, marking a great testament to the University. In concluding his remarks, Mr Hill encouraged members to contribute to the UniSA History Project.
- 7 Prof Tedmanson then introduced Prof Scott Smith, who was Chair of the University of Adelaide Academic Board and Co-Chair of the Transitional Academic Board (Adelaide University). Prof Smith was also Professor of Structural Engineering in the School of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Adelaide, and Deputy Dean International in the Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Technology. Prior to commencing at the University of Adelaide, he had held roles as Founding Dean of Engineering at Southern Cross University, faculty member at the University of Hong Kong and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- 8 Prof Smith spoke briefly about his great enthusiasm and excitement to be involved in the transition to Australia's newest university. He had recently attended the first international launch event of Adelaide University in Delhi India with more than 100 guests coming together to celebrate this historic event. It was a great occasion and an opportunity to connect and discover more about the new University's mission and brand while harnessing existing global partnerships and expanding them well into the future. Prof Smith also highlighted the good governance model of the Transitional Academic Board, which was a 'classic Noah's ark' with equal numbers of members from both institutions.

2024/5/84

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 unable to attend the meeting, the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Prof Joanne Cys, introduced the Vice Chancellor's report, which was taken as read, by drawing member's attention to the following matters:
- 9.1 UniSA held its annual Open Days City West and City East campuses on Sunday 11 August 2024. Approximately 5000 people were counted through the welcome booths at City West (up from 4500 in 2023) and 1800 at City East (down from 2000 in 2023). In

terms of presentations, Medical Radiation Science (337) and Nursing (309) drew the largest attendances. The Adelaide University presentations attracted 95 attendees at City West and 20 at City East. Open Days were also held at Mawson Lakes and Whyalla campuses on 25 August 2024, and Magill campuses on 28 August. The Mount Gambier Open Day was held on 4 August 2024. These were the last Open Days under the UniSA banner, and recruiting would commence at Adelaide University in 2025.

- 9.2 In July 2024, UniSA welcomed hundreds of students during the mid-year Orientation across all metropolitan and regional campuses, with 630 students attending campus program information sessions, campus tours, and in-person student panels. During Orientation program days, student lounges came alive with interactive games and activities, showcasing a variety of student clubs and associations in addition to sponsor and UniSA partner rep representation. Students continued to also engage through a variety of online touchpoints like UniSA Ready, LearnOnline and ever-popular online student panel and UniMentor forum.
- 9.3 Eight very successful graduation ceremonies were held in Pridham Hall at City West campus between 24-26 September 2024, with 1322 graduates attending the ceremonies, and 1951 graduates conferred. The Chancellor, Hon John Hill, the Deputy Chancellor, Mr Michael Abbott AO KC, and the Pro Chancellor, Ms Mary Patetsos AM, officiated at ceremonies, with the Welcome to Country from Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen, Kaurna and Narungga Elder, and University addresses from Prof Joanne Cys, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Prof Esther May, Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Jon Buckley, Executive Dean: UniSA Allied Health and Human Performance, Prof Andrew Beer, Executive Dean: UniSA Business, and Prof Tracey Humphries, Executive Dean: UniSA Clinical and Health Sciences.
- 9.4 On 27 August 2024 the Co-Vice Chancellors, Prof David Lloyd, and Prof Peter Hoj, hosted a staff Town Hall where a number of topics were discussed, including the Adelaide University Launch, workforce transition, graduate qualities, common core and research strategy. The Co-Vice Chancellors also hosted a Town Hall on 29 August for University of South Australia and University of Adelaide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. This session provided an update on progress and an opportunity for broad discussion about the creation of Adelaide University.
- 9.5 A very successful University of Adelaide and UniSA Women's Professoriate event organised by Prof Anna Sullivan was held on 4 September to provide senior women academics to come together to socialise, build networks and consider opportunities for collaboration in the new Adelaide University.
- 9.6 The Provost and Prof John Williams from the University of Adelaide had recently attended and given evidence to the Senate Inquiry into the Student Support Bill in Canberra.

2024/5/85

Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Vice Chancellor's Report.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 5/2024

5.1 UNISA CLINICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

5.1.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MENTAL HEALTH NURSING (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/86 Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Pro Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning of the proposed change to the entry requirements for the IGMG Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing effective from 2026.

5.2 UNISA COLLEGE AND UNISA ONLINE

5.1.1 NEW PROGRAMS – UNISTART ONLINE, UNISTART (CITY WEST) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/87 Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session endorsement by ASSQC and subsequent approval by the Academic Board Standing Committee of the new UniStart Programs to be offered by UNiSA Online from Study Period 1, 2025 and UniSA College respectively, and the minor nomenclature change approved out-of-session of the UniSA College on-campus UniStart Program to UniStart (City West) which will not be offered in 2025 but will be an approved program in readiness for offering at a later time.

ITEM 6 - MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 4/2024

6.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/88 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.

6.2 ERA & EI – WHERE TO FROM HERE FOR RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/89 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report on the University's progress in measuring research quality metrics.

6.3 CATEGORY 1: UNISA STRATEGY ON A PAGE UPDATE

10 The Manager: Research Projects Development with the UniSA Research Office, Ms Vanessa Eley, provided an update on the strategy on a page developed to improve the University's performance in securing Category 1 competitive research funding grants. Ms Eley reported that the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) recognised four categories of research funding: Category 1 Australian competitive grants, Category 2 other public sector R&D income, Category 3 industry and other R&D income, and Category 4 Cooperative

Research Centre (CRC) R&D income. She went on to provide an overview of UniSA's performance in Category 1. 2023 data for total national category research income was not published so UniSA's share of the sector for 2023 could not yet be determined.

- 11 Members noted that between 2018 and 2021, UniSA saw a steady increase in Category 1 research income. However, in 2022 this income experienced a decline by 31% to \$21.4 million. At the same time, the total national Category 1 research income for 2022 increased by 4.7% to \$2.182 billion. UniSA ranked 23rd nationally in 2022 compared to 19th in 2021. In 2023, UniSA's Category 1 income rebounded, with growth observed across all subcategories except ARC. Category 1 research for UniSA in 2023 was \$27 million, which was an increase of 26.1% from 2022.
- 12 It was further noted that the Manager: Research Projects Development was a new position which commenced on 5 August 2024. A priority of the role would be a comprehensive review of data, evaluation of actions to date, and a detailed update of strategies to improve Category 1 research income performance. This would be relative to actions, developments and decisions relating to the transition to Adelaide University. Resources alignment, internal strategic grant development, and support resourcing would be continuously reviewed and refined to enable uplift in overall application success rate.

2024/5/90 Academic Board resolved:

to endorse the strategy on a page developed to improve the University's performance in securing Category 1 competitive research funding grants.

Moved: Prof Deirdre Tedmanson (from the Chair)

CARRIED

6.4 RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023 (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/91 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Research Leadership Committee Annual Report 2023.

ITEM 7 – BUSINESS

7.1 EXTENSIONS TO ACADEMIC BOARD & ACADEMIC UNIT BOARD MEMBERSHIP INTO 2025

- 13 The Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Prof Joanne Cys, introduced a proposal for an extension of board membership for willing and eligible Academic Board and Academic Unit Board members until 31st December 2025, in alignment with Academic Board's Terms of Reference.
- 14 Members noted that in December 2022, the Councils of the University of South Australia (UniSA) and the University of Adelaide agreed to undertake a formal feasibility assessment of the creation of a new university. Following the successful completion of this feasibility assessment (July 2023), the passage of legislation to establish a new university (November 2023), and proclamation of the *Adelaide University Act 2023* (early 2024), the two institutions had been working towards the establishment of the new Adelaide University (AU) as a contemporary, for-purpose and transformative university for the future. AU would commence operations from 1 January 2026.

- 15 It was further noted that in advance of this date, UniSA's key governance structures remained integral and operational in support of transitional and business-as-usual activities alike. Continuity in the operation of these structures, and the expertise of the members who comprised them, was recognised as critical to operations. Consideration had been provided as to the way in which continuity in membership might be provided for two such structures, being Academic Board (AB) and the Academic Unit Boards (AUBs).
- 16 Appointment of members to AB and AUB was generally undertaken in alignment with the University's Election Policy and Procedures, whereby the University Returning Officer would undertake activities relating to the announcement, conduct and declaration of an election over a matter of weeks and across the University at large.
- 17 In light of the commencement of new Adelaide University operations from January 2026, the Chair of Academic Board, the Provost & Chief Academic Officer, and the University Secretary and General Counsel (who was also the University Returning Officer) recommended that rather than undertaking AB and AUB elections in 2024, the terms of the current memberships be extended through to 31 December 2025, for willing and eligible board members. This would ensure continuity in the membership of UniSA Academic Board as the principal academic advisory body to Council.
- 18 The terms of members of AB were extended in a similar fashion in relation to the University's Academic Organisational Transformation in April 2020, at which time a new Academic Unit structure and revised AB Terms of Reference were established. Accordingly, there was a precedent to this proposal to extend the terms of current members.
- 19 'Willing and eligible' board members were recognised as those who had an interest in continuing their participation with the relevant board or boards, were supported to do so by the Chair of the relevant board and were able to do so by way of their continued employment (staff representatives) or enrolment in their program of study (student representatives) into 2025.
- 20 If staff or students could not or choose not to continue, provisions provided within the boards' Terms of Reference would be utilised to appoint replacement members, as opposed to holding elections. For Academic Board, the long-standing convention was that elected staff or student representatives who could not or choose not to continue would provide a nomination of another member from their Academic Unit, Portfolio, or Campus as their alternate or proxy for the period of their absence, or remainder of their term of office, for appointment by the Chair. For Academic Unit Boards, the Terms of Reference provided for the Executive Dean to appoint staff or students from the relevant Academic Unit, portfolio, or campus to fill vacant positions.
- 21 The President and General Manager of the UniSA Student Association (USASA) provided in-principal support for this proposal before it went to Academic Board. Regarding the five student representatives of Academic Board, who were elected on an annual basis by the USASA Board, the Board was advised that membership would be determined by the USASA Board at its January 2025 meeting. It is agreed that in support of these activities, the Office of the Provost & Chief Academic Officer would work with USASA colleagues to identify opportunities for training, induction, and Student Voice-related supports for commencing student representatives and the board members with whom they would engage.
- 22 The proposal to extend board membership(s) was welcomed by Academic Board as a sensible way forward, and it was noted that formal approval would need to be sought from the Urgent Business Committee of Council. It was also foreshadowed that some minor changes might need to be made to Academic Unit Board Terms of Reference and this matter would be discussed with Executive Deans. It was further noted that activities to confirm extensions and/or identify new board members for 2025 would be initiated by the Office of the Provost & Chief Academic Officer, working in conjunction with the Chair and Executive Officer of Academic Board subject to approval by the Urgent Business Committee of Council.

2024/5/91 **Academic Board resolved:**

to endorse the proposal to the Urgent Business Committee of Council of an extension to board membership for willing and eligible Academic Board and Academic Unit members until 31 December 2025.

Moved: Prof Joanne Cys Seconded: Prof Tracey Humphrey

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**7.2 NEW GRANT – ACER ABORIGINAL STUDENT POSTGRADUATE GRANT
(UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2024/5/92 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the ACER Aboriginal Student Postgraduate Grant.

**7.3 NEW GRANT – ACER ABORIGINAL STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE GRANT
(UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2024/5/93 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the ACER Aboriginal Student Undergraduate Grant.

**7.4 NEW SCHOLARSHIP – BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA FIRST NATIONS SCHOLARSHIP
IN ENGINEERING (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2024/5/94 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the BAE Systems Australia First Nations Scholarship in Engineering.

**7.5 NEW SCHOLARSHIP – BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA WILLIAMS HICKS ENGINEERING
SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN FROM REGIONAL AUSTRALIA (UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2024/5/95 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the BAE Systems Australia Williams Hicks Engineering Scholarship for Women from Regional Australia.

8.1 HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/96 Academic Board resolved:

to note the Higher Education Policy Update.

8.2 ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE PLAN (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2024/5/97 Academic Board resolved:

to note the updates provided against the *Academic Enterprise Plan 2021-2025* for information.

8.3 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

23 The Director of the Teaching Innovation Unit (TIU), Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili, introduced the *Academic Integrity Annual Summary Report 2023*, which was taken as read, and acknowledged the Academic Integrity Team in the TIU, Academic Integrity Officers (AIOs) and Academic Service Officers (ASOs) as well as Student and Academic Services (SAS) for their collaborate work in managing the new Academic Integrity Database (AIDB). The current AIDB complied with the reporting requirements and guidelines as per TEQSA and the Higher Education Standards Framework HESF). 2023 was also the first year that academic integrity was governed by the *Academic Integrity Policy* (AB-69) and *Procedure* (AB-69 P1).

24 Key points from the report included the following:

24.1 A total of 2,426 academic misconduct cases were reported in 2023, a rise of 91 cases from the previous year. These included plagiarism, third-party assistance, examination breaches, and falsification.

24.2 There were 7.2 cases of academic misconduct per 100 enrolled students, an increase of 0.8 cases per 100 enrolled students compared to 2022. Plagiarism remained the most reported category of academic misconduct.

24.3 The most common detection method changed in 2023 from 'Turnitin' to 'Markers'. This change was likely due to the increased use of genAI by our student cohort. Plagiarism was the second most common misconduct category, accounting for 38% of all cases of academic misconduct. Cases detected by an 'Invigilator' were the third misconduct category.

24.4 Examination breaches increased in 2023 as a proportion of all cases (33.1% in 2023 compared to 19.5% in 2022).

24.5 In 2023, 2,091 cases (86.2% of all cases) involved students who had no prior breaches of academic integrity.

2024/5/97 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the *Academic Integrity Annual Report 2023*.

ITEM 9 – CLOSURE

- 25 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.15 pm.
- 26 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 22 November 2024, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 11 November 2024.

PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER