

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 27 MAY 2022
AT 2.15 PM, IN ROOM RR 5-09, ROWLAND REES BUILDING,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

3/2022

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Vicki Waye
(Chairperson)
Mr Matthew Atkinson

Ms Trisha Banga

Prof Craig Batty

Prof Andrew Beer

Dr David Birbeck

Mr Alan Brideson

Prof Jon Buckley

Dr Scott Coussens

Prof Joanne Cys

Ms Jodieann Daw

Prof Roger Eston

Prof Paula Geldens

Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili

Ms Karla Gotting

Dr Georgina Heath

Mr Richard Irons

Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

Mr Bill Le Blanc

Dr Sally Lewis

Prof David Lloyd

Prof Jun Ma

Dr Evangeline Mantzioris

Prof Esther May

Assoc Prof Elspeth McInnes

Prof Julie Mills

Assoc Prof Sue Nichols

Prof Sandra Orgeig

Mr Rhys Peden

Ms Gabrielle Rolan

Dr Saras Sastrowardoyo

Mr Simratdeep Singh

Mr Isaac Solomon

Mr Tom Steer

Assoc Prof Deirdre Tedmanson

Prof Bruce Thomas

Mr Steven Ward

Prof Marie Williams

Mr Peter Cardwell (Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Dr Rhoda Abadia

Dr Belinda Chiera

Prof Shane Dawson

Mr Brendan Hughes

Prof John Medlin

Mr Anet Varghese

Prof Rachael Vernon

Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington

Prof Irene Watson

ALTERNATES:

Dr Shokry Abdelaal

(for Dr Rhoda Abadia)

Ms Jane Kehrwald

(for Mr Brendan Hughes)

Assoc Prof Gisela Van Kessel

(for Prof John Medlin)

- 1 The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, and observers, in particular Prof Waye welcomed Mr Alan Brideson, new Chief of Staff for the Office of Vice Chancellor, and Prof John Medlin, the newly appointed Academic Director for UniSA Online. Prof Waye also acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Kurna land, and extended

her respect to Kaurna elders past, present and emerging, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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, 7.2 and 8.3 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2022/3/65 **Academic Board resolved:**

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

Moved: Assoc Prof Elspeth McInnes Seconded: Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz

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

2022/3/66 **Academic Board resolved:**

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2022 as a correct record.

Moved: Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili Seconded: Assoc Prof Elspeth McInnes

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, reported on the May 2022 meeting of University Council and on other matters including:

6.1 There had been a significant change in UniSA’s outward facing activities exemplified by the launch of the Invisibility Exhibition at the Museum of Discovery (MOD). The Invisibility exhibition showcased installations highlighting the unseen world around us

such as algorithms that worked in the background of people's lives and changes in the environment we could not see. One of the most interesting was an exhibit displaying data captured from tracking football player Adam Goodes's movements and brought to life in a 3D point cloud surrounding a scan of a culturally significant Wirra-tree. It was great to see so many UniSA staff and friends at this event.

- 6.2 As Chair of Academic Board, Prof Waye had attended a meeting of Yaitya Warra-itya, UniSA's chief Aboriginal Governance Body. The meeting began some important work on formulating UniSA's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Prior achievements under UniSA's first Reconciliation Action Plan were acknowledged and themes were explored for the development of a more advanced RAP.
- 6.3 Prof Waye also attended the National Reconciliation Breakfast on the morning of Friday 27 May 2022. It began with a powerful welcome to country by Taylor Power-Smith challenging everyone to confront and address the experience of invasion, dispossession, and trauma which First Nations people had endured in this country. UniSA's commitment to advancing reconciliation further with a Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan was inspirational and provided a framework to help meet the challenges laid down. It would therefore be welcome to hear from the Pro Vice Chancellor Aboriginal leadership and Engagement as the new RAP progresses.

2022/3/67 Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Chairperson's Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 4 – VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

- 7 The Vice Chancellor, Prof David Lloyd, introduced his written report, which was taken as read, by making some general observations in relation to the recent election of the new Federal Government, which he believed would lead in all probability to extra university places being made available, and a greater emphasis on Compacts, as well as providing the opportunity for a more-wide ranging holistic and 'less fractious conversation' about Australia's education system in general.

2022/3/68 Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Vice Chancellor's Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – THE WORK OF THE STUDENT OMBUD

- 8 The Student Ombud, Mr Franco Parrella, provided an annual report on the work of his office in 2021. The main points from the presentation were:
- 8.1 The Student Ombud provided a free, confidential, and impartial dispute resolution service for UniSA students. The Ombud acted as an 'advocate for fairness' and was a

'last port of call' rather than a 'first port of call. The Ombud also had responsive and educative as well as proactive responsibilities, which involved identifying key trends, providing reports, and making recommendations for improvements. Mr Parrella who was in his fourth year in the position emphasised that the Ombud was not able to override decisions of the University. At the same time, he did not represent the University, nor did he act as an individual student's representative, or provide an emergency counselling service, and was not in a position to attend meetings as a support person.

8.2 The Ombud dealt with approximately 200 cases, including 125 specific service requests and complaints in 2021, which was slightly down on 2020 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most complaints in 2021 came from international students (58%) compared to domestic students (42%), and the largest number of complaints were from undergraduate students (72%) compared to higher degree by research (HDR) students. Some of the predominant issues and types of matters dealt with by the Ombud throughout the year included:

8.2.1 Central administrative matters such as fees and finance, enrolment, and preclusions (30 matters).

8.2.2 Academic teaching and learning matters, some Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual related (69 matters).

8.2.3 People and behavioural matters such as alleged discrimination, harassment, and bullying (8 Matters).

8.2.4 Placement matters involving consistency in responses to problems with placements (18 matters).

8.2.5 Personal issues that impacted on academic progress such as mental health issues (20 matters).

8.2.6 Communications and staff queries (20 matters).

8.2.7 External to UniSA (6 matters).

8.3 Most students pursued outcomes themselves after advice from the Ombud (51 students), some matters were referred to external agencies (4 cases), and others resulted in recommendations being made to the University (13 recommendations). Indeed, the Ombud made recommendations in several areas based on his case work in 2021. These included:

8.3.1 Review of 'confidentiality commitments' given to students in academic integrity matters and sponsor agreements with third parties.

8.3.2 Additional from 2020 COVID-19 related interventions and recommendations in relation to students with families in Afghanistan and India, and on increased examination times.

8.3.3 Improvements to the wording of Student Conduct Agreements.

8.3.4 Consistency in the use of and application of assessment rubrics (Clause 1.1.6 Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual).

8.3.5 LANTITE testing windows and testing as part of entrance requirements rather than pre-final placements.

8.3.6 Improvements to communications for students on amendment to enrolment and fees for special circumstances assessments.

8.3.7 Guidance notes for fair investigations particularly to sexual harassment and sexual assault matters.

8.4 The Ombud based his judgements on the concepts of natural justice and procedural fairness. In 'complaints' versus 'appeals' mechanisms he questioned whether the University had adequately explained the differences and outlined the options between the two and was there a more appropriate avenue to resolve the matter? Procedural fairness questioned whether the student had received a 'fair hearing' before a decision was made. How had impartiality been considered and was there a conflict of interest in the outcome? In the interests of natural justice had critical issues or adverse information been disclosed to the student so they had sufficient information to understand the decision? Had the affected student been given a reasonable opportunity to respond? Reasonable time frames were needed to present relevant information and arguments. All submissions needed proper deliberation. Actions taken and information collected needed to be recorded and properly considered. The new University Student Complaints Resolution Policy and Procedure was a very positive development in dealing effectively with the formal complaints process.

2022/3/69 **Academic Board resolved:**

to receive and note the report on the work of the Student Ombud.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 3/2022

6.1 UNISA BUSINESS

6.1.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FINANCIAL PLANNING (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/70 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the withdrawal of the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning from Study Period 1, 2023.

6.2 UNISA CLINICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

6.2.1 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REACCREDITATION REVIEW REPORT – BACHELOR OF NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCES

9 Members noted that a Program Evaluation and Reaccreditation Review (PER) Report for the Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Sciences submitted by UniSA Clinical and Health Sciences in accordance with Academic Policy A35A Quality Assurance and Improvement: Programs,

Courses and Teaching Arrangements had been endorsed by Academic Strategy, Standards and Quality Committee (ASSQC) at its meeting on 13 May 2022.

- 10 It was further noted that the Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Sciences (IBNF) was a unique program in the state, and while local competitors offered similar programs, only UniSA offered the option of a specialisation in either Nutrition or Food Science. Student commencement numbers were consistent at between 30-35, in addition to the significant numbers of students completing IBNF courses through UniSA Online, double degrees and courses featured in other programs. Graduates were eligible for registration with the Nutrition Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology
- 11 In addition, the IBNF had excellent graduate outcomes with placements in the food industry for nearly all graduates from the food science stream. Overall course satisfaction was very good at 77% in 2021 and likewise with teaching satisfaction at 86% in 2021. The program was tracking well and was consistent with National CEQ benchmarks, and exceeding in the areas of good teaching, generic skills, overall satisfaction, and graduate qualities. However, there was room for improvement in student retention rates with first year retention at 51.1% and continuing student retention at 63.9% in 2021. Strategies were in place to improve retention rates.
- 12 A member questioned the recommendation before the Board. Following discussion, it was resolved to amend the resolution by removing the wording: 'to receive the Program Evaluation and Reaccreditation Review Report' and replacing it with 'approve the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Sciences program until 2027 inclusive.'

2022/3/71 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Sciences program until 2027 inclusive.

Moved: Prof Jon Buckley Seconded: Assoc Prof Deirdre Tedmanson

CARRIED

6.2.2 VARIATION IN RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/72 **Academic Board resolved:**

In accordance with Section 20 of the A-13.24 Recognition of Prior Learning Policy, to approve a variation to permit the recording and promotion of formal credit against the Graduate Certificate in Health Services Management (ICHS/ICHM) for the completion of the SA Health Transform, Inspire, Engage and Redesign (TIER) leadership program.

6.3 UNISA ALLIED HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

6.3.1 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REACCREDITATION REVIEW REPORT – MASTER OF ADVANCED CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/73 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the reaccreditation of the Master of Advanced Clinical Physiotherapy program until 2027 inclusive.

6.4 UNISA EDUCATION FUTURES

6.4.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/74 Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Provost & Chief Academic Officer to change the entry requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in University Studies (DUUS) program from Study Period 5, 2022.

6.5 UNISA JUSTICE AND SOCIETY

6.5.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/75 Academic Board resolved:

to note the out-of-session approval by the Provost & Chief Academic Officer of the addition of Mount Gambier and Whyalla offerings of both the Human Services and Ageing and Disability specialisations of the Bachelor of Social Science program from Study Period 1, 2023.

6.6 UNISA STEM

6.6.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (HONOURS) (ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC), BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/76 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Electrical and Electronic), Bachelor of Business with effect from Study Period 1, 2023.

6.6.2 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/77 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Diploma in Information Technology with effect from Study Period 1, 2023.

ITEM 7 MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 3/2022

7.1 RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/78 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report from Research Degrees Committee.

7.2 COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES – CATEGORY 4 – PLAN ON A PAGE UPDATE

13 Members noted an update on the progress of strategies to maximise the benefits of participation in the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program. UniSA made significant progress on the implementation of the agreed activities in the CRC Plan on a Page, with all items either completed or underway. CRCs continued to represent a significant strategic investment for UniSA. UniSA's CRC Category 4 income also improved in 2021 with a preliminary figure of \$7.1m, an increase of 39 per cent in comparison with 2020 (this figure is draft only and subject to audit). UniSA continually sought to improve its national rank in Category 4 funding, noting the data required to update the University's national ranking for 2021 was to follow.

14 It was further noted that participation in the CRC program had strengthened in the past year with the number of CRCs growing from nine to ten. Furthermore, UniSA had submitted four applications for and active involvement in CRC Projects (CRC-P) Round 12 in late 2021 with one successful project announced this week. CRC-Ps, a priority of the SA government, were industry-led research projects that provided funding for short-term research collaborations that solved industry problems and delivered real outcomes. The CRC Plan on a Page contained four key focus areas to improve UniSA's return on investment for the CRC program: Governance; Investment; Leadership and Partnership; and Reporting. An update on progress against each of these focus areas over the past twelve months was provided in a comprehensive paper from Research Leadership Committee (RLC).

2022/3/79 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the updated Cooperative Research Centres – Category Four – Plan on a Page paper which was endorsed by Research Leadership Committee on 1 April 2022.

Moved: Prof David Lloyd Seconded: Mr Richard Irons

CARRIED

7.3 EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR UNISA RESEARCH DEGREE STUDENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/80 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report on examination results for research degree students.

ITEM 8 – BUSINESS

8.1 HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (HREC) MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/81 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the appointment/re-appointment of members to the University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) for a two-year term as specified.

8.2 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS ANZ PRIZES (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/82 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Chartered Accountants ANZ Prizes.

8.3 EHRENBURG-BASS INSTITUTE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/83 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Ehrenberg-Bass Institute Undergraduate Scholarship.

8.4 BUILT ENVIRONS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/84 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Built Environs Construction Management Scholarship.

8.5 CARTER PROPERTY SCHOLARSHIP UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/85 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the Carter Property Scholarship.

8.6 SARAH GROUP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/85 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Sarah Group Information Technology Grant.

8.7 SUSAN SEYMOUR STUDENT GRANT UNSTARRED ITEM)

2022/3/86 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Susan Seymour Student Grant.

ITEM 9 – FOR INFORMATION

9.1 ACADEMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2022/3/87 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Academic Board Annual Report 2021.

9.2 STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2022/3/88 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the Student Appeals Committee Annual Report 2021.

ITEM 10 – CLOSURE

15 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.07 pm.

ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING

16 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 24 June 2022, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

**PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**