

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY, 23 JULY 2021
AT 2.15 PM, ONLINE VIA ZOOM,
CITY WEST CAMPUS

5/2021

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 PRESENT:

Prof Vicki Waye
(Chairperson)
Dr Rhoda Abadia
Mr Matthew Atkinson
Mr Noah Beckmann
Prof Andrew Beer
Prof Jon Buckley
Dr Belinda Chiera
Prof Joanne Cys
Ms Jodieann Daw
Prof Shane Dawson
Ms Amelianna A Dominic
Prof Allan Evans
Prof Paula Geldens
Assoc Prof Sheridan Gentili
Ms Karla Gotting
Mr Brendan Hughes
Mr Richard Irons
Dr Malgorzata Korolkiewicz
Dr Sally Lewis
Dr Evangeline Mantzioris
Prof Esther May
Mr Dinuk Nanayakkara
Assoc Prof Sue Nichols
Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis
Prof Sandra Orgeig
Dr Andrea Parks
Mr Rhys Peden
Ms Gabrielle Rolan
Ms Ishika Sharma
Dr Saras Sastrowardoyo
Mr Paul Sherlock
Prof Marianna Sigala
Dr Ruchi Sinha
Assoc Prof Deirdre Tedmanson
Prof Rachael Vernon
Mr Stephen Ward
Assoc Prof Marie Williams
Mr Peter Cardwell
(Executive Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Dr David Birbeck
Prof Roger Eston
Dr Georgina Heath
Prof David Lloyd
Assoc Prof Elspeth McInnes
Prof Julie Mills
Assoc Prof Barbara Parker
Prof Bruce Thomas
Prof Irene Watson
Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Prof Marie Wilson

ALTERNATES:

Prof Susan Hillier
(for Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington)
Assoc Prof Veronika Kelly
(for Prof Joanne Cys)
Prof John Medlin
(for Assoc Prof Barbara Parker)
Prof Abelardo Pardo
(for Prof Julie Mills)
Mr Tom Steer
(for Prof Marie Wilson)

OBSERVERS:

Assoc Prof Amie Albrecht
Ms Michelle Anderson
Ms Caroline Batty
Ms Natasha Boots
Mr Alan Brideson
Assoc Prof Maurizio Costabile
Mr Michael Crisp
Ms Jessica Ford
Ms Karen Hunt
Ms Tania Kanellos
Ms Jane Kehrwald
Prof Sharron King
Prof Sandra Orgeig

1 The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed members, alternates, and observers. Prof Waye acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the lands of the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and paid her respects to their Elders past, present as well as emerging.

1.2 TABLED PAPERS

2 There were no tabled papers.

1.3 STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

3 Agenda Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.1 and 9.1 were starred for discussion.

1.4 APPROVAL OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

2021/5/95 Academic Board resolved:

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

Moved: Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis Seconded: Ms Karla Gotting

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

2021/5/96 Academic Board resolved:

to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2021 as a correct record subject to minor amendment to paragraph 6.1.

Moved: Prof Rachael Vernon Seconded: Prof Jon Buckley

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 that the University had received feedback from the Department of Education Skills and Employment regarding alignment of the UniSA *Statement on Academic Freedom* with the Model Code recommended by the Commonwealth Government's

French Review. The Department had advised that further work could be done to align the UniSA Statement more closely with the Code and following feedback the University had decided to re-examine the Statement. The intention was to retain the Statement but amend it to make it more explicit how UniSA aligned with the French Model Code and additional policy documents had been drafted to strengthen it in relation to UniSA policy. It was also proposed to make the University's commitment to freedom of speech, which was regarded as independent of academic freedom, clearer in a separate policy document. Draft amendments were before the meeting for discussion and recommendation to Council.

2021/5/97 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 Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Allan Evans, introduced his written report, which was taken as read, by drawing members' attention to the following matters:

- 7.1 Prof David Lloyd's term of appointment as Vice Chancellor and President had been extended to December 2027. Ms Pauline Carr would continue as Chancellor for a further four years until March 2026, and Deputy Chancellor, the Hon John Hill, had been reappointed for a further two years until June 2023. The University had also announced the appointment of Mr Bill Muirhead AM, currently South Australia's Agent-General in London, to Council from January 2022.
- 7.2 South Australia's State International Student Arrival Plan (ISAP) had been approved by the Commonwealth Government. This plan was a sector-wide approach, led by the state Department of Trade and Investment (DTI). The approval included the use of a dedicated international student quarantine facility at the existing Flight Training Adelaide (FTA) student accommodation, located near Parafield Airport. This facility had been approved for initial occupancy of 160 students, every 16 days (two weeks' quarantine plus cleaning time), although this might increase over time. To implement the ISAP, Study Adelaide had formed a Sector Reference Group, including members from each participating institution, which would act in an advisory capacity. The first task of the Sector Reference Group would be to agree on a model for allocation of places per institution. The proposed model was a pro rata allocation based on the number of enrolled students in countries approved for the program by SA Health.
- 7.3 The University had experienced a reduction in its rankings. UniSA ranked 45th in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) 2021 Young University Ranking, compared to 25th in 2020. UniSA was ranked 9th in Australia out of the 23 universities included in the ranking, compared with 4th in Australia last year. In the QS World University Rankings UniSA was ranked 326 in the world, compared with 295 for the 2021 rankings, a decrease of 31 places. UniSA's Australian ranking was 20th out of 38 Australian institutions included in the ranking, a decrease of three places compared to an Australian ranking of 17th last year. UniSA was 9th out of 23 Australian institutions aged under 50 to feature in the QS rankings, compared to 7th place last year. The fall in rankings were in large part due to a decrease in higher degrees by research (HDR) awarded and a decrease in research income by academic staff. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) had put a new ranking strategy in place to address the issue.

7.4 Prof Pat Buckley, Dean of Graduate Studies, had resigned from the University in July 2021. Prof Buckley had worked with impact in a diverse set of portfolios during her 16 years with UniSA, including serving as Associate Head of the former School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Director of the Sansom Institute and most recently as Dean of Graduate Studies. Prof Buckley had served as an elected academic staff member of University Council and had been a member of Academic Board for many years. She had led researcher development in the University for many years with progressive programs for early career researchers and emerging research leaders, and she was identified as a national leader in research training. Her dedication to research education and her leadership in delivering our pioneering transformed PhD would have lasting impact for years to come.

8 In concluding his report, the Acting Vice Chancellor moved a formal motion of thanks to Prof Buckley for her significant contribution to the University, which was acknowledged by the acclamation of members.

2021/5/98

Academic Board resolved:

to receive the Acting Vice Chancellor's Report.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 5 – EDUCATION FUTURES: TRANSFORMING LEARNING, TRANSFORMING LIVES

9 The Executive Dean, Prof Shane Dawson, Dean of Programs (Education), Assoc Prof Victoria Whittington, Dean of Programs (College), Prof Sharron King, Interim Dean of Research, Assoc Prof Maurizio Costabile, and General Manager, Ms Caroline Batty gave a special presentation of Education Futures. The main points from the presentation were:

9.1 The UniSA Education Futures Academic Unit had a long history in primary and later secondary education dating back to the Training School for Teachers established in 1876 and the Adelaide College of Advanced Education which was formed in 1973. Early childhood education from birth to 5 years could be traced back to the Kindergarten Training College founded in 1907 and the Adelaide Kindergarten Teachers College established in 1967. Today UniSA Education Futures connected to all fields of education and teaching, arts and languages. Education Futures produced graduates ready to step into the classroom – whether as early childhood, primary or secondary teachers. Education and teaching degrees included: Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours), Bachelor of Secondary Education (Honours), Graduate Certificate in Education (Catholic Education) (Islamic Education) (Digital Learning), Master of Education, Master of Teaching (TESOL) (Early Childhood) (Primary) (Secondary), as well as the Graduate Diploma in Education (Islamic Education) (Digital Learning), and Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy. Also developing tomorrow's professionals was UniSA College, which provided a range of alternative entry programs, opening the doors for more pathways into tertiary study. Enabling pathways included: 7 Diploma programs, the Undergraduate Certificate program, the Aboriginal Pathway Program and Foundation Studies programs with 1600 students enrolled.

9.2 UniSA education degrees were rated Number 1 in South Australia for Education and in the World Top 150 in Education. In addition, UniSA Education Futures was ranked Number 1 for graduate careers in South Australia with 90 per cent of graduates in employment. Education Futures also conducted powerful research in partnership with academia and industry. The Academic Unit had three research centres: Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning, the

Centre for Research in Educational and Social Inclusion and the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education. The 2018 ERA ranked Education at or above world standard. In 2019 Education Futures had 4.5 per cent of publications in the top 1 per cent, QI: 28 per cent and NCI: 2.28. The Academic Unit currently had 113 higher degree by research (HDR) students enrolled in Doctor of Education (EdD) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs. Education Futures had over 50 partners ranging from local partner engagements with the South Australian Government's Department for Education and Child Development through to international partnerships with companies such as Boeing and Samsung. Professional experience placements were an important component of 13 courses offered involving 50 different placement types, 700 host sites for placements and 3500 individual placements sourced per annum. Education Futures had a total of 176 staff including: 113 academic staff, 5 professors, 58 teaching academics and 57 professional staff located at City West, Magill, Mawson Lakes, Whyalla, Mount Gambier, Ceduna and Port Lincoln. The Academic Unit Plan was a work in progress involving an iterative development process between July and December 2020 leading to an initial draft, a revised draft shared with Academic Unit Board for discussion and feedback from staff and students in March 2021, before the final plan was prepared in September 2021. Education Futures was working closely with FMU on campus consolidation, and in the process of finishing the Government Quality Initial Teacher Education Review.

2021/5/99

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report on UniSA Education Futures.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 6 – JOB READY GRADUATE PACKAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

- 10 The Director: Student and Academic Services, Mr Richard Irons, the Deputy Director: Academic Services, Ms Tania Kanellos, and the Manager Campus Central, Mr Paul Williams, gave a presentation on the Job Ready Graduate Package which would redesign the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding clusters and Commonwealth contribution amounts to the University, and change the way grants would be paid to the University for Commonwealth Supported students. The Job Ready Graduates (JRG) legislation which also targeted low completion rates would negatively impact those who failed more than 50 per cent or more of their courses through loss of Commonwealth assistance and would be applied to all Commonwealth Supported students from 1 January 2022. A small working group had been formed to flesh out a university-wide response, and looked at the existing Academic Review process, which was overdue for a major review, and would involve amendments to the 2022 Assessment Policies and Procedures Manual (APPM) normally considered at the October meeting of Academic Board. To give UniSA students their best chance for success Academic Review needed to be re-imagined and a high level of support would need to be employed as early as possible. Indeed, students at risk needed targeted support from Notification 1. Proposed changes included: Academic Review to be renamed 'Academic Progress'; Notification 3 and 'Counselling' to be replaced with Support Level 1 and 2, and Progress Review; 'low completion' and Preclusion to be rebadged as 'Progress Review'; adding a 50 per cent fail rate within a review period criterion for monitoring Academic progress; increased review periods; and proactive, rather than reactive, monitoring, and tiered support.
- 11 Members welcomed the proposed shift to new Academic Review criteria and early intervention and support processes for all UniSA students in response to the JRG legislation. A discussion followed which touched on a range of issues associated with the University's response to JRG including:

- 11.1 Academic Review as one element of dealing with JRG legislation.
- 11.2 Conflicting sets of rules for domestic and international students.
- 11.3 Internal transfer of students between programs.
- 11.3 Case management of students.
- 11.4 The use of the Incomplete notation.
- 11.5 Conversion to fee paying.
- 11.6 Enrolment policy changes.
- 11.7 Fees and loans.

2021/5/100

Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report on Managing Academic Progress and the JRG Legislation.

Moved: Prof Vicki Waye (from the Chair)

CARRIED

ITEM 7 – MATTERS FROM ACADEMIC STRATEGY, STANDARDS AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (ASSQC) 5/2021

7.1 UNISA BUSINESS

7.1.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – BACHELOR OF ACCOUNTING (DBACC) VIA OUA (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/101

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Bachelor of Accounting (DBACC) via OUA from OUA Study Period 3, 2021.

7.1.2 NEW PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP, PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MANAGEMENT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/102

Academic Board resolved:

to approve the introduction of the Graduate Certificate in Leadership and the withdrawal of the Graduate Certificate in Management from Study Period 2, 2022.

7.1.3 GRAND ECOLE CREDIT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/103 Academic Board resolved:

to approve an exemption to the entry requirements for the Master of Management and the International Master of Business Administration for students from Audencia Business School undertaking a Grande Ecole program, France.

7.2 UNISA ALLIED HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

7.2.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – BACHELOR OF HUMAN MOVEMENT, BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/104 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Bachelor of Human Movement, Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills) from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.3 UNISA CLINICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

7.3.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NURSING (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/105 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amendment to the entry requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (ICNG) with effect from Study Period 1, 2022.

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

2021/5/106 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amendment to the entry requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing with effect from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.4 UNISA CREATIVE

7.4.1 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – BACHELOR OF ART AND DESIGN (HONOURS) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/107 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amendment to the Bachelor of Art and Design with effect from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.5 UNISA STEM

7.5.1 PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL – MASTER OF SURVEYING (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/108 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the withdrawal of the Master of Surveying in Study Period 1, 2022.

7.5.2 PROGRAM AMENDMENT – MASTER OF ENGINEERING (CIVIL AND INFRASTRUCTURE) & (WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/109 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the amendment to the Master of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure) & (Water Resources Management) with effect from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.5.3 NEW PROGRAM – MASTER OF PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM AMENDMENT – MASTER OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT (IPMa0, GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/110 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new replacement program, Master of Project and Program Management, and the amended entry requirements to the suite of postgraduate Program Management programs, effective from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.5.4 NEW PROGRAM – MASTER OF ENGINEERING (CYBER ENGINEERING AND TELECOMUNICATIONS) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/111 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new specialisation Master of Engineering (Cyber Engineering and Telecommunications), effective from Study Period 1, 2022.

7.5.5 CREDIT EXCEPTION – GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT) 7 (ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT) (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/112 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the exception to the A-13 Recognition of Prior Learning Policy for the DGIL Graduate Diploma in Information Management program to: award 18 units of internal credit, following successful completion of the DGIL Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Specialisation) program, towards enrolment in the second specialisation plan, enabling the student to receive two Graduate Diplomas on completion of 54 units of study.

ITEM 8 – MATTERS FROM RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (RLC) 5/2021

8.1 MASTERS BY RESEARCH AND PATHWAYS INTO RESEARCH DEGREES

- 12 The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Prof Susan Hillier, introduced a briefing paper which summarised the Masters by Research (MRes) cohort at UniSA and presented questions for discussion about the Masters; and Honours pathways into research degrees, including the merits of each, at the University. The briefing paper had been prepared by the former Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof Pat Buckley, also examined MRes enrolments and completions on a state level and new analyses providing greater detail with respect to candidate demographics, as well as the nature of the research and the links to industry partners. Prof Hillier, former Dean of Research in the Division of Health Sciences and presently of UniSA Allied Health and Human Performance, drew Academic Board's attention to the merits of their experience in abolishing standalone Honours in Health Sciences in favour of the Master of Research (Health Sciences) in 2018, which had led to a four-fold increase in the numbers of MRes enrolments from 2018 to 2020. Members welcomed the Health Sciences initiative and were broadly supportive of the move. Nevertheless, while members believed that the MRes were a very important option, they were seen to be a valuable alternative, but not a complete replacement for standalone Honours.

2021/5/113 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report on Masters and Honours pathways into higher degrees by research.

Moved: Prof Susan Hillier Seconded: Prof Allan Evans

CARRIED

8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION: EVALUATION OF 'BETA' TEST FOR THE NEW RESEARCH DEGREE SYSTEM (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/114 Academic Board resolved:

to note the recommendations for action: Evaluation of 'Beta' Test for New Research Degree System.

8.3 PROJECT BASED RESEARCH DEGREES AT UNISA (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/115 Academic Board resolved:

to note the update on implementation of the project-based research degrees admissions process at the University.

ITEM 9 - BUSINESS

9.1 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- 13 The Chairperson, Prof Vicki Waye, sought Academic Board endorsement of proposed changes to the University's approach to ensuring academic freedom and freedom of speech. The changes were intended to make alignment with the Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in Australian Higher Education Providers more explicit. This followed the *French Review* in 2019 into freedom of speech in Australian universities recommending that all universities consider adopting a Model Code, and the 2020 *Walker Review* of the Adoption of the Model Code assessing that UniSA's approach to academic freedom and freedom of speech was not aligned with the principles of the Model Code. Subsequent discussions with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) had confirmed the Minister's intent that all Australian universities aligned with the Model Code. In response, the University had reviewed its approach to strengthen alignment with the Model Code by revisions to the University's Policy Framework, minor amendments to the UniSA *Statement on Academic Freedom*, as well as a new Freedom of Speech Policy and procedure.
- 14 Academic Board endorsed the proposed changes to the University's approach to ensuring academic freedom and freedom of speech and resolved to forward the proposed measures to Council for formal approval.

2021/5/116 **Academic Board resolved:**

1. **To endorse the proposed amendments to the University's Policy Framework, the UniSA *Statement on Academic Freedom*, and the new Freedom of Speech Policy and procedure;**
2. **To recommend that these measures be approved by University Council.**

Moved: Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis Seconded: Mr Brendan Hughes

CARRIED

9.2 NEW GRANT- UNISA ACCELERATE GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/117 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the new UniSA Accelerate Grant.

9.3 NEW GRANT – UNITING COUNTRY SA SOCIAL WORK PLACEMENT GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/118 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the new Uniting Country SA Social Work Placement Grant.

9.4 NEW GRANT – UNITING COUNTRY SA SOCIAL WORK STUDY SUPPORT GRANT (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/119 **Academic Board resolved:**

to approve the new Uniting Country SA Social Work Study Support Grant.

**9.5 NEW GRANT – ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS UNISA GRANT
(UNSTARRED ITEM)**

2021/5/120 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Royal SA Society of Arts UniSA Grant.

9.6 NEW SCHOLARSHIP – BIGGINS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (UNSTARRED ITEM)

2021/5/121 Academic Board resolved:

to approve the new Biggins Family Scholarship.

ITEM 10 – FOR INFORMATION

**10.1 UPDATE ON INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL
COMPETENCY AND HELP CREATE A VIBRANT & VISIBLE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL
PRESENCE ON CAMPUS (UNSTARRED ITEM).**

2021/5/122 Academic Board resolved:

to receive and note the report.

ITEM 11 – CLOSURE

15 The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.20pm.

ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING

16 The next meeting of Academic Board would be held on Friday, 24 September 2021, at 2.15 pm in Room RR 5-09, Rowland Rees Building, City West Campus. Closing date for papers – Monday, 13 September 2021.

**PETER CARDWELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**