

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and thirty-sixth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 11 November 2009 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Ms Lee Ann Basser, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Dr Andrew Brookes, Professor Tim Brown, Dr Graeme Byrne, Professor Lin Crase, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Geoff Durden, Professor Gerald Farrell, Mr Kent Farrell, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Professor David Finlay, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mr Peter Foreman, Professor Noel Gough, Dr Jim Hammerton, Professor Chris Handley, Dr Linsey Howie, Dr Julie Jackson, Mr Greg Jamieson, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Diane Kirkby, Ms Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Lorraine Ling, Ms Katherine Long-Davidson, Dr James McArdle, Ms Virginia Mansell Lees, Dr Howard Nicholas, Ms Katherine Nix, Dr Jenni Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Professor Roger Parish, Professor Susan Paxton, Professor Vaughan Prain, Professor Belinda Probert, Ms Frances Sheean, Dr Kay Souter, Dr Janna Thompson and Dr David Wilkinson.

SECRETARIAT: Ms Angela Cowburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr Roger Douglas (*vice* Professor Jianfu Chen), Professor Annabelle Duncan, Dr Muyesser Durer, Mr David Ensor, Dr John Goutas (*vice* Dr Terri Joiner), Ms Cham Ha (*vice* Ms Dongping Huang), Ms Marian Obenchain, Professor Peta Tait and Professor Leann Tilley.

PART A: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(i) Membership

The Board noted that at the close of nominations for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of Academic Board for the period February 2010 to February 2012, a single nomination had been received for each position. As a result, Professor Malcolm Rimmer is declared elected to the position of Chair of Academic Board and Professor Simon Crowe is declared elected to the position of Deputy Chair of Academic Board.

The Chair thanked all members whose terms of office would be completed on 31 December 2009 for their attendance and input, in particular the retiring Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, Professor David Finlay.

(ii) Apologies and Attendance

Apologies were received from Professor Jianfu Chen, Professor Raymond Harbridge, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Terri Joiner, Professor Marilyn Lake, Professor Tim Murray, Mr Christopher Palmer, Dr Doug Rogers, Professor John Rosenberg, Professor Annette Street, Professor Hal Swerissen, Dr Glyn Thomas and Dr Brian Usher.

(iii) Approval of Agenda and ordering of Agenda Items

The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.

(iv) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB09/133.

(v) **Matters approved on behalf of Academic Board**

The Board received report AB09/134 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:

- (a) Honorary Awards Committee: Report to Academic Board, as detailed in Attachment A to AB09/134.
- (b) Appointment of Visiting Distinguished Professor: Professor Richard Teese, as detailed in Attachment B to AB09/134.
- (c) Course proposals (major revisions to existing courses):
 - (i) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry), as detailed in Attachment C to AB09/134.
 - (ii) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Nursing (Division 2 Conversion), as detailed in Attachment D to AB09/134.
 - (iii) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Nursing (Internationally Registered Nurses), as detailed in Attachment E to AB09/134.

(vi) **Report of the Vice-Chancellor**

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB09/135, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/vc-reports.html>. The report included information regarding the following matters:

- (a) Report of the Academic Promotions Committee, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment A to AB09/135. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor thanked the Promotions Committee and Dr Julie Carr, Senior Appointments Officer, for their efforts with regard to the smooth implementation of the new promotions processes.
- (b) Academic Accolade – Professor Marilyn Lake was the joint winner in the non fiction category of the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. The Board congratulated Professor Lake.
- (c) Preference Data
- (d) La Trobe Institute of Molecular Sciences
- (e) Strategic and Operational Planning update.
- (f) Policy Seminars. It was noted that the Bill Massy, Emeritus Professor of Education and Business Administration, Stamford University and President of the Jackson Hole Higher Education Group Inc, would present a seminar regarding promoting academic productivity on Friday 20 November.
- (g) Major Events
- (h) Education Investment Fund. It was noted that the University had been unsuccessful in the short listing for the 3rd round of the Education Investment Fund announced the previous day.

PART B: MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

436.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2009 [AB09/131(M)] were confirmed.

436.2 ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION

436.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB09/136 and **resolved** to endorse award of higher degrees and conferring of awards *in absentia* as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

436.2.2 Establishment of prizes

The Board **resolved** to establish formally the following Prize:

Fac. Reg.
Ms D Lynn
Ms K Allitt

- (a) Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: Professor George Russell Memorial Award, as detailed in report AB09/137.

436.2.3 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB09/138 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr John Harris, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (appointment).
- (b) Adjunct Professor: Professor Pieter Degeling, School of Public Health (appointment – three years).
- (c) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Daniel Nicholls, Division of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – three years).
- (d) Adjunct Associate Professor: Tina Ivanov, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – three years).

Snr Appts
Officer, P&C

436.3 STANDING COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC BOARD

436.3.1 Report of Regional Committee: 10 June 2009

The Board received report AB09/139 and noted that the Regional Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Reports from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regions) and Campus Directors.
- Committee terms of reference.
- Development of GAP year program and its feasibility.
- Regional Strategy Launch.
- Regional Operational Plan and Regional Marketing Strategy updates.
- Commonwealth response to Bradley Review.
- Regional input to the White Paper on Teaching and Learning.

436.3.2 Report of Regional Committee: 9 September 2009

The Board received report AB09/140 and noted that the Regional Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Report of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional).
- Reports of the Campus Executive Directors.
- Progress of marketing plan including regional TV ad airing on various channels in regional Victoria.
- Scholarships.
- Regional Operational Plan.

436.3.3 Report of Regional Committee: 14 October 2009

The Board received report AB09/141 and noted that the Regional Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Report from Campus Directors and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional).
- Regional and Faculty Marketing plans.
- Discussions for TAFE partnerships.
- Load projections and meeting load targets.
- Communication database.
- Endorsement of La Trobe Kids' Day on regional campuses.

436.3.4 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 30 October 2009

The Board received report AB09/142 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) *ERA*
The Board noted that the Chair, RGSC, had reported on the appointment of ERA Cluster Chairs and Deputy Chairs, and the setting up of individual Cluster sub-committees.

It was also noted that the Vice-Chancellor had made it clear that significant effort would be put into maximizing La Trobe's research income and application success in the 2010 funding rounds and Associate Deans (Research) would provide a list of all draft applications by the end of December 2009. The Committee decided that teams developing ARC Centre of Excellence proposals would have to submit a brief statement of the nature of the project and the list of CV's relevant to the Expression of Interest to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) before the University would offer central support for the proposal.

(b) *Minutes of Sub-Committees*

The Board noted that the Committee had received the following minutes:

- Animal Ethics Committee: 8 October 2009
- Human Ethics Committee: 12 October 2009
- Higher Degrees Committee (Research): 24 September 2009

The Committee had also received and noted the 2008 Annual Report of the Higher Degrees Committee (Research).

436.4 OTHER MATTERS

436.4.1 Academic Board Induction Program

The Board received and noted report AB09/143, a proposed Academic Board Induction Program. It was noted that an issues paper regarding professionalising the Board, reforms to Committees and policies and annual reporting on academic quality, was provided to the Board in May 2009. The Board had endorsed the development and establishment of an induction program for new Academic Board members.

The Board resolved to **endorse** the proposed Academic Board Induction Program, as detailed in Attachment A to AB09/143.

EO/Chair

The Chair also advised that an Academic Board Self Assessment Survey would be circulated via email to all Academic Board members this afternoon. Members were encouraged to use this opportunity to reflect on their membership and consider ways in which the Board may be improved.

436.4.2 Annual Reports of the Faculties

(a) *Humanities and Social Sciences*

The Board received and noted the Annual Report of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as detailed in report AB09/144.

Ms Katherine Nix requested that it be noted that there were some student concerns regarding the regional review processes and the comments regarding the streamlining of postgraduate study/research in the regions. It was agreed that these issues should be referred to the Dean and Associate Dean (Regions) for their response to the Board at the next meeting.

Dean & Ass
Dean
(Regions),
FHUSS

It was also noted that it should be acknowledged that both the Bendigo and Albury Wodonga campuses were involved in the development of the new cross-faculty University-wide Climate, Sustainability and Society subject. The Chair agreed that all staff involved should be congratulated.

(b) *Science, Technology and Engineering*

The Board received and noted the Annual Report of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, as detailed in report AB09/145.

436.4.3 Surveys Policy, Surveys Procedures, Electronic Survey Software Procedures

The Board received and noted report AB09/146, a proposal from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Quality Enhancement) to introduce a Surveys Policy, Surveys Procedures and Electronic Survey Software Procedures. It was agreed to defer this item pending confirmation that full consultation had been completed.

DVC(R)

436.4.4 Report of the Library Promotions Committee 2009

The Board received confidential tabled report AB09/147, the 2009 Report of the Library Promotions Committee, and **resolved** to endorse that the persons named therein be promoted to Librarian Level B, with effect from 1 January 2010.

The Chair advised that Library promotions processes may be reviewed and brought into line with the new streamlined academic promotions processes, whereby they would no longer require Academic Board approval.

Senior Appts

PART C: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

436.5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

436.5.1 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

The Board received and noted the following minutes of the Faculty Boards:

- (a) Education: 19 March 2009 FOE-FB09-015(M)
- (b) Education: 18 June 2009 FOE-FB09-024(M)

PART D: DISCUSSION

436.6 Australian Qualifications Framework: proposed changes and how they will effect LTU and the Australian higher education sector

Discussion Panel:

- Dr Julie Jackson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Quality Enhancement)
- Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Health Sciences
- Dr David Wilkinson, Associate Dean (International), Faculty of Law and Management

The Board received and noted the AQF Council Consultation Paper – Strengthening the AQF: An Architecture for Australia’s Qualifications, as detailed in report AB09/148, and the University’s response to the Consultation Paper, as detailed in report AB09/149.

Dr Julie Jackson spoke to a presentation which can be accessed on the web at the following link: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-09/Academic%20Board%20Presentation%20Nov%202009.pdf>.

Dr David Wilkinson spoke about how the proposed changes to the AQF could affect eight 1-year 120 credit point Masters programs offered by the Faculty of Law and Management. It was noted that the Faculty may be required to increase the Masters programs to 180 points and run them over 3 x 12 week semesters.

Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice spoke about affects of the proposed changes on the 4 year professional Bachelor/Masters programs that the Faculty of Health Sciences had recently introduced. Options that the Faculty may utilise could include making an argument for educational design; adding a semester to the programs; 3 x 12 week semesters; and a variation of the Melbourne model (ie 3 + 2).

Discussion:

Dr Broadbridge noted that the inclusion of a Graduate Certificate in Level 8 along with the Bachelor Honours had the potential to downgrade the Honours degree. Dr Jackson advised that it did not appear that the AQF Council were intending to attack Honours.

In response to Board members queries about whether a combination of levels (ie Level 8 & 9) could be utilised, Dr Jackson advised that programs could be nested to include a mixture of level 8 and 9 curriculum.

It was noted that the proposal could impact on coursework Doctoral degrees. Dr Jackson advised that the JD was regarded at the same level of a Bachelor degree.

It was queried whether there was an implementation timeframe and Dr Jackson advised that the AQF Council were still reviewing this.

With regard to the issue of Universities being self-accrediting institutions, the Vice-Chancellor advised that Universities would probably cease to be self-accrediting. TEQSA would have the power to withdraw accreditation and federal government funding.

The Chair thanked the Panel members and encouraged Board members to carefully read the descriptors in the AQF Consultation Paper.

The meeting closed at 10.55am

NEXT MEETING: **9.30am**
 Wednesday 17 February 2010
 Council Chamber
 John Scott Meeting House
 Bundoora Campus

CONFIRMED BY CHAIR _____ **DATE** _____