

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and tenth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 13 September 2006 at 9.30am

**PRESENT:** Professor R W Parish (Chair), Professor C Adams, Professor D Altman, Dr S Beeton, Professor M Chanock, Professor H Clarke, Dr L Crase, Professor D de Vaus, Professor G Durden, Professor D Finlay, Mr L Fitzgerald (*vice* Professor G Farrell), Mr R Goddard, Professor E Gowe, Dr T Hogan, Dr L Howie, Dr J Jackson, Professor D Kirkpatrick (Acting Vice-Chancellor), Ms L Lavender, Professor G Leder, Professor L Ling, Dr A McClelland, Dr G Mayer, Dr G Murphy, Dr J Oates, Professor S Paxton, Ms J Porter, Professor M Rimmer, Professor I Robinson, Dr J Russell, Dr M Ryan, Dr M Sandeman, Mr M Shivdasani, Dr K Souter, Mr D Stuchbery, Professor H Swerissen, Dr L Thwaites, Dr D Tillett and Professor E Weigold.

**SECRETARIAT:** Ms A Cowburn

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Professor J Brett, Professor L Cahill, Professor J Carroll, Ms H Carter (*vice* Dr E Martens), Mr R Cook, Ms B Knowles, Professor P Murphy, Dr P Pigram and Professor M Pitts.

**PART A: PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**(i) Apologies and Attendance**

Apologies were received for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Crowe, Professor K Dodd, Professor N Gough, Mr J Griffiths, Professor C Handley, Professor R Harbridge, Professor N Hoogenraad, Ms A Kelly, Ms L Lang, Ms V Mansel Lees, Professor T Murray, Professor V Prain, Mr K Reed, Mr P Richardson, Ms F Sheean, Professor G Stephenson, Professor G Walker and Professor R Walker.

**(ii) Approval of Agenda and ordering of Agenda Items**

The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.

The Board received the following tabled papers:

- AB06/127 *Attachment D*, Report of Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Eastern Health)
- AB06/127 *Attachment E*, Report of Selection Committee: Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- AB06/127 *Attachment F*, Report of Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Quality Improvement Program
- AB06/127 *Attachment G*, Report of Selection Committee: Professor/Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Bayside Health)
- AB06/127 *Attachment H*, Report of Selection Committee: Chair in Sport Management
- AB06/129 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

**(iii) Outstanding Matters**

The Board received and noted report AB06/126.

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

The Board received report AB06/127 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since its last meeting:

- (a) Membership of Committees:
- (i) *Replacement members of Academic Promotions Core Committee and Faculty Panels [11 August & 29 August 2006]*, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/127;
  - (ii) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Quality Improvement Program*, Additional member: Professor Rhonda Nay;
  - (iii) *Selection Committee: Professor/Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Bayside Health)* Additional member: Professor Roger Parish (Chair vice Vice-Chancellor);
  - (iv) *Selection Committee: Chair in Sport Management* Additional member: Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Chair vice Vice-Chancellor);
- (b) Award of Degrees and Diplomas, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/127;
- (c) Establishment of prize:
- (i) Faculty of Law and Management: establishment of Bendigo Bank MBA Scholarships;
- (d) Report of Selection Committees:
- (i) *Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Eastern Health)*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment D to report AB06/127;
  - (ii) *Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment E to report AB06/127;
  - (iii) *Associate Professor, Quality Improvement Program*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment F to report AB06/127;
  - (iv) *Professor/Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Bayside Health)*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment G to report AB06/127; and
  - (v) *Chair in Sport Management*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment H to report AB06/127.

(v) **Report of the Acting Vice-Chancellor**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor reported on a number of matters of current interest.

- (a) The review of the University's regional operations had commenced last week with an Issues Paper and details on the review process on a dedicated website [www.latrobe.edu.au/regional\\_review](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/regional_review). Board members were encouraged to take the opportunity to contribute to the review by written submission.
- (b) The funding to be made available in 2007 from the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund was \$82 million. The Board noted that the calculations this year would be based on the following disciplines:
- Science, Computing, Engineering, Architecture and Agriculture
  - Business, Law and Economics
  - Humanities, Arts and Education
  - Health

There would also be some minor improvements to the performance indicators:

- progress rates would include all undergraduate students (not just first-year students);
- both further full and part-time study would be included as measures of teaching and learning success; and
- all of the indicators would be weighted equally.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor thanked Faculties for their input.

- (c) The Multi Campus Teaching Working Party would run parallel to the regional review. Submissions and suggestions to the Working Party were encouraged.
- (d) A survey of student finances would be conducted by the AVCC in September. The Board noted that the survey was based on a survey produced by La Trobe approximately 5 years ago.
- (e) The Minister had announced that there would be approximately \$500,000 in funding made available around the Bologna Process.
- (f) A Learning and Teaching Week would commence on 20 November 2006.

- (g) A review of the Academic Development Unit would commence in November. The review panel would consist of both external and internal members. Staff were encouraged to contribute to the review by written submission.
- (h) The National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research had been bestowed with a stipend of \$85,000 per annum over the next ten years from the Greek Government and had become the laureate for the Onassis International Prize.

## **PART B: MATTERS FOR APPROVAL**

### **410.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2006 [AB06/129(M)] were confirmed, with the following amendment:

- 409.6 There was general agreement by Board members that the University need to focus on differentiation and on providing something particularly distinctive to *the communities it serves*.

### **410.2 ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

#### **410.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas**

The Board received tabled report AB06/129 and **resolved** to recommend to Council the award of degrees and diplomas as detailed therein.

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#### **410.2.2 Establishment of prizes**

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

- (a) Law and Management: City of Greater Shepparton Prize – Bachelor of Commerce, as detailed in report AB06/130;
- (b) Law and Management: City of Greater Shepparton Prize – Bachelor of Business, as detailed in report AB06/131;
- (c) Health Sciences: School of Human Communication Science Honours Publication Award, as detailed in report AB06/132; and
- (d) Health Sciences: The Annie North Women’s Domestic Violence Service Award, as detailed in report AB06/133.

Fac. Reg.  
Ms S Went  
Ms A Forden

#### **410.2.3 Membership of Committees**

##### *(a) Central Committee on Outside Studies Program*

The Board **resolved** to appoint Professor Judith Brett *vice* Professor Harry Oldmeadow, as a Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences representative on the Central Committee on Outside Studies Program (to October 2007).

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#### **410.2.4 Adjunct Professorial Appointments**

The Board noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointment and **resolved** to report this to Council:

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- (a) Mr Peter Loney: Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law and Management/Director (Training and Related Activities) of the Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre (three year appointment).

#### 410.2.5 2007 Academic Board meeting dates

The Board received report AB06/135 and **resolved** that its meetings in 2007 be held on the following dates:

14 February	8 August
21 March	12 September
9 May	10 October
13 June	14 November

The Board noted that all meetings would commence at 9.30am and would be held in the Council Chamber of the John Scott Meeting House, Bundoora Campus.

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### 410.3 STANDING COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC BOARD

#### 410.3.1 Report of Committee for External Programs: 23 August 2006

The Board received report AB06/136.

##### (a) *Semester Two Enrolments*

The Board noted that the semester two enrolments were “record breaking”, with student commencements increasing by twenty five per cent for the year. It was noted that research commencements had also increased.

##### (b) *Revised ESOS Act*

The Board noted that La Trobe had been awarded a \$50,000 grant by DEST under the National Code Transition Support Program.

It was also noted that the project would assist in developing:

- a list of the steps needed to evaluate current policies and procedures against the revised National Code;
- an audit checklist to facilitate amendment to policies and processes to enable compliance with the revised National Code; and
- policy templates to ensure compliance with the revised National Code in at least the following areas: Standard 5 (overseas students under 18 years of age), Standard 7 (transfer between registered providers), Standard 9 (full-time study and course duration) and Standard 10 (monitoring academic progress and attendance).

##### (c) *NEAS Submission*

The Board noted that the University had applied for NEAS funding (National ELT Accreditation Scheme of Australia) for a project entitled “*Good Practice Project for Offshore Delivery of English Language Teaching*”. The project would look at English language teaching provided through English International Pty Ltd, which teaches English to some 4,000 students in China, and in which La Trobe is a shareholder.

##### (d) *International Network of Universities*

The Board noted that INU had conducted an extremely successful staff and student seminar on ‘Global Citizenship and Peace’ at Hiroshima University from 7 to 10 August 2006. It was noted that students from nearly all INU partners, including staff and students from La Trobe, participated in the seminar and in a UN simulation. Feedback had been excellent.

##### (e) *Agreements of Exchange and Co-operation*

The Board noted that an Agreement of Exchange and Cooperation had recently been established formally with the following institution:

- University of East Anglia, England, UK: proforma application for approval of an international student exchange agreement

(f) *Masterskill College of Nursing and Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

The Board noted that there had been discussions with the Masterskill College of Nursing and Health, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, regarding offering La Trobe University physiotherapy, pharmacy and nursing programs offshore. It was also noted that these programs would be offered completely off shore and that there had been discussion with the Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) regarding quality assurance issues and a paper would be provided to Academic Committee addressing the quality assurance concerns and for approval of the courses.

(g) *South Pacific*

The Board noted that a small group had met to discuss opportunities in the South Pacific. It was agreed that Faculty members should advise Professor Charles Mott if any members of their staff had any interest in the South Pacific.

(h) *New City Campus Update*

The Board noted that the Committee for External Programs had received and noted a press release: “*La Trobe University Awards Contract to Develop New City Campus*”, advising that the project to refurbish and fit out the University’s new city campus building had been awarded to Hooker Cockram Projects Limited.

The Board also noted that the contract completion date was the end of March 2008, plus extensions of time allowed under the contract. It was also noted that the commencement of conventional programs would probably be delayed until second semester; the Language Centre would be able to commence in April or May; and Foundations Studies in June.

#### 409.3.2 Report of Selection and Enrolment Committee: 23 August 2006

The Board received report AB06/137.

(a) *Special Entry Access Scheme*

The Board **resolved** to approve the following adjustments to the numerical aggregate increases within the Special Entry Access Scheme Policy previously approved by Academic Board in November 2004 (min. ref. 396.3.3, AB04/173(M) – 10.11.04):

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- For SEAS Categories 4 (Difficult Family Circumstances), 5 (Disadvantaged Socio-Economic Background), and 10 (Disability or long term medical condition), grant a 5 aggregate point increase for severe disadvantage, 3 for moderate disadvantage, and 1 for slight disadvantage;
- For SEAS Category 2 (Non-English Speaking Background) grant a 4 aggregate point increase for those arriving in Australia in the previous 3 years and a 2 aggregate point increase for those arriving in Australia more than 3 and less than 6 years ago; and
- For SEAS Category 6 (Rural or Isolated Applicants) grant a 5 aggregate point increase for Very Remote postcodes, 3 for Remote and 1 for Moderately Accessible.

It was noted that in making this recommendation the Committee considered data on the increases granted for 2006 selection, as detailed in attachment SEC06/13. It was also noted that the current increments, which were determined without empirical supporting evidence, were making a minor impact on selection decisions. In particular, the Committee felt that in severe cases of educational disadvantage a greater aggregate points increase should be applied.

**410.3.3 Report of Academic Committee: 30 August 2006**

The Board received report AB06/138.

*(b) Discontinuation of Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering courses at Mildura*

The Board noted that the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering had offered places in the first year of the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Viticultural Science and Wine Production, Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Bachelor of Medical Science and the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Science Education in 2006, but were only able to enrol two students.

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to discontinue their undergraduate courses at the Mildura campus in 2007 and beyond.

Fac. Reg.

*(c) Proposal to revise the double degree Bachelor of Physiotherapy/Bachelor of Ergonomics*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the double degree Bachelor of Physiotherapy/Bachelor of Ergonomics, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

*(d) Proposal to revise the double degree Bachelor of Occupational Therapy/Bachelor of Ergonomics Safety and Health*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the double degree Bachelor of Occupational Therapy/Bachelor of Ergonomics Safety and Health, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

*(e) Proposal to introduce a Mental Health major stream to the Bachelor of Nursing*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce a Mental Health major stream to the Bachelor of Nursing, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

*(f) Proposal to rationalise postgraduate courses in the School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2007*

The Board noted that the following Nursing and Midwifery courses would be discontinued in 2007:

- Care Co-ordination
- Clinical Education
- Emergency and Special Care of the Newborn
- Gerontic Nursing
- Neuroscience
- Palliative Care
- Perianaesthetic Care
- Rehabilitation Nursing
- Wound Prevention and Repair

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to rationalise postgraduate courses in the School of Nursing and Midwifery from 2007, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

*(g) Proposal to change the location at which some postgraduate courses in the School of Nursing and Midwifery are offered from 2007*

The Board noted that due to the closure of the Royal Women's Hospital/La Trobe University Clinical School of Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing, it had been necessary to relocate the courses taught on site to either Bundoora Campus or the Mercy Hospital for Women. The courses affected were:

- Graduate Certificate in Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (new location: Bundoora Campus)
- Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing Science in Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (new location: Bundoora Campus);
- Master in Midwifery Science (new location: Mercy Hospital for Women); and
- Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery Science (new location: Mercy Hospital for Women).

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to change the location at which some postgraduate courses in the School of Nursing and Midwifery were offered from 2007, as detailed in Attachment E to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

- (a) *Proposal to introduce a course code for an embedded Honours program in the Bachelor of Physiotherapy*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce a course code for an embedded Honours program (HHPH) in the Bachelor of Physiotherapy, as detailed in Attachment F to report AB06/138.

Fac. Reg.

- (b) *Proposal to introduce a Master of Mobile and Pervasive Computing*

The Board **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to introduce a Master of Mobile and Pervasive Computing (MMPC), as detailed in Attachment F to report AB06/138.

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- (c) *Academic Committee proposed meeting dates 2007*

The Board noted that Academic Committee meetings in 2007 would be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 27 February	Tuesday 28 August
Tuesday 3 April	Tuesday 25 September
Tuesday 22 May	Tuesday 23 October
Tuesday 19 June	Tuesday 20 November
Tuesday 24 July	

It was also noted that all meetings would commence at 2.00pm, except for the final meeting of the year which would commence at 11.00am, and would be held in Meeting Room Two of John Scott Meeting House, Bundoora Campus.

- (d) *Academic Misconduct Review Committee Activity Report 2005*

The Board noted that Academic Committee had received the Academic Misconduct Review Committee Activity Report 2005. It was also noted that the data provided was for the first year the new system had been in operation.

#### 410.4 OTHER MATTERS

##### 410.4.1 La Trobe University Library Annual Report for 2005

The Board received and noted the La Trobe University Library Annual Report for 2005, as detailed in report AB06/139.

#### PART C: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

#### 410.5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

##### 410.5.1 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Health Sciences: 19 July 2006  
(b) Law and Management: 30 May 2006

FHS/FB06/M  
FLM/FB06/03M

**PART D: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

There were no “Questions with Notice” provided.

**PART E: DISCUSSION**

**410.6 RESEARCH: WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR LA TROBE UNIVERISTY TO ACHIEVE A TOP TEN RATING?**

The Board received and noted report AB06/140, a discussion paper titled “*Research: what is required for La Trobe University to achieve a top ten rating?*”

The Chair introduced the Expert Panel who were to lead the discussion:

- Professor Carol Adams, Faculty of Law and Management
- Professor John Carroll, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr Paul Pigram, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering
- Professor Marian Pitts, Faculty of Health Sciences

Some of the issues that were addressed by the Panel included:

- Developing a culture to enhance research quality;
- The role of university goals; research leadership; training; and valuing all aspects of academic work;
- Building research teams;
- Multidisciplinarity;
- Turning research into policy and practice;
- Internationalisation;
- Expansion of postgraduate numbers;
- Benchmarking;
- The La Trobe University precinct;
- Developing areas of research strength (identification of research-strong staff; early career researchers; and researcher profiles);
- Publication benchmarks;
- Staff succession.

Professor Adams discussed the importance of quality to individual and institutional reputation, of communicating goals regarding research to academics and setting Faculty, School and individual targets. It was suggested that promotion and study leave applications should take into account the quality as well as the quantity of research and if a staff members strength lay in teaching rather than research. The Board noted that research leadership was important: senior staff should lead junior staff. It was also suggested that there should be more training for academics in preparing publications.

Professor Pitts discussed why a research team approach was beginning to be required rather than the lone researcher, particularly with the introduction of the RQF. It was noted that research had become increasingly expensive and there was a need for a multi-disciplinary perspective. Professor Pitts advised that there could be seen to be five levels of assessing whether research had made a difference:

1. being paid attention to;
2. being quoted or cited;
3. leading by example or being followed;
4. setting an agenda or legitimising an issue; and
5. being able to demonstrate change caused by research.

Dr Pigram discussed La Trobe University becoming more competitive with the Group of 8 universities. He suggested that researchers should compete outside the organisation, not within and that there was a need for La Trobe University staff to become research entrepreneurs and actively seek out research opportunities. Dr Pigram advised that internationalisation was critical to broaden our horizons and connections. The Board noted that postgraduate numbers needed to be substantially expanded by providing good courses and additional funding of scholarships. La Trobe staff should be advocating the worth of the La Trobe precinct and the significant research activities taking place here.



Professor Carroll reported on the changes that had occurred in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences over the last 18 months to advocate improvement of research performance. The Board noted that 5 areas of research strength within the Faculty had been determined by assembling data regarding individual staff members and their research output. A benchmark of publications had been set across the Faculty. Professor Carroll advised that there had been a rapid transformation in the research culture in the Faculty as a result. Professor Carroll also suggested that a challenge for all Faculties with regard to research was making strategic appointments; with poaching from other universities being encouraged.

The Chair offered to circulate a paper published by the University of Wollongong regarding the research rankings of Australian universities by various benchmarks.

Chair

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) reiterated the importance of improving the University's research culture by increasing team and international collaborations. He advised that the RQF model had still not been finalised.

Board members suggested that the University should do more to enable research active staff members be more effective by:

- providing them with the intellectual and work space in which to do their research;
- providing them with time (less teaching, more research); and
- rewards and incentives.

The Board agreed that expecting all academics to do all aspects of academic work was a difficult issue and that the University must acknowledge and reward the motivation of research active staff by removing barriers to them increasing their research output.

It was noted that new staff members should be provided with more information of the expectations of the University and an accessible central database regarding University research could be useful.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

**NEXT MEETING:**      **9.30am**  
                                 **Wednesday 11 October 2006**  
                                 **Council Chamber**  
                                 **John Scott Meeting House**  
                                 **Bundoora Campus**

**CONFIRMED BY CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_