

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and forty-ninth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Paula Baron, Mr George Bath, Professor Andrew Brennan, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Tim Brown, Mr Bruce Carboon, Professor Lin Crase, Professor Geoff Durden, Mr Neil Fettleing, Professor Paul Fisher, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Elspeth Frew, Professor Noel Gough, Dr Christine Hawkins, Professor Nick Hoogenraad, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Professor Jae Kim, Dr Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Lorraine Ling, Professor Chris Mackie, Dr Sue Martin, Dr Geoffrey Mayer, Professor Brian McGaw, Mr Venkat Narayanan, Dr Howard Nicholas, Mr Matt Oates, Professor Roger Parish, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Kath Ryan, Dr Jennifer Sheed, Dr Kay Souter, Professor Hal Swerissen, Professor Richard Tay, Dr Caroline Walta and Professor Evan Willis.

Secretariat: Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer , Governance Services

In Attendance: Mr Ric Canale (*vice* Professor Angelo), Professor Brian Davey, Professor Peter Dowling, Mr David Ensor, Mr Geoff Payne (*vice* Professor Dewe), Professor Phillip Steele.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Attendance/Apologies</p> <p>The Board welcomed Professor Phillip Steele, who had been appointed on a short term basis as Assistant to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and would be working on a number of activities previously undertaken by Professor Belinda Probert.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Ms Lee Ann Basser, Dr Andrew Brookes, Mr Rick Churchill, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Leigh Drake, Ms Kirsty Duncan, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Terri Joiner, Dr Stephen Kent, Professor Sandy Leggatt, Professor Paul Mather, Professor Tim Murray, Dr Suzanne O’Keefe, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Professor Vaughan Prain, Professor Belinda Probert, Professor Margaret Robertson, Mr Andrew Skewes, Professor David Spencer, Dr John Tebbutt, Dr Pamela Wallace, Dr Julie White, Dr David Wilkinson, and Ms Lily Jade Chung Kim Yueng.</p>	
<p>(ii) Approval of Agenda</p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated, and noted that the recommendations provided in item 4.4 had been withdrawn.</p>	

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB11/73.

(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board noted that there were no matters to report.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB11/74, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/vc-reports-2011/74-VCsReport-June2011.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

It was noted that DEEWR had announced that the number of Commonwealth Supported Places for postgraduate students for 2012 would be fixed at the number enrolled in 2011. The Vice-Chancellor advised that this decision could result in the University being in breach of contract with many of its continuing students and the issue had been elevated with the Department. It was also noted that La Trobe was not the only university for which this could create problems.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

449.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2011 [AB11/71(M)] were confirmed.

449.2 Matters Arising

449.2.1 Professionalising the Board, Reforms to Committees and Policies and Annual Reporting on Academic Quality – May 2009 (min ref. 431.4.1, AB09/64(M))

The Board received and noted report AB11/75, a summary of the decisions made at a Board meeting held on 13 May 2011 and the outcomes or actions arising from those decisions. The Chair spoke to the report.

The following challenges for the future were noted:

- Ensuring that the Board and the Academic Quality Committee were functioning well and within their objectives.
- Communication gap.
- Videoconferencing for regional campus members.

The Board **resolved**:

- to approve the changed reporting requirements of the Honours Year Grants Committee and the Community Awards Committee, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/75.
- to approve the revised Library Committee composition, as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/75.

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449.3 Items for Approval not requiring discussion	
<p>449.3.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas</p> <p>The Board received report AB11/76 and resolved to endorse the award of degrees and diplomas, conferring of awards <i>in absentia</i> and higher degrees, as detailed therein.</p>	AEGTO/ RGSO
<p>449.3.2 Establishment of Prizes</p> <p>The Board resolved to establish the following Prizes:</p> <p>(a) Humanities and Social Sciences: Geoffrey John Blunden Essay Prize in Philosophy [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/77.</p> <p>(b) Humanities and Social Sciences: The Rod Fyffe – Visual Arts Prize, as detailed in report AB11/78.</p> <p>(c) Humanities and Social Sciences: The Rod Fyffe – Graphic Design Prize, as detailed in report AB11/79.</p> <p>(d) Humanities and Social Sciences: Parsons Brinckerhoff Annual Prize for Outstanding Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning Program, as detailed in report AB11/80.</p> <p>(e) Law and Management: GMAA Awards, as detailed in report AB11/81.</p> <p>(f) Law and Management: The Rydges on Bell Award, as detailed in report AB11/82.</p>	Ms D Lynn Ms TNoone Dirs.O&P
<p>449.3.3 Committee Membership</p> <p>(a) <i>Library Promotions Committee</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the updated membership of the Professional Library Promotions Committee, as detailed in AB11/83.</p> <p>(b) <i>Academic Promotions Committee</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the revised membership of the Academic Promotions Committee, as detailed in AB11/84.</p>	EO(LPC) EO(APC)
449.4 Standing Committees of Academic Board	
<p>449.4.1 Report of Honorary Awards Committee: 10 May 2011</p> <p>The Board received report AB11/85 and noted that the Honorary Awards Committee had approved:</p> <p>(a) the 6 nominees listed to be approved as Alumni Award recipients; and</p> <p>(b) a proposed change to the composition of the Distinguished Alumni Awards Selection Committee.</p>	
<p>449.4.2 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 11 May 2011</p> <p>The Board received report AB11/86 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at their inaugural meeting:</p> <p>(a) Terms of reference and membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External governance processes (TEQSA). • IRU Benchmarking Project. • Methods for committee self-review. • University Appeals Committee status for purposes of AQC. 	

- Faculty Reviews.
- (b) Lines of reporting of the AQC.
- (c) Secondment to the Committee
- (d) Monitoring of Policies and Flow of Business.

The Board also noted a list of policies and the order for their consideration by the Academic Quality Committee, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/86.

449.4.3 Report of Education Committee: 25 May 2011

The Board received report AB11/87 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) The arrangements for the ongoing Chairing of the Education Committee.
- (b) Changes to the Student Engagement Committee.
- (c) Teaching and Learning Technologies Procedures.
- (d) Reports from the Programs Committee meetings held on 14 April and 12 May.
- (e) Reports from the Learning, Spaces and Technologies Committee meetings held on 18 April and 13 May.
- (f) Executive Reports on La Trobe's survey outcomes: Australian Graduate Survey and Australasian Survey on Student Engagement (AUSSE).
- (g) Report of the Postgraduate Course Design and Development Work Group.
- (h) Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Procedures.
- (i) Undergraduate Curriculum Design Procedures.
- (j) Subject Guide Template.
- (k) English Language Entry Requirements Policy and Procedures.

The Board **resolved**:

- (a) to acknowledge the appreciation of the invaluable contributions made by the outgoing Chair, Professor Belinda Probert, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Education) to academic leadership and curriculum reform at La Trobe, as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and as Chair of the Education Committee.
- (b) to approve the revisions to the Student Engagement Committee's name, terms of reference and composition, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/87, and change the original reporting lines of the Committee, from a direct report to Academic Board to a report through the Education Committee.
- (c) to approve the following new courses, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/87:
 - Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Clinical Audiology.
 - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences:
 - Bachelor of Strategic Communication
 - Bachelor of Strategic Communication (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Community Development
 - Bachelor of Community Development (Health Promotion and Planning)
 - Diploma of Arts
 - Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering:
 - Master of Biocomputing and Biometric Security
 - Graduate Diploma of Biocomputing and Biometric Security
 - Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Outdoor Education (Extended)

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- La Trobe Melbourne: Non-award course Advanced IELTS Preparation Course
- (d) to approve the following changes to La Trobe Melbourne courses, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/87:
- all ELICOS programs at La Trobe Melbourne be delivered over 20 hours per week in accordance with the current national accreditation standards;
 - the introduction of a new non-award course Advanced IELTS Preparation Program;
 - the CRICOS-registered duration for EFS to be increased from 25 weeks to 30 weeks; and
 - following approval, La Trobe Melbourne be invited to consult with La Trobe International to complete all accreditation and registration processes.
- (e) to approve the new Teaching and Learning Technologies Procedures, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/87.
- (f) to approve the revisions to the English Language Entry Requirements Policy and Procedures, as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/87.
- (g) to approve the revisions to the Admissions Policy; Admissions Procedures – Application and Selection; Admissions Procedures – Special Entry and Access Schemes; and the introduction of new procedures, Admissions Procedures – Transfer, as detailed in Attachment F to AB11/87.

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449.4.4 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 27 May 2011

The Board received paper AB11/88 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Draft Research Data Retention and Disposal Procedures.
- (b) Research Excellence for La Trobe (Framework).
- (c) Excellence in Research Australia: IRU request for 'frequently asked questions'.
- (d) Recognition of workload under the Workload Management System: report on WMS Steering Committee.
- (e) Review of the Centre for Dialogue: consideration of Review Report.
- (f) Review of the Centre for Bionic Ear and Neurosensory Research: appointment of Review Panel.
- (g) Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
 - Animal Ethics Committee: 14 April 2011.
 - Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee: 17 November 2010.
- (h) Membership of the Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee: appointment of Category I member.
- (i) Membership of the Animal Ethics Committee: appointment of Category C and Category D members.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Chair of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee, requested that the item and recommendations regarding the Review of the Centre for Dialogue be withdrawn from the agenda pending further discussions between the parties involved.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) announced the appointment of Mr Mark Clisby to the position of Director, Research Services and thanked Dr Peter Janssen for acting in the role as well as his own position of Manager, Research Development.

449.5 Other Matters

448.5.1 Proposal to Establish a Faculty Boards Working Party

The Board received and AB11/89 and noted that as a result of rescinding the Faculty Boards Regulation and revision to the Faculties Statute the Board was legislatively required to constitute the University's Faculty Boards.

The Board **resolved** to approve the establishment of a Faculty Boards Working Party, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/89.

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PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

449.6 Items for Information

449.6.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB11/90 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Julian Feller, Musculoskeletal Research Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Bev Phillips, La Trobe Rural Health School, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).

449.6.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: June 2011

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: June 2011 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB11/91.

449.6.3 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Humanities and Social Sciences: 13 October 2010 [LHUSS/FB2010/57M]
- (b) Law and Management: 5 April 2011 [FLM/FB11/02M]

PART D – DISCUSSION

449.7 How Ready is La Trobe University for the post-Bradley Reform Challenges?

The Deputy Chair introduced the Panel.

Discussion Panel:

- (a) Professor John Rosenberg, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- (b) Professor Lorraine Ling, Executive Dean, Faculty of Education.
- (c) Professor Brian McGaw, Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor outlined the key issues regarding the move to a demand driven system created by the Government's target that by 2025, 40% of Australian 25-34 year olds will have a bachelor level or above qualification; the increasing number of students from low SES backgrounds; and the removal of limits on the number of fully-funded CSP places as of 2012.

It was noted that three key items which will differentiate higher education providers in the future were:

- Reputation (perceived)
- Quality
- Student experience

The Board would have a large role to play with regard to quality and the student experience.

The load planning cycle currently required growth of 5% per year. How would LTU meet these targets?

- Take market share from other universities.
- Develop new markets: mature age students, low SES, school leavers with no aspirations regarding higher education.
- Change perceptions – why are students choosing to go elsewhere?
- The University would need to carefully review its courses – new courses and rejuvenated courses attract attention.

The Executive Dean, Faculty of Education, suggested that in order to achieve growth the University needed to be FIT not FAT. Growth should be nuanced. Review areas with a capacity to grow and areas which could be reduced – more agility, more mobility and more fit for purpose.

Potential students expect to be provided with greater choices and as a result product needs to be constantly reviewed. The University needs to provide greater flexibility, with increasing ease of access to multi-disciplinary and cross-Faculty study options and more flexible budget options to allow for this. The University also needs to review how core business is supported, what can be outsourced and what we can internally source (that we are good at). Continuously review, refresh, revitalize and re-badge.

The Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, discussed the impact of the commitment to growth and the targets set by the Government on Science faculties. Some suggestions for growth were:

- Partnerships between universities and industry in an effort to attract job seekers.
- Review and refresh degrees.
- Increased articulation pathways.
- The establishment of a work-ready Bachelor of Science.

It was suggested that there was little possibility of expansion in the Sciences. Science faculties make little profit, their research is costly and there is a decreasing number of school leavers with the required numeracy skills.

Professor McGaw presented some slides in support of his theory and these can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/June-ab-brianmcgaw-pres.pdf>

Discussion:

It was suggested that there be further discussion regarding identifying the barriers to multi-disciplinary or cross-faculty study and providing more flexibility for study at La Trobe.

In response to a suggestion that the University should invest more seriously in marketing to increase its market share, it was noted that there had been a marked increase in spending on marketing and branding and that the University had become more visible as a result.

An example was offered of the Sustainability minor – where a multi-disciplinary approach has been managed with 4 of the 5 faculties involved.

It was also suggested that the University consider offering Associate Degrees and other shorter and more flexible study periods for potential students who may not be prepared to take the traditional approach of spending a block of 3 or 4 years working towards a degree.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

449.8 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 10 August 2011
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Bundoora Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____