

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and forty-seventh meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Ms Lee Ann Bassar, Mr George Bath, Professor Andrew Brennan, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Tim Brown (*Acting Vice-Chancellor*), Mr Bruce Carboon, Professor Lin Crase, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Leigh Drake, Ms Kirsty Duncan, Professor Geoff Durden, Mr Neil Fettle, Mr Peter Foreman, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Elspeth Frew, Professor Noel Gough, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Terri Joiner, Dr Stephen Kent, Professor Jae Kim, Ms Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Dr Norva Lo, Professor Chris Mackie, Dr Sue Martin, Dr Geoffrey Mayer, Professor Brian McGaw, Professor Tim Murray, Mr Venkat Narayanan, Dr Howard Nicholas, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Professor Vaughan Prain, Dr John Russell, Dr Jennifer Sheed, Dr Kay Souter, Professor David Spencer, Professor Annette Street, Professor Hal Swerissen, Professor Richard Tay, Dr John Tebbutt, Dr Pamela Wallace, Dr Caroline Walta, Mr Alexander van de Water, Dr Julie White, Professor Evan Willis and Ms Lily Jade Chung Kim Yuen.

Secretariat: Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer , Governance Services

In Attendance: Professor Christine Bigby, Professor Alan Borowski, Dr Rachel Buchanan, Professor Jim Cameron, Professor Geoff Crouch, Mr David Ensor, Professor Don Harding, Professor Mike Ryan, Professor Gillian Sullivan Mort and Mr Gary Thomas (*vice* Dr Kerry Ferguson).

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Attendance/Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Meeuwis Boelen, Dr Andrew Brookes, Mr Rick Churchill, Dr Jacinta Douglas, Professor Paul Fisher, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Dr Trevor Hogan, Dr Tony Jarvis, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Professor Lorraine Ling, Dr Bill McGuinness, Professor Belinda Probert, Professor John Rosenberg and Dr David Wilkinson.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Dr Rachel Buchanan from the Journalism Program and a number of her students from a subject called Journalism Research who were in attendance and would be reporting on proceedings for an assignment.</p> <p>The Chair also reminded Board members that a call for nominations for the Academic Quality Committee had been circulated with a closing date of Friday 11 March and encouraged members to nominate.</p>	

(ii) Approval of Agenda

The Board **resolved** to approve the Agenda, as circulated.

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB11/23.

(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board received report AB11/24 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:

(a) Rescission of awards, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/24.

(b) Establishment of prizes:

(i) Health Sciences: Holsworth Oral Health Bursary, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/24.

(c) Reappointment of Chair, Higher Degrees Committee (Research):

The continuation of the appointment of Professor Andrew Brennan as Chair, Higher Degrees Committee (Research) until November 2012.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB11/25, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:

<https://intranet.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/vc-reports-2011/25-VCsReportMarch2011.pdf>. The *Acting* Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tim Brown, spoke to the report.

In response to a query regarding the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010, it was noted that any decision to charge a compulsory student services and amenities fee would be made in consultation with student groups. The University was awaiting finalisation of the legislation before any action was taken.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

447.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2011 [AB11/21(M)] were confirmed.

447.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

447.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB11/26 and **resolved** to endorse the award of degrees and diplomas, higher degrees and conferring of awards *in absentia*, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

447.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

(a) Science, Technology and Engineering: North-Vic Construction/La Trobe University Civil Engineering Scholarship Program, as detailed in report

Ms D Lynn
Ms K Allitt
Dir.O&P

AB11/27.

447.2.3 Award of D M Myers Medals - 2010

The Board received report AB11/28 and **resolved** to endorse the award of D M Myers Medals for 2010, as recommended by the Faculties, as follows:

- Education Danica Purcell
- Humanities and Social Sciences Mr Alain Hosking
- Law and Management Mr Lachlan McDonald-Kerr
- Science, Technology and Engineering Mr Steven Keith Begley

Dir,O&P/
AEGTO

447.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

447.3.1 Report of Curriculum Teaching and Learning Committee: 23 February 2011

The Board received report AB11/29 and noted that the Curriculum Teaching and Learning Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Report of the Chair:
 - Compacts agreement.
 - HEPPP Funding Guidelines.
- (b) Postgraduate Course Design and Development Working Group.
- (c) 2010 Review of the Standing Committees of the Curriculum Teaching and Learning Committee.
- (d) Recommendations on amendments to committee name and terms of reference.
- (e) Admissions Policy and Procedures.
- (f) Revisions to double, combined, dual and joint qualifications.
- (g) Report and minutes of the Programs Committee: 10 February 2011.
- (h) Report and minutes of the Learning Spaces and Technologies Committee: 22 November 2010.
- (i) Report and minutes of the Committee for Admissions, Retention and Success for Students: 16 November 2010.
- (j) International Strategic Plan.
- (k) Working party to review disestablishment of CARRS.
- (l) Design for learning update.

It was suggested that the addition of Masters + PhD be made to Allowable Combined Qualifications (p2) in the Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Procedures (Attachment E to AB11/29). The Board **resolved** to refer this query to the Higher Degrees Committee (Research) for their review.

PVC(GR)

The Board **resolved** to endorse:

- (a) the change of name of the Curriculum, Learning and Teaching Committee to the Education Committee and amendment to the terms of reference, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/29;
- (b) the establishment of two working groups on Postgraduate Coursework Programs:
 - Postgraduate Course Design and Development Working Group, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/29;
 - Postgraduate Recruitment and Course Promotion Working Group, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/29;

EO(CTLC)/
DirAS/
EO(FRC)

- (c) the revised Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/29;
- (d) the revised Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Procedures, as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/29, noting that the addition of Masters + PhD to the Allowable Combined Qualifications had been referred to the Higher Degrees Committee (Research) for their review and decision; and
- (e) the closure of the LPA Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting from February 2011, as detailed in Attachment G to AB11/29.

447.3.2 Report of the Honorary Awards Committee: February 2011

The Board received report AB11/30, the Report of the Honorary Awards Committee and **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, that the title of Emeritus Professor be conferred upon Professor Raymond Harbridge.

EO

447.4 Other Matters

447.4.1 Australian Universities Quality Agency quality audit – progress report

The Board received and noted AB11/31, the Australian Universities Quality Agency quality audit progress report.

The Board **resolved** to endorse the Australian Universities Quality Agency quality audit progress report, as detailed in the attachment to AB11/31.

PVC(EP&Q)

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

447.5 Items for Information

447.5.1 Service Quality Survey

The Board received and noted report AB11/32, the services quality survey summary.

447.5.2 Internationalisation Plan

The Board received and noted report AB11/33, the Internationalisation Plan which had been endorsed by the Planning and Resources Committee on 4 February 2011.

A student member noted that there was a statement made in the Plan regarding “accommodation support services developed and available to all students” and noted that Rabelais had published an article on 12 August 2010 regarding the terrible issues surrounding accommodation near La Trobe for international students. It was queried whether the University was taking any action regarding accommodation issues and international students and the outcome of the review was pending.

The *Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor* (Equity & Student Services) advised that, as part of the Functional Review of Academic Services and Student Services, housing issues and access to accommodation for both domestic and international students were being taken into account.

It was suggested that the issue be referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) for further comment at the next meeting.

DVC(I&D)

447.5.3 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB11/34 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Associate Professor: Chris Roche, Institute for Human Security (re-appointment).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr John Silke, Molecular Sciences/Biochemistry (appointment – three years).
- (c) Adjunct Professor: Professor Leann Tilley, Molecular Sciences/Biochemistry (appointment – three years).
- (d) Adjunct Professor: Professor Lyn Littlefield, School of Psychological Science (re-appointment – three years).

447.5.4 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: March 2011

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: March 2011 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB11/35.

447.5.5 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Law and Management: 8 February 2011 [FLM/FB11/01M]

PART D – DISCUSSION

447.6 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

The Deputy Chair introduced the Discussion Panel:

- (a) Professor Tim Brown, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- (b) Professor Tim Murray, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- (c) Professor Brian McGaw, Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

Professor Tim Brown gave a detailed presentation regarding La Trobe's performance in the ERA results and the options being considered to secure and improve the University's performance. The presentation can be accessed at the following link:

<https://intranet.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/TimBrown-Presentation-Mar2011.pdf>

Professor Tim Murray gave an overview of the ERA process from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences viewpoint. The faculties and the University as a whole are going to need to focus on planning and policy regarding staffing and budgets as a result of ERA. One of the main challenges for the University moving into the future would be developing a more research friendly environment to encourage high performance research.

Professor Brian McGaw provided some insight, from the perspective of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, into the implications of ERA. In

an effort to maximise ERA income in the future, the Faculty has recently made a number of senior appointments. Suggestions made to maximise ERA success beyond 2012 included:

- Identifying FOR leadership.
- Capitalising on ERA 2010 results and AgriBio and LIMs to recruit world-class scientists.
- Attracting self-funded Fellows.
- Focusing on and investment in areas of acknowledged international quality.
- Preventing 1 and 2 rated FORs.
- Awarding HDR scholarships on basis of ERA outcomes.
- Increasing awareness of ERA rules and panel approaches to maximise outcomes.

Slides presented by Professor McGaw regarding the FSTE budget and research model can be accessed at the following link:

<https://intranet.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/BrianMcGaw-March2011.pdf>

Discussion:

There were some concerns raised about the management of workloads for successful research staff. It was noted that a new budget model should allow for adjustments to be made in a transparent manner.

Members were concerned by the mixed messages created by ERA, whereby some panels rewarded for quality (ie publication in A and A+ journals) and others rewarded for quantity (ie number of citations). As a result, it was queried whether staff should be encouraged to publish in C journals. The advice provided by the Panel was also mixed, and dependent on which area of strength the researcher was publishing in.

It was noted that staff should have easier access to more explicit publications data. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) advised that there was some work going into linking the University's staff, financial and research databases in an effort to provide more useful data.

It was suggested that the University review an incentive-based approach of awarding staff for being published in A and A+ publications, as occurs at the University of Melbourne.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

447.7 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 11 May 2011
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Bundoora Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____