

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and forty-fourth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 13 October 2010 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Kamran Ahmed, Professor Tom Angelo, Ms Lee Ann Basser, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Tim Brown, Professor Lin Crase, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor Geoff Durden, Professor Jane Farmer, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Elspeth Frew, Professor Noel Gough, Dr Jim Hammerton, Dr Christine Hawkins, Dr Andrew Hughes, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Julie Jackson, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Jae Kim, Ms Liz Lavender, Professor Lorraine Ling, Ms Sarah Malek, Dr James McArdle, Professor Tim Murray, Dr Wan Ng, Dr Jenni Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Dr Andrew Peele, Professor Belinda Probert, Dr John Russell, Mr Andrew Skewes, Dr Kay Souter, Professor David Spencer, Professor Hal Swerissen, Dr Caroline Walta and Professor Evan Willis.

Secretariat: Angela Cowburn, Executive Officer (Academic Board)

In Attendance: Professor Ron Adams, Dr Muyesser Durur, Mr David Ensor, Mr Damian Hoban, Ms Laura Maquignaz, Professor Paul Pigram, Professor Leann Tilley and Ms Diane Villani.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Meeuwis Boelen, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Ms Kirsty Duncan, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Mr Neil Fetting, Professor Paul Fisher, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Ms Cham Thuy Ha, Dr Trevor Hogan, Dr Linsey Howie, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Bill McGuinness, Mr Venkat Narayanan, Professor Susan Paxton, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Professor Vaughan Prain, Professor Margaret Robertson, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Jennifer Sheed, Mr Robert Stephenson, Dr Glyn Thomas, Dr Pamela Wallace and Dr Julie White.</p>	
<p>(ii) Approval of Agenda</p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	
<p>(iii) Outstanding Matters</p> <p>The Board received and noted report AB10/146.</p>	
<p>(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board</p> <p>The Board received report AB10/147 and noted the following matter which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:</p> <p>(a) Conferring of awards <i>in absentia</i>, as detailed in Attachment A to AB10/147.</p>	

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

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB10/148, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:

<https://intranet.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/vc-reports-2010/148-VCreport-October2010.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

The Board noted with sadness the passing of Emeritus Professor Rhys Isaac, an academic staff member from 1971-1999, a distinguished historian and a Pulitzer Prize winner.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

444.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2010 [AB10/144(M)] were confirmed.

444.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

444.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB10/149 and **resolved** to endorse the award of higher degrees, recision of award and conferring of awards *in absentia*, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

444.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

- (a) Health Sciences: The Victorian Dental & Oral Health Therapist Association Inc Award, as detailed in report AB10/150.
- (b) Health Sciences: Dorothy Bell Prize for Health Informatics, as detailed in report AB10/151.
- (c) Health Sciences: Jill Whitfield Prize for Health Data Analysis A, as detailed in report AB10/152.
- (d) Health Sciences: The Clinical Classification Prize [*amendment*], as detailed in report AB10/153.
- (e) Health Sciences: Changes to awards and prizes for the School of Occupational Therapy, as detailed in report AB10/154.
- (f) Law and Management: Law and Medicine Prize, as detailed in report AB10/155.
- (g) Law and Management: Australian Taxation Office Prize for the Best Moot in Income Tax Law, as detailed in report AB10/156.
- (h) Law and Management: Tilde University Press Prize, as detailed in report AB10/157.
- (i) Law and Management: ACCSR Prize, as detailed in report AB10/158.
- (j) Law and Management: AMI Award, as detailed in report AB10/159.
- (k) Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Student Services): Invergowrie Foundation Rural Scholarships for Women, as detailed in AB10/160.

Dirs.O&P
PVC(E&SS)
Ms D Lynn
Ms K Allitt

444.2.3 Academic Board Regulations: amendment

The Board received report AB10/161 and **resolved** to endorse the amendment to the Academic Board Regulations to include the Director, Academic Services, as an ex-officio member.

Legal
Services

444.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

444.3.1 Report of Regional Committee: 8 September 2010

The Board received report AB10/162 and noted that the Regional Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Space requirements on all regional campuses.
- Review of the Regional Advisory Board report.
- Regional Committee revised terms of reference and reporting structure.
- Research capabilities in the regions.
- Regional marketing strategy.

444.3.2 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 24 September 2010

The Board received report AB10/163 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Policy and Procedures.
- (b) Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee Annual Report to the Gene Technology Regulator.
- (c) Open Access Publications Guidelines.
- (d) Compliance for NHMRC Audits.
- (e) Database system for Faculty research planning.
- (f) Coversheet submission processes for funding applications.
- (g) Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
 - Human Ethics Committee: 9 August 2010.
 - Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee: 18 August 2010.
 - Higher Degrees Committee (Research): 2 June 2010 & 14 July 2010.

The *Acting* Chair, Higher Degree (Research) Committee, spoke to the Higher Degree (Research) policies and procedures and requested that Attachment J – *Supervision of Research Students Procedures* – be withdrawn.

With regard to the Intellectual Property policy and procedures, it was queried whether teaching materials could be taken when staff moved from institution to institution. The Vice-Chancellor advised that employment law assumes that work undertaken as part of an employment contract is the property of the employer, but universities usually allow general teaching materials to be transferred or taken.

The Board **resolved** to:

- (a) receive and note the briefing document on the proposed amendments to the Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures, as detailed in Attachment A to AB10/163.
- (b) endorse the Intellectual Property Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment B to AB10/163.

EO

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| (c) endorse the Intellectual Property Procedures, as detailed in Attachment C to AB10/163; | Dir.RS/
L Gioffre |
| (d) receive and note the briefing document on the proposed amendments to the Higher Degree (Research) policies and procedures, as detailed in Attachment D to AB10/163. | |
| (e) endorse the HDR Milestones, Reporting and Confirmation of Candidature Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment E to AB10/163; | EO |
| (f) endorse the Research Progress Panels Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment F to AB10/163; | EO |
| (g) endorse the Research Progress Panels Procedures, as detailed in Attachment G to AB10/163; | Dir.RS/
L Gioffre |
| (h) endorse the Research Student Selection Criteria Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment H to AB10/163; | EO |
| (i) endorse the Supervision of Research Students Policy, for referral to Council, as detailed in Attachment I to AB10/163; and | EO |
| (j) receive and note the Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee from the meeting held on Friday 24 September 2010. | |

444.4 Other Matters

444.4.1 Research Progress Report to Council: 11 October 2010

The Board received and noted the Research Progress Report, as detailed in Attachment A to AB10/164.

An update on negotiations with regards to AgriBio in light of changes to funding was requested. The Vice-Chancellor reported that these funding changes would have a substantial impact on universities and it was clear that there had to be research within the University, not DPI, to receive grant funding. It was noted that the University has commissioned works by consultants for forward business planning in this regard.

444.4.2 Governance and Management Structures

The Board received and noted a report on the changes to the University's governance and management arrangements, as detailed in AB10/165.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

444.5 Items for Information

444.5.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB10/166 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Professor Sarena Seifer, Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Ms Bobbie Carroll, Nursing & Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – three years).
- (c) Adjunct Associate Professor: Libby Kalucy, Australian Institute for Primary Care, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – three years).
- (d) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Pauline McCabe, Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – three years).
- (e) Adjunct Associate Professor: Terri Jackson, Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – three years)

444.5.2 Visiting Professor: School of Economics and Finance

The Board received report AB10/167 and noted that the following Visiting Professor appointment had been made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor:

- Dr In-Cheol Kang, Economics and Finance, Faculty of Law and Management.

444.5.3 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: October 2010

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: October 2010 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB10/168.

444.5.4 Senior Academic Appointments

The Board received report AB10/169 and noted that the following senior academic appointments had recently been made:

- Dr Angela Taft, Principal Research Fellow and Associate Professor, Mother and Child Health Research Centre.

444.5.5 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Humanities and Social Sciences: 14 July 2010 [LHUSS/FB2010/58M]
- (b) Humanities and Social Sciences: 4 August 2010 [LHUSS/FB2010/68M]

PART D – DISCUSSION

444.6 Melbourne Model: 3 years in. Crazy, brave or clever policy?

Discussion Panel:

- (a) Professor Hal Swerissen, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
- (b) Professor Paul Pigram, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering
- (c) Professor Belinda Probert, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Chair introduced the three speakers and gave a brief outline of the Melbourne Model.

Professor Swerissen outlined the Melbourne Model and made the following points:

- 6 undergraduate degrees with breadth and depth.
- Melbourne Model is similar to the Bologna model (3+2+3).
- Efficient and flexible pathways.
- Allows students ease of movement between Australia, Europe and North America.
- Student and demand driven.
- The planned deregulation of the higher education system would require all institutions to review their programs and offerings.
- The University of Melbourne's social capital will mean it will succeed. The model would be problematic for universities that do not have the same demand.
- Other universities are coming up with their own alternative models.

Professor Pigram provided his perspective from a physical sciences background and his belief in the importance of the honours and double degree structures at La Trobe.

- Advances in nanotechnology are currently being made by people with tremendous expertise in particular areas requiring depth of study in addition to breadth.
- Double degree structures at La Trobe allow for depth and breadth.
- From an LTU perspective there are positives in our system:
 - a. Flexible credit point system.
 - b. Diversity.
 - c. Some double degrees (ie Nanotechnology) allow students to specialise very early on.
- The undergraduate Science degree appears to be succeeding at Melbourne, with the flow through to the Masters still to be tested.
- There is some disquiet in the physical sciences with a 3-year undergraduate degree not seen as an appropriate exit point for physics.
- The Melbourne Model has generated efficiencies.
- There is potential among the University of Melbourne student cohort to pay for their Masters level degree.
- The effect of the model on the professions is not entirely clear.

Professor Probert spoke of her experience at the University of Melbourne pre-implementation and made the following points:

- The model is good for school leavers who don't know what they want to specialise in.
- The University of Melbourne is a very big institution where staff were varied in their views and reactions to the proposed Melbourne Model.
- School principals were supportive of the model, hoping that it would ease the pressure on students to make choices early.
- Demand for the new Science undergraduate degree is very high indicating strong interest in the broader curriculum available.
- The University of Melbourne has the capacity to attract key staff and students.
- The implementation of the model was good for the whole sector, creating discussion and forcing other universities to review their offerings.

Discussion:

It was queried whether the Model had been copied by anyone else. Professor Probert advised that there wasn't an expectation that others would do it. After much market research, the major selling point to parents and students was the ability to leave with two qualifications, one at a higher level. Getting a Liberal Arts education was not seen to be a drawback.

It was queried whether anybody thought the Faculty of Arts would benefit from the Model and noted that Arts students wanted choices.

It was noted that the Melbourne Model was not the American (Liberal Arts) model or the Bologna model and that there was more flexibility in the American model. A 3-year degree could not offer the breadth and depth of the American 4-year degree and perhaps Australia should be moving towards that model and keep students longer to teach them more. In response, it was noted that there is currently a debate in America which could result in a move to a shorter (3-year) degree.

It was noted that diversity in higher education was on the rise and that LTU needed to think about how to position itself in this changing educational environment. Different approaches for different disciplines may be required.

It was suggested that diversity of education should be driven by employers who should be engaged to ensure that students receive strong and real practical skills and thorough foundations.

It was agreed that the “brand” accounted for much of the success of the Melbourne Model.

The meeting closed at 10.50am.

443.7 Next Meeting

9.30am

Wednesday 10 November 2010

Council Chamber

John Scott Meeting House

Bundoora Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____