

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**  
**ACADEMIC BOARD**

Minutes of the four hundred and forty-third meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 8 September 2010 at 9.30am.

**Present:** Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Tim Brown, Professor Lin Crase, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Ms Roxan Fabiano, Professor Gerald Farrell, Mr Neil Fetting, Professor Paul Fisher, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Professor Noel Gough, Ms Cham Thuy Ha, Dr Jim Hammerton, Dr Christine Hawkins, Dr Trevor Hogan, Professor Nick Hoogenraad, Dr Andrew Hughes, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Tony Jarvis, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Jae Kim, Professor Lorraine Ling, Dr James McArdle, Professor Brian McGaw, Professor Tim Murray, Dr Wan Ng, Dr Jenni Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Professor Roger Parish, Professor Susan Paxton, Dr Andrwe Peele, Professor Margaret Robertson, Mr Andrew Skewes, Dr Kay Souter, Professor David Spencer, Mr Robert Stephenson, Professor Hal Swerissen, Professor Richard Tay, Dr Pamela Wallace, Dr Julie White, Dr David Wilkinson and Professor Evan Willis.

**Secretariat:** Angela Cowburn, Executive Officer (Academic Board), Governance Policy and Planning Unit

**In Attendance:** Professor Jim Cameron, Mr Bruce Carboon, Professor Isabelle Ellis, Professor Chris Mackie and Ms Marian Obenchain.

**PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>(i) Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Ms Lee Ann Basser, Professor Andrew Brennan, Dr Andrew Brookes, Professor Jianfu Chen, Ms Kirsty Duncan, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Elspeth Frew, Dr Linsey Howie, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Terri Joiner, Professor Marilyn Lake, Ms Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Mr Venkat Narayanan, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Professor Vaughan Prain, Professor Belinda Probert, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Jennifer Sheed and Dr Glyn Thomas.</p>	
<p><b>(ii) Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	
<p><b>(iii) Outstanding Matters</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted report AB10/125.</p>	

**(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board**

The Board received report AB10/126 and noted the following matter which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:

- (a) Conferring of awards *in absentia*, as detailed in Attachment A to AB10/126.

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

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB10/127, 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/VC's-report-Sept2010.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

It was noted that the section on the Federal Election was made largely redundant as a result of the announcement yesterday that Labour would be governing Australia for the next three years.

There were some concerns among postgraduate students regarding the establishment of the new LTU Student Union - an amalgamation of the SRC, LUPA and the LTU Guild Board. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the services currently provided by the SRC and LUPA were available to all students of the University, whether members or not, and would still be available to all students. The role of the student advocate, currently based in the SRC, was also queried. It was noted that it was anticipated that all significant services would continue.

The release of the league tables would occur shortly and it was queried whether a staff member would be charged with the responsibility to review and make recommendations regarding the University's focus. It was noted that new methodology was being used to create the league tables and serious consideration would be given to the data.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that a Structural Adjustment Fund bid for \$50 million (with a University co-contribution of \$16 million) had been submitted. This included an additional building at the Mildura Campus, a Library facility at Shepparton and a new building at Bendigo.

**PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL**

**443.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2010 [AB10/123(M)] were confirmed.

**443.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion**

**443.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas**

The Board received report AB10/128 and **resolved** to endorse the award of higher degrees and conferring of awards *in absentia*, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/  
RGSO

#### 443.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

- (a) Health Sciences: Prize in Advanced Human Physiology (previously The School of Human Biosciences Prize), as detailed in report ABI0/129.

Dir.O&P  
Ms D Lynn  
Ms K Allitt

#### 443.2.3 Membership of Committees

(a) *Professional Library Promotions Committee: annual review of membership*  
The Board **resolved** to endorse the membership of the Professional Library Promotions Committee as nominated by the University Librarian and as detailed in ABI0/130.

EO(PLPC)

#### 443.2.4 Academic Board Regulations: amendment

The Board received report ABI0/131 and **resolved** to endorse the amendment to the Academic Board Regulations to include the new position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability) as an ex-officio member.

Legal  
Services

#### 443.2.5 Meeting Dates 2011

The Board received report ABI0/132 and **resolved** that its meetings in 2011 be held on the following dates:

EO(AB)

9 February	10 August
9 March	14 September
11 May	12 October
8 June	9 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.

### 443.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

#### 443.3.1 Report of Regional Committee: 11 August 2010

The Board received report ABI0/133 and noted that the Regional Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Marketing of Regional campuses.
- School engagement projects.
- Compacts discussion progress including HEPPP funding.
- Regional Committee new terms of reference and reporting structure.

#### 443.3.2 Report of Curriculum Teaching and Learning Committee: 25 August 2010

The Board received report ABI0/134 and noted that the Curriculum Teaching and Learning Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- Approval of international agreements.
- Teaching and Learning Spaces update.
- Review of the Language and Academic Skills update.
- Progress on the Implementation of Moodle.
- Timetabling Software Upgrade.

- A proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the HBNP Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration).
- Revisions to the Course Review Procedures.

(a) *Subject Lifecycle Policy and Procedures*

The Board **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, the following policies, as detailed in Attachment One to AB10/134:

- Subject Lifecycle Policy
- Subject Lifecycle - Subject Design Policy, **subject to** the following amendment:

Responsibility for implementation: addition of “all teaching staff of the subject”.

The Board **resolved** to endorse the following procedures, as detailed in Attachment One to AB10/134:

- Subject Lifecycle - New Subject Approvals Procedures
- Subject Lifecycle - Subject Revision Procedures
- Subject Lifecycle - Subject Review Procedures
- Subject Lifecycle - Subject Suspension and Closure Procedures

(b) *Course approvals*

The Board resolved to endorse the following new courses and significant course revisions:

Faculty of Law and Management:

- LMFA Master of Financial Analysis\*
- LMFAF Master of Financial Analysis (Investment)
- LMFAM Master of Financial Analysis (Financial Risk Management)
- LMFAP Master of Financial Analysis (Financial Planning)
- LMFAI Master of Financial Analysis (Islamic Finance)
- LMFAR Master of Financial Analysis (Research Methods)
- LMFAPA Master of Financial Analysis/Master of Professional Accounting\*
- LMFAIB Master of Financial Analysis/Master of Islamic Banking and Finance\*
- LYFABA Master of Financial Analysis/Master of Business Administration
- LYFAIM Master of Financial Analysis/Master of International Business
- LGCF Graduate Certificate in Finance
- LGDF Graduate Diploma in Finance
- LGCM Graduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management
- LGCP Graduate Certificate in Financial Planning

*\*significant course revisions*

Faculty of Health Sciences:

- Diploma in Health Sciences
- Changes to the HBHS, HBHSB, HZHSB, AZAHS and HZHSID AND the creation of the following new award titles:
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public Health)
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Environmental Health)
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Human Anatomy and Physiology)
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Ergonomics, Safety and Health)
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Rehabilitation Counselling)
- HZPHID Master of Public Health/Master of International Development

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L Gioffre

EO(CTLC)

Faculty of Education:

- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary)
- Bachelor of Outreach and Community Education

- (c) *Teaching and Learning Spaces Policy and Procedures*  
The Board **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, the Teaching and Learning Spaces Policy.

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EO(CTLC)

The Board also **resolved** to endorse the Teaching and Learning Spaces Procedures.

- (d) *2009 Annual Report on Academic Dishonesty*  
The Board received and noted the 2009 Annual Report on Academic Dishonesty, as detailed in Attachment Four to AB10/134. It was noted that the number of academic misconduct allegations at the Bendigo Campus were much lower than any other campus and agreed that the procedures in place at Bendigo should be reviewed and utilised across the University. It was also noted that there was a high rate of academic misconduct allegations with regard to international students.

#### **443.3.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 27 August 2010**

The Board received report AB10/135 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Status of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SRE Staff Survey.
- (b) Submission to the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN).
- (c) Panel membership for review of the Centre for Dialogue and the Centre for Technology Infusion.
- (d) Research Cost Drivers and Research Block Grants 2010.
- (e) Potential Workloads for Human Ethics Committee members.
- (f) Membership of Working Parties for:
  - Research Misconduct Procedures.
  - Research Data Retention and Disposal.
- (g) Dissemination of Research Findings Procedures.
- (h) Digital Thesis Deposit Guidelines.
- (i) Access to Restricted Materials acquired by the Library for Research.
- (j) Proposal for a Postgraduate Development Officer.
- (k) Annual Reports:
  - Institute for Human Security 2009.
  - Centre for Technology Infusion 2009.
- (l) Research functions and accountabilities

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) reported that there had been a 98% participation rate in the Excellence in Research survey and thanked all staff for their input.

The Board **resolved** to:

- (a) endorse the Dissemination of Research Findings procedures, as detailed in Attachment B to AB10/135;
- (b) endorse the Access to Restricted Material acquired by the Library for Research procedures, as detailed in Attachment C to AB10/135;
- (c) endorse the Digital Thesis Deposit Guidelines, as detailed in Attachment D to AB10/135;

Dir.RS/  
L Gioffre

- (d) receive and note the 2009 Annual Report of the Institute of Human Security, as detailed in Attachment E to AB10/135; and
- (e) receive and note the 2009 Annual Report of the Centre for Technology Infusion, as given in Attachment F to AB10/135.

**443.3.4 Report of Honorary Awards Committee: out-of-session**

The Board received report AB10/136 and **resolved** to endorse that a Doctor of Nursing (*honoris causa*) be bestowed upon Ms Pauline Tan.

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**443.4 Other Matters**

**443.4.1 Faculty Reviews: Policy and Procedures**

The Board received report AB10/137 and **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, the Faculty Review Policy, as detailed in Attachment 1.

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The Board also **resolved** to endorse the Faculty Review Procedures, as detailed in Attachment 2, and the generic terms of reference for Faculty Reviews, as detailed in Attachment 3.

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Dir(IPP)

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**443.5 Items for Information**

**443.5.1 Adjunct Appointments**

The Board received report AB10/138 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Clare Gallagher, Regional School of Business, Faculty of Law and Management (appointment).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Ms Genevieve House, Public Health, Faculty of Health (appointment – three years).

**443.5.2 Senior Academic Appointments**

The Board received report AB10/139 and noted that the following senior academic appointments had recently been made:

- Professor Peter O'Meara, Professor of Rural and Regional Paramedicine.
- Dr Marion Milton, Associate Professor (Teacher Education).

**443.5.3 Philippines Australia Studies Centre 2009 Annual Report**

The Board received and noted AB10/140, the Philippines Australia Studies Centre 2009 Annual Report.

**443.5.4 Thesis Eleven Centre for Cultural Sociology Annual Report 2009**

The Board received and noted AB10/141, the *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Cultural Sociology Annual Report 2009.

**443.5.5 La Trobe University Library: Year in Review 2009**

The Board received and noted AB10/142, the La Trobe University Library: Year in Review 2009.

#### 443.5.6 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Humanities and Social Sciences: 31 March 2010 [LHUSS/FB2010/42M]
- (b) Law and Management: 27 April 2010 [FLM/FB10/03M]  
The suspension of the MBA at Bendigo was queried. It was noted that no more commencing students would be taken into the current MBA and that a new MBA would be implemented at Bendigo.
- (c) Science, Technology and Engineering: 15 June 2010 [AB10/143]

### PART D – DISCUSSION

#### 443.6 The God Professor is dead. Should we resurrect them?

##### Discussion Panel:

- (a) Professor Lin Crase, Director, Albury-Wodonga Campus
- (b) Professor Judith Brett, Head, School of Social Sciences
- (c) Professor Carol Adams, Acting Dean, Faculty of Law and Management

Professor Crase reflected on the distribution of decision making power at the University. While it is desirable to have internationally recognised scholars making autonomous decisions, this may not necessarily be realistic. Certain trade-offs are required for higher levels of research which are difficult to facilitate in the current climate. At the moment there is a strong emphasis on low student demand and income constraints which prima facie limit the support that can be offered to independent researchers. That said, unnecessary centralised decision-making can also have deleterious impacts on the capacity to undertake research.

Professor Brett argued that the God Professor in his original form should not be resurrected. God Professors were able to shape departments in their own image and make or break colleagues' careers. The expansion of tertiary education, the entry of women into academic employment and the emphasis on disciplinary innovation undermined the authority of God Professors. God Professors however did have one characteristic of continuing value to the contemporary university: their autonomy which gave them the capacity for critical engagement with the functioning of the university. Many research active academics also have such autonomy from their employing institution based in reputations external to the organisation. It was noted that few academics at La Trobe use this autonomy and reputation to engage critically with the internal governance of the university. External research reputation should be put to better use by the professoriate to engage in debates in the university about its purpose and implementation, for example the recent shifting of decision making and resources away from Schools to Faculties and the Centre.

Professor Adams argued that the self indulgent professor who rarely engages with their colleagues adding limited value when university performance is dependent on developing the careers of many. Leadership requires vision and strategy, consultation and inspiration. Good professors are generous with their time; mentor junior staff; involve them with their work; follow process so that they are seen to be fair, ethical and transparent; and have emotional intelligence. These values should be encouraged and promoted within the professoriate. The feminisation of the professoriate has brought a focus on nurturing, a sense of community, a concern for the development of colleagues and the demise of the God-like Professor.

**Discussion:**

Professors often have more power than they realise, they just don't exercise it.

The current trend towards more centralised decision-making undermines the autonomy of decision-making and research.

There can be an impact made by research "stars". The University should encourage lateral thinkers.

The role of a professor is complicated. If the University wants research "stars" or Nobel Prize winners they should hire research-only staff and be prepared to pay them large amounts of money.

A member of the Bendigo campus issued an open invitation to the professoriate, noting that professors were rarely seen at the regional campuses.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

**443.7 Next Meeting**

9.30am

Wednesday 13 October 2010

Council Chamber

John Scott Meeting House

Bundoora Campus

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_