

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and twenty-fifth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 13 August 2008 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Professor M Rimmer (Chair), Professor T Angelo, Mr L Batchelor, Dr S Beeton, Professor T Brown, Professor J Chen, Dr L Crase, Professor A Dewe, Professor G Durden, Mr D Ensor (*vice* Mr B Goddard), Professor G Farrell, Mr K Farrell, Dr K Ferguson, Professor A Frost, Professor N Gough, Professor C Handley, Professor R Harbridge, Professor N Hoogenraad, Dr J Jackson, Dr B James, Mr G Jamieson, Dr T Jarvis, Dr E Johnson, Professor P Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Ms H King, Dr D Kirkby, Dr A Kokavec, Professor M Lake, Ms L Lavender, Professor L Ling, Dr J McArdle, Ms S Morrisey, Dr E Michael, Professor P Murphy, Dr H Nicholas, Ms K Nix, Dr J Oates, Dr S O'Keefe, Professor R W Parish, Professor V Prain, Dr G Prince, Dr D Rogers, Dr M Ryan, Dr J Sheed, Dr J Sita, Professor D Spencer, Dr P Stacey, Professor H Swerissen, Dr J Thomson, Professor L Tilley, Professor R Wales, Professor R Walker, Professor E Willis and Mr Y Yang.

SECRETARIAT: Ms A Cowburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr B Carboon, Ms S Chard, Professor H Clarke, Professor A Frost, Professor Z Hoque, Ms J Lambert, Professor R La Polla, Mr L Lyell, Dr E Martens, Mr J Molony and Mr G Thomas.

PART A: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(i) Apologies and Attendance

The Chair welcomed the following new members to Academic Board: Professor Tom Angelo, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Curriculum and Academic Planning); Professor Ainslie Dewe, University Librarian; Professor David Spencer, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Law and Management; and Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.

Apologies were received from Professor Carol Adams, Ms Lee Ann Basser, Professor Andrew Brennan, Dr Graeme Byrne, Professor Simon Crowe, Dr Megan Davidson, Professor David de Vaus, Professor Karen Dodd, Professor David Finlay, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mr Peter Foreman, Ms Margarita Frederico, Mr Bob Goddard, Dr Linsey Howie, Dr Russell Hoye, Dr Katherine Legge, Ms Virginia Mansel Lees, Professor Susan Paxton, Mr John Penwill, Professor Belinda Probert, Ms Joanne Rayner, Mr Paul Richardson, Professor Margaret Robertson, Ms Frances Sheean, Dr Kay Souter, Dr David Wilkinson, Professor Peter Wilson and Dr Lynda Yates.

(ii) Approval of Agenda and ordering of Agenda Items

The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.

The Board noted that the following replacement papers had been circulated via email that morning:

- Item 4.3 Report of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 25 July 2008
 - o AB08/83, Attachment 1 – Template for Constitution of a University Research Centre or Institute.
 - o AB08/83, Attachment 2 – Constitution of the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (RCLT).

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB08/72.

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

The Board received report AB08/73 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since its last meeting:

- (a) Conferring of awards *in absentia* and erroneous conferral and rescission, as detailed in Attachment A to AB08/73;
- (b) Establishment of Prizes:
 - (i) Albury-Wodonga Campus: AlburyCity Student Scholarship, as detailed in Attachment B to AB08/73;
 - (ii) Albury-Wodonga Campus: AlburyCity Student Community Leadership Prize, as detailed in Attachment C to AB08/73;
 - (iii) Albury-Wodonga Campus: City of Wodonga “Learning City” Prize [amendment], as detailed in Attachment D to AB08/73;
 - (iv) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: Honours Year Genetics Prize, as detailed in Attachment E to AB08/73;
 - (v) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: Second Year Genetics Prize, as detailed in Attachment F to AB08/73;
 - (vi) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: Bendigo Mathematics Prize[amendment], as detailed in Attachment G to AB08/73; and
 - (vii) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: Bendigo Science Awards and Prizes [amendments], as detailed in Attachment H to AB08/73:
 - o Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) Award
 - o Australian Society for Microbiology Victorian Branch
 - o Intervet Scholarship
 - o Science Staff Award
- (c) Membership of Committees:
 - (i) *Selection Committee: Professor of Media Studies*, as detailed in Attachment I to AB08/73;
 - (ii) *Selection Committee: Professor/Associate Professor of International Development*, as detailed in Attachment J to AB08/73;
 - (iii) *Selection Committee: Professor of Animal Genomics and Animal Health*, as detailed in Attachment K to AB08/73;
 - (iv) *Selection Committee: Professor of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology*, as detailed in Attachment L to AB08/73;
 - (v) *Selection Committee: Professor and Head of School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences*, as detailed in Attachment M to AB08/73;
 - (vi) *Selection Committee: Professor of Chemistry*, as detailed in Attachment N to AB08/73;
 - (vii) *Selection Committee: Professor of Marketing or Human Resource Management*, as detailed in Attachment O to AB08/73;
 - (viii) *Selection Committee: Professor of Law*, as detailed in Attachment P to AB08/73;
 - (ix) *Selection Committee: Associate Dean, Research, and Professor in the Faculty of Law and Management*, as detailed in Attachment Q to AB08/73;
 - (x) *Selection Committee: Professor, Aged Care Research and Policy Development*
Dr Linsey Howie *vice* Professor Hal Swerissen;
 - (xi) *Selection Committee: Professor of Chemistry*
Additional Committee member: Dr Andrew Hughes, School of Molecular Sciences;
 - (xii) *Selection Committee: Professor and Head of School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences*
Dr Peter Stacey *vice* Dr Paul Pigram.
- (d) Establishment/Refilling of Positions:
 - (i) Senior appointments in the Faculty of Law and Management, as detailed in Attachment R to AB08/73:
 - o Associate Dean (Research) and Professor
 - o Chair in Law
 - o Professor of Marketing or Human Resources Management
 - (ii) Senior appointments in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as detailed in Attachment S to AB08/73:
 - o Chair/Associate Professor in International Development
 - o Chair in Media Studies

- (iii) Senior appointments in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, as detailed in Attachment T to AB08/73:
 - o Head, School of Engineering and Mathematical Science
 - o Professor in Plant Cell and Molecular Biology
 - o Professor in Climate Change and Sustainability
 - o Professor in Animal Genomics/Animal Health
- (e) Establishment of Position and Composition of Selection Committees:
 - (i) Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy, as detailed in Attachment U to AB08/73;
- (f) Report of the Honorary Awards Committee, as detailed in Attachment V to AB08/73;
- (g) Report of Selection Committees:
 - (i) Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Special Needs Education, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment W to AB08/73;
 - (ii) Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in Sociology, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment X to AB08/73;
 - (iii) Professor Educational Leadership and Management, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment Y to AB08/73;
 - (iv) Professor of Aged Care Research and Policy Development, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment Z to AB08/73;
- (h) Establishment of Position and Appointment without Advertising:
 - (i) Professor and Executive Director (Science Collaboration), Biosciences Research Centre, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment A1 to AB08/73; and
- (i) Report of Standing Committee on Level E Academics (Promotion to Professor), as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment A2 to AB08/73.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB08/74, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/vc-reports.html>. The report included information regarding the following matters:

- (a) University's financial position
- (b) Review of Higher Education
- (c) Capital developments
- (d) International recruitment
- (e) Faculty activities
- (f) Alumni
- (g) External Activities
- (h) Internal Activities

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the successful applicants for promotion to Level E.

It was queried why the Student Hub was being located in the Thomas Cherry Building. The Vice-Chancellor advised that there were plans to pedestrianise the road between Health Sciences and Science, Technology and Engineering, move the main entrance of the University to Plenty Road and expand student facilities westward from the Agora. The aim was to have better pedestrian movement on the campus and an integrated heart to the university.

It was queried what the future plans were for teaching facilities in the CBD with the decision not to utilise the Argus Building. The Vice-Chancellor advised that if the University required further teaching facilities in the CBD, there were options.

PART B: MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

425.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 [AB08/70(M)] were confirmed, subject to the following amendment:

- o Page 3: amend "Migrant Education Centre" to "Adult Migrant Education Program Research Centre".

EO(AB)

425.2 MATTERS ARISING

425.2.1 Report of the Academic Policy Working Group (Previous reference: 423.6, AB08/56(M) – 14.05.08)

The Board received and noted report AB08/75, a report of the Academic Policy Working Group. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Quality Enhancement) spoke to the report.

The Board noted that at its meeting on 14 May 2008, a resolution had been passed to set up a Working Group to audit academic policies and procedures. The Policy Working Group had met on several occasions and provided a table presenting the set of policies that the Working Group had identified as required by the University, based on analysis against the AUQA risk framework and on good practice elsewhere in the sector. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) had been consulted and provided advice on processes for revising or developing the policies identified in the list. A number of members of the University had been identified to take responsibility for initial consultations and drafting of policies for future consideration by the Academic Board via the relevant sub-committees.

The policy framework could be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/quality/policy-framework.html>.

425.3 ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION

425.3.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received tabled report AB08/76 and **resolved** to endorse the award of degrees and diplomas and award of higher degrees as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

425.3.2 Establishment of prizes

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

Fac. Reg.
Ms D Lynn
Ms K Allitt

- (a) Faculty of Health Sciences: Dean's Honours List [*amendment*], as detailed in report AB08/77; and
- (b) Faculty of Health Sciences: St John of God Health Care Undergraduate Nursing Award, as detailed in report AB08/78.

425.3.3 Membership of Committees

- (a) *Selection Committee: Professor of Chemistry*

The Board **resolved** to approve the appointment of Professor Frances Separovic, University of Melbourne (*vice* Professor Alan Bond) to the Selection Committee: Professor of Chemistry.

Ms H
Panagidis

425.3.4 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB08/79 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

Ms H
Panagidis

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Mr Peter Seidel, School of Law (initial appointment).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Mr Chris Roche, School of Social Sciences (initial appointment).
- (c) Adjunct Professor: Professor Jim McLennan, School of Psychological Science (re-appointment).
- (d) Adjunct Professor: Professor Paul Bartlett, School of Law (initial appointment).
- (e) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Darren Baldwin, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, School of Life Sciences (re-appointment).
- (f) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Gavin Rees, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, School of Life Sciences (re-appointment).
- (g) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Heather Gardner, School of Public Health (initial appointment).

- (h) Honorary Associate: Dr Helen Gigney, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, School of Life Sciences (re-appointment).
- (i) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr James Smith, School of Public Health (initial appointment).

425.3.5 Legal Services Report

The Board received report AB08/80 and **resolved** as follows:

- (a) to amend Regulation 21.5 Masters Degree by Research; and
- (b) to amend Regulation 21.7 Graduate and Postgraduate Certificates.

Dir. LS

425.4 STANDING COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC BOARD

425.4.1 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 30 May 2008

The Board received and noted report AB08/81.

(a) *Review of the Institute for Advanced Study*

The Board noted that the following terms of reference had been adopted for the forthcoming review of the Institute for Advanced Study:

1. Review the academic activities of the Institute and report on whether these are in accord with the stated aims of the Institute.
2. Report on the influence of the Institute on the quantity and quality of research output at the University, and in particular on research publications.
3. Review the projected program of activities for the next 5 years, and comment on its quality, feasibility and the extent to which it is integral to the University.
4. Report on the contribution and effectiveness of the Institute with respect to the climate of research at the University and the enhancement of the profile of the University.
5. Recommend to the Research and Graduate Studies on whether the Institute be permitted to operate for a further period of up to five years, including any recommended changes in the mode of operation and academic objectives.

(b) *Higher Degrees Committee (Research)*

The Board noted the appointment of Dr A Peele to fill the position of representative of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, replacing Professor M Anderson.

(c) *Human Ethics Committee*

The Board noted the nomination of Dr D Fetherstonhaugh to the University Human Ethics Committee as a Category E member (allied health representative) to 31 December 2010.

(d) *Animal Ethics Committee*

The Board noted the appointment of Mr P Hogan as a Category D member (community member) on the Animal Ethics Committee.

425.4.2 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 27 June 2008

The Board received and noted report AB08/82.

(a) *Excellence in Research in Australia*

The Board noted that the Committee had considered a consultation paper and proposed research outlet rankings released by the Australian Research Council. Committee members had expressed concern regarding the assignment of Field of Research codes to journals, and queried whether journals could be assigned more than one code. Members supported the assignment of 6-digit FOR codes for articles rather than journals, noting that the current draft rankings had already labelled some journals as multi-disciplinary. Members supported the view that only publications already included in previous Higher Education Research Data Collections be counted in the ERA exercise. Members were concerned regarding possible English language bias in the journal rankings, as well as possible bias towards journals published in the US.

425.4.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 25 July 2008

The Board received and noted report AB08/83.

(a) *Research Centres Template Constitution*

The Board noted that an amended template constitution had been circulated to Board members that morning.

The Board **resolved** to endorse the template constitution for research centres and institutes, as detailed in revised circulated Attachment 1 to report AB08/83.

Sec. RGSC

(b) *Research Centre for Linguistic Typology Constitution*

The Board noted that an amended constitution for the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology had been circulated to Board members that morning.

The Board **resolved** to endorse the constitution for the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, as detailed in revised circulated Attachment 2 to report AB08/83.

Sec. RGSC

(c) *Australian Institute for Molecular Medicine*

The Board **resolved** to endorse the constitution for the Australian Institute for Molecular Medicine, as detailed in Attachment 3 to report AB08/83.

Sec. RGSC

(d) *Reviews of Research Centres*

The Board noted that reviews of the National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research (Chaired by Professor Andrew Brennan) and the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (Chaired by Professor Susan McDonald) would commence in the near future.

425.4.4 Report of Academic Committee: 17 June 2008

The Board received and noted report AB08/84.

(a) *TAFE articulation*

The Board **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, the new Advanced Standing, Articulation and Credit Transfer Policy, Procedures and Guidelines, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB08/84.

EO(AB)

(b) *Proposal to introduce a Master of Tourism and Master of Tourism (Honours)*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to introduce a Master of Tourism (MTour) and a Master of Tourism (Honours) (MTour(Hons)), as detailed in Attachment B to report AB08/84.

Fac. Reg.

(c) *Proposal to modify Honours Year in Psychology*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to modify the Honours Year in Psychology, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB08/84.

Fac. Reg.

(d) *Proposal to establish a sustainability stream in Electronic Engineering*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to establish a sustainability stream in Electronic Engineering, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB08/84.

Fac. Reg.

(e) *Proposal to amend the programs in Nanotechnology and Physics*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the programs in Nanotechnology and Physics. The Board noted that the background to these changes were detailed in Attachment E to AB08/84. The proposals included:

- revise the course and units in the Bachelor of Nanotechnology/Bachelor of Science, as detailed in Attachment F to AB08/84;
- amend the physics major and service teaching units in the Physics department, as detailed in Attachment G to AB08/84;
- revise the Master of Science in Physical Sciences, as detailed in Attachment H to AB08/84;
- introduce the Master of Nanotechnology (MNanotech), as detailed in Attachment I to AB08/84; and
- introduce a Bachelor of Science (Honours)/Master of Nanotechnology (BSc(Hons)/MNanotech), as detailed in Attachment J to AB08/84.

Fac. Reg.

425.4.4 Report of Academic Committee: 22 July 2008

The Board received and noted report AB08/85.

(a) *Proposal to revise the Bachelor of Information Systems – Bundoora campus*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to revise the Bachelor of Information Systems at the Bundoora Campus, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB08/85.

Fac. Reg.

(b) *Proposal to revise the Bachelor of Agricultural Science*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to revise the Bachelor of Agricultural Science, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB08/85.

Fac. Reg.

(c) *Proposal to restructure the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to restructure the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB08/85.

Fac. Reg.

(d) *Proposal to introduce the Bachelor of Human Services/Master of Social Work and the Bachelor of Human Services/Master of Social Work (Honours)*

The Board **resolved** to endorse a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce the Bachelor of Human Services/Master of Social Work (BHumServ/MSW) and the Bachelor of Human Services/Master of Social Work (Honours) (BHumServ/MSW(Hons)), as detailed in Attachment D to report AB08/85.

Fac. Reg.

425.5 OTHER MATTERS

425.5.1 Visiting Professor: Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering

The Board received and noted report AB08/86, and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had approved the appointment of Professor Xiaoyan Sean Wang as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering from 27 August 2008 to 31 August 2008.

Ms R Mickus

425.5.2 Refugee Support Program at La Trobe University

The Board received report AB08/87 and noted that a Refugee Student Support Program had been established by the Equality and Diversity Centre (formerly known as the Equity and Access Unit) and approved by the Senior Management Committee.

425.5.3 The Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC) 2007 Report

The Board received and noted report AB08/88, the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC) 2007 Report.

425.5.4 2007 Annual Reports of the Faculties

(a) *Health Sciences*

The Board received and noted the 2007 Annual Report of the Faculty of Health Sciences, as detailed in report AB08/89.

425.5.5 La Trobe University Library Annual Report for 2007

The Board received and noted report AB08/90, the La Trobe University Library Annual Report for 2007.

425.5.6 Michael J Osborne Centre – Institute for Advanced Study Annual Report 2007

The Board received and noted report AB08/91, the Michael J Osborne Centre – Institute for Advanced Study Annual Report 2007.

425.5.7 AUQA audit update

The Board received and noted report AB08/92, an update on the AUQA audit of the University scheduled for September 2009. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Quality Enhancement) spoke to the report.

The Board noted that the University would focus on research and research training; internationalisation; and the progress on recommendations and affirmations from the Cycle 1 audit.

It was also noted that a central Academic Quality Steering Group had been established to assist with preparations for the audit and included academic representatives from each faculty, the library, the international office and student representatives.

PART C: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

42.6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

425.6.1 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| (a) Health Sciences: 25 June 2008 | FHS/FB0508/05M |
| (b) Humanities and Social Sciences: 7 May 2008 | LHUSS/FB2008/34M |
| (c) Law and Management: 9 April 2008 | FLM/FB08/02M |
| (d) Science, Technology and Engineering: 6 March 2008 | LST/FB/08/1M |
| (e) Science, Technology and Engineering: 1 May 2008 | LST/FB/08/2M |

PART D: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

There were no "Questions with Notice" provided.

PART E: DISCUSSION

425.7 Social inclusion

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Student Services) and Director, Change Facilitation and Communication highlighted the context of the discussion topic 'Social Inclusion' by discussing the University's Strategic Plan and recent response to the Bradley Review of Higher Education. The Pro Vice-Chancellor introduced the panel of speakers:

- Mr Gary Thomas, Executive Director (Equity and Student Support Services)
- Ms Stephanie Chard, Manager - Equality and Diversity Centre
- Ms Julia Lambert - Student and current President of the Guild

Section 1 - Julia Lambert.

Ms Lambert spoke of her experience of La Trobe University as a prospective applicant and then student. Her story highlighted the impact of making educational choices based upon disadvantage, perceptions, personal and professional goals. Julia's story exemplified the reality of multiple disadvantage faced by many students at La Trobe University.

Section 2 - In a conversation/interview between Stephanie Chard and Julia Lambert issues were raised including; making choices to study at LTU and the benefits of Open Days; the impact of positive interactions of staff; perceptions of learning environments specifically colleges; the reality of scholarships and income support; part-time study to broaden experience through volunteerism;

Section 3 - Mr Gary Thomas posed the questions - How do we increase access to equity groups and how are we dealing with them once they are here? Are our Inclusive practices only about increasing access?

The discussion was opened to board members.

Questions included seeking further detail about Ms Lambert's experience with other students; the impact of the VSU legislation on student experience; raising participation of students in faculty forums; whether formal recognition would encourage student participation.

Ms Simone Morrissey Welfare Officer of the SRC raised issues of student income levels with many students living below the poverty line, increasing pressure to work part time to support their studies and gave examples of the dental service and free income tax preparation as services cut due to changes in VSU legislation.

Board members considered practical approaches to assist student inclusion such as practical work groups based upon postcodes and scheduling a cohort's classes on one day instead of across the week to enable students to fit in work commitments.

It was noted that language barriers for International students coupled with financial disadvantage could further impact on the student experience.

Mr Gary Thomas thanked Academic Board for the opportunity to present and hoped it would promote further discussion.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

NEXT MEETING: 9.30am
Wednesday 10 September 2008
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Bundoora Campus

CONFIRMED BY CHAIR _____ **DATE** _____