



ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and eighty-eighth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Christine Bigby (Chair), Dr Lisa Amir, Dr Julie Andrews, Professor Tony Baker, Ms Emily Bariola, Dr Fiona Bird (*vice* Professor Michael Clarke) Professor Philip Broadbridge, Dr Buly Cardak, Dr Melody Carter (*vice* Dr Bill McGuiness), Dr Susanne Davies, Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mr Marcus Gheller, Dr Deborah Gleeson, Dr Peter Green, Professor Jane Hamilton, Mr Simon Huggard (*vice* Ms Jennifer Peasley), Professor Patrick Keyzer, Dr Catherine Lang, Professor Jane Long, Professor Sue Martin, Dr Carol McKinstry (*via videoconference*), Mrs Susan Nalder (*via videoconference*), Dr Deborah Neal (*via videoconference*), Professor Keith Nugent, Dr Jodi Oakman, Professor Chris Pakes, Professor Robert Pike, Dr Luke Prendergast, Professor Wenny Rahayu, Mr Brent Richie, Dr Julie Rudner, Dr Chris Scanlon, Professor Brian Smith, Mr Kelly Smith, Dr Pamela Snow (*via videoconference*), Professor Richard Speed, Mr Robert Stephenson, Professor Gillian Sullivan Mort, Dr Guinever Threlkeld (*via videoconference*), Dr Chris Van der Poel, Dr Peter Vitartas, Professor Eleanor Wertheim and Professor Lawrie Zion.

Secretariat: Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer, Governance and Policy Services.

In Attendance: Dr MaryAnne Aitken, Professor Nick Bisley, Mr Matt Brett, Dr Richard Frampton, Dr Andrew Harvey, Professor Amanda Kenny (*via videoconference*), Professor Helen Lee, Professor Chris Mackie, Professor Susan McDonald, Mr Leon Morris, Professor Meg Morris, Professor Susan Paxton, Ms Fiona Reed and Professor Mark Rose.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

| | ACTION |
|--|--------|
| <p>(i) Apologies & Membership</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Joanna Barbousas, Professor Paula Baron, Dr Melanie Bish, Dr Naveen Chilamkurti, Professor Michael Clarke, Dr Eva Dakich, Professor Jane Farmer, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Elspeth Frew, Dr David Hoxley, Professor Russell Hoyer, Dr Bernice Mathisen, Dr Bill McGuiness, Dr Nicola McNeil, Dr Sue O’Keefe, Ms Jennifer Peasley, Dr Greg Powell, Dr Bruce Pridham, Professor Graham Schaffer, Dr Martin Steinbauer and Dr Gwenda Tavan.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Chancellor, Adrienne Clarke, to the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>(ii) Approval of Agenda</p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the starring of the following item:<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Report of the Academic Quality Committee: 18 May 2016.• the addition of the following item:<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.3 Potential Expansion of Third Party Arrangements. | |

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB16/51.

(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board received, noted and ratified report AB16/52, a summary of matters which had been approved by the Chair or Deputy Chair on behalf of the Board:

- (a) Award of Degrees and Diplomas and Rescission of Awards, as detailed in Attachment A to AB16/52.
- (b) Honorary Degree Nomination: Associate Professor Nguyen Dinh Luan, as detailed in Attachment B to AB16/52.
- (c) Coursework Committee
A proposal from the College of Science, Health and Engineering, referred by the Coursework Committee (as detailed in Attachment C to AB16/52), for endorsement of the third party teaching arrangements for the delivery of:
 - Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Occupational Therapy Practice (HZHOT).
 - Bachelor of Applied Science and Master Podiatric Practice (HZLLPP).
 - Bachelor of Nursing (HBN).

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB16/53, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following

link: <https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2016/Paper/4/53-VCsReport-June2016.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report and reported the following additional item:

- The University had submitted an Expression of Interest regarding the Berwick Monash University Campus. It was noted that there would be further discussion regarding third party arrangements under item 4.3 of the agenda.

Discussion:

In response to a 'question with notice' that was provided regarding the University's suspension of a staff member and its impact on the University's reputation, the Vice-Chancellor outlined the reasoning behind the decision taken, which mainly had to do with protecting and supporting the Safe Schools Program. Members voiced their concerns regarding the impact this dispute had had on how they felt about issues of academic freedom and freedom of speech, where staff had previously felt supported in voicing their opinions openly they were now fearful, and the increasingly difficult distinctions between private and public persona that the expansion of social media is posing. It was noted that while the protections regarding academic freedom are clearly stated in the Code of Conduct, these could be further clarified. The Vice-Chancellor suggested that a public colloquium be held to discuss these issues in an effort to provide clearer guidelines for staff. It was further noted that the Bold Thinking Series would be holding events in Second Semester regarding social media which may be useful in light of this discussion.

VC

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

488.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 [AB16/49(M)] were confirmed.

488.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

488.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received circulated report AB16/54 and **resolved** to **approve** the conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees as detailed therein.

AEGTO
GRS

488.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

488.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 18 May 2016

The Board **received** and **noted** AB16/55, the report of the Academic Quality Committee from a meeting held on 18 May 2016. The following items were considered:

- (a) Report of the Chair.
- (b) Update on new policy software.
- (c) Academic Quality Committee: revised membership/composition and terms of reference – discussion paper.
- (d) Academic Policy Monitoring and Compliance Report.
- (e) 2015 Reviews of the Admissions Committee – progress against terms of reference.
- (f) Academic Quality Committee: Annual Work Plan/Schedule of Business 2016.

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the revisions to the membership/composition and terms of reference of the Academic Quality Committee, as detailed in Attachment A to AB16/55.

EO(AQC)

The Board **resolved** to **endorse** the recommendation that a higher priority be given, by the University, to the tracking and evaluation of pathways in one system.

VPA
ED(P&G)

The Board also **noted**:

- the Academic Quality Committee’s vote of thanks to Ms LeeAnn Bassar for her greatly valued input over many years.
- the concerns of the Chair, Academic Board, regarding the proliferation of requests for out-of-session approval of documentation that has not been properly reviewed by the Board’s Policy Committees or College Committees.

CollegePVCs
Chairs

488.3.2 Report of Coursework Committee: 19 May 2016

The Board **received** and **noted** AB16/56, the report of the Coursework Committee from a meeting held on 19 May 2016. The following items were considered:

- (a) Chair’s Report.
- (b) Matters Approved Out of Session.

(c) Course Submissions from the Colleges of ASSC and SHE.

The Board **resolved to approve** the following course submissions, as detailed in Attachment 1 to AB16/56:

(a) *Course Revisions*

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce

- Master of Management (Project Management) LMPM
- Master of Management (Entrepreneurship and Innovation) LMMEI
- Master of Management LMMGT
- Graduate Certificate of Archaeology ACA
- Graduate Certificate of Professional Archaeology ACPA
- Graduate Diploma of Professional Archaeology ADPA
- Master of Professional Archaeology AMPA
- Master of Marketing Management LMMT – change of name to Master of Marketing

College of Science, Health and Engineering

- Master of Nanotechnology SMNT
- Master of Science in Physical Sciences PSMSC
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Medical Classification)/Bachelor of Health Information Management HZMCHM
- Bachelor of Human Services and Master of Social Work HZSK, HZSKW, HZSKB, HZSKM
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery HZNMD

(b) *Course Closures*

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce

- Graduate Diploma in Journalism Innovation AGJI
- Graduate Diploma in Strategic Communication AGSC
- Master of Strategic Communication AMSTC
- Master of Journalism and Innovation AMJI

College of Science, Health and Engineering

- Bachelor of Science Honours/Master of Nanotechnology SZHSN
- Bachelor of Information Systems and Master of Health Information Management (Honours) SZISHH
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences/Bachelor of Business SZAGB
- Postgraduate Diploma in Biochemistry SPB
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Physiotherapy Practice (Honours) HZHHP, HZHHPB
- Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Clinical Prosthetics and Orthotics (Honours) HZHHP
- Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Podiatric Practice (Honours) HZHHPD, HZHPPB
- Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing HPDNS
- Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing Science in Child, Family and Community HPCFC
- Master of Nursing HMNSI
- Master of Physiotherapy Practice (Honours) HMHP, HMHPB
- Master of Occupational Therapy Practice (Honours) HMHOT, HMHOTB
- Postgraduate Certificate in Complex Community Care HCCC, HCCCA

(c) *New Courses*

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce

- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of International Relations
- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Computer Science

EO(CC)
GenMgrs
DD SAdmin
APVC(CW)

- Master of Professional Accounting (CPA Australia Extension) and the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting
 - Master of Professional Accounting (Business Analytics)
 - Master of Professional Accounting (Information Systems Management)
 - Bachelor of Business and Master of Management
 - Bachelor of Accounting and Master of Financial Analysis
 - Graduate Certificate in Communication (Journalism Innovation)
 - Graduate Certificate in Communication (Public Relations)
- College of Science, Health and Engineering
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) and Master of Nanotechnology

488.3.3 Report of Education Committee: 25 May 2016

The Board received report AB16/57 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 25 May 2016:

- (a) Chair's Report.
- (b) Report from the University Experience Working Group.
- (c) Revisions to the Academic Progress Review Procedures.
- (d) Revisions to the Hallmark Program.
- (e) Revisions to the VET Assessment Procedures.
- (f) Revisions to the Working with Children Procedures.
- (g) Distinctive Education Project Action Plan.
- (h) Future Ready Learning and Teaching Metrics – SES and AGS.
- (i) Student Experience Survey Report 2015.
- (j) 2015 Student Complaints Report.
- (k) Update on the Digital Learning Strategy.
- (l) Request for Policy Exemption under the Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Policy.

The Board **resolved to approve** the:

- revisions to the Academic Progress Review Procedure, as detailed in Attachment One to AB16/57.
- revisions to the Working with Children Procedure – Students, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB16/57.
- changes to the Hallmark Program, as detailed in Attachment Three to AB16/57, increasing scale of the program by aligning it with the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship.
- changes to the VET Assessment Procedure, as detailed in Attachment Four to AB16/57.

EO(EC)
PolicyAdv
EO(EC)
PolicyAdv
EO(EC)
AD(LFAHub)
PM(LFAHub)
EO(EC)
PolicyAdv

The Board **resolved to endorse** the decision of the Education Committee to grant a waiver for a single requirement specified by the Double, Combined and Join Qualifications Policy for the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of International Relations, as detailed in Attachment Seven to AB16/57.

ED(EC)
GM(CAASC)

The Board also **received and noted** the:

- Distinctive Education Project Action Plan, as detailed in Attachment Five to AB16/57.
- 2015 Student Complaints Report, as detailed in Attachment Six to AB15/57.

EO(EC)

488.4 Other Matters

488.4.1 Universities Australia and Professions Australia: Joint Statement of Principles for Professional Accreditation

The Board **received** and **noted** the Universities Australia and Professions Australia: Joint Statement of Principles for Professional Accreditation, as detailed in report AB16/58.

488.4.2 Emeritus Professor Nomination: Roger Douglas

The Board received report AB16/59 and **resolved to approve** the proposal from the Head, La Trobe Law School, as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Roger Douglas.

EO

488.4.3 Potential Expansion of Third Party Arrangements

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided a brief verbal update regarding quality assurance and the management of Third Party arrangements. In 2015, some deficiencies concerning the University's processes for third party arrangements had come to light and much work had been done to revise the University's Educational Partnerships policy and procedures – which had been approved by both the Board in November 2015 and the Planning and Resources Committee in December 2015 – to ensure that they were more robust. Academic Program Directors and Joint Management Committees are now required for each agreement to manage the quality assurance of teaching staff and programs and a compliance dashboard is being developed by the Planning Unit.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

488.5 Matters for Information

488.5.1 Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: May 2016

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: May 2016 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB16/60.

EO(APC)

PART D – DISCUSSION

488.6 Discussion: The Role of Academic Board

A challenge for Academic Board is to achieve greater relevance to the university community, and more involvement of the professoriate, staff and students generally in its work.

The functions of Academic Board are set out in the Council statute, in summary these are:

- Approving and monitoring the implementation of policy on academic matters.

- Considering and advising the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council on academic matters and any other broad issues which affect the academic excellence of the University.
- Providing a forum to facilitate information flow and debate within the University.

A panel of speakers have been invited to speak from their own perspectives about the role of Academic Board at La Trobe, reflecting on how effectively this role is fulfilled and changes in structure or function that might be necessary to increase its overall contribution to the University.

Panel Members:

- Adrienne Clarke, Chancellor
- Professor Jane Long, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Professor Nick Bisley, Executive Director, La Trobe Asia
- Professor Susan McDonald, Nursing and Midwifery

The Chair introduced the Panel Members and provided a brief outline of the current role of La Trobe University's Academic Board, including membership and powers as set out in the *La Trobe University Act* and *Academic Board Statute*.

Professor Nick Bisley provided his observations regarding the role of Academic Board at La Trobe University, outlining the Board's terms of reference and potential improvements or changes that could be made to improve the Board's perceived value to members and the University as a whole.

The Chancellor provided an overview of the role of Council and how Academic Board intersects with Council. A copy of the presentation slides can be accessed at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2016/Useful%20resources/4/AB-Chancellor-presentation.pdf>.

Due to a lack of time, it was agreed to defer the final two speakers and discussion to the next meeting of Academic Board.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

488.7 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 10 August 2016
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Melbourne Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____