

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and sixtieth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 10 October 2012 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Simon Crowe (Chair), Professor Christine Bigby (Deputy Chair), Dr Pauleen Bennett, Professor Andrew Brennan, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Tim Brown, Mr Bruce Carboon, Dr Peter Cartwright, Mr Rick Churchill, Professor Michael Clarke, Professor Lin Crase, Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Karen Dodd, Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Mr Neil Fettling, Professor Paul Fisher, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Greg Heath, Professor Nick Hoogenraad, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Chris Mackie, Dr Carol McKinstry, Professor Brian McGaw, Professor Meg Morris, Dr Sue O'Keefe, Dr Chris Pakes, Mr Geoff Payne, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Dr Anita Raspovic, Professor Margaret Robertson, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Brian Smith, Dr Damian Spencer, Dr Terrie Waddell, Dr Caroline Walta and Dr Suzanne Zyngier.

Secretariat: Ms Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer, Governance Services.

In Attendance: Dr Ric Canale, Professor Brian Davey, Ms Natalie MacDonald, Professor Susan Paxton, Ms Liz Stinson, Professor Peta Tait and Professor Eleanor Wertheim.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Attendance/Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Ishaq Bhatti, Professor Alan Borowski, Dr Andrew Brookes, Dr Damon Cartledge, Professor Jane Farmer, Professor Noel Gough, Dr Tony Jarvis, Mr Earl Jobling, Dr Anthony Kerr, Dr Liz Lavender, Professor Lorraine Ling, Dr Sue Martin, Dr Bill McGuinness, Professor Tim Murray, Ms Mary-Anne Noone, Dr Warren Paul, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Mrs Joy Spark and Professor Hal Swerissen.</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 AB12/134.</p>	
<p>(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board</p> <p>The Board received report AB12/135 and noted the following matter which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:</p> <p>(a) New Course:</p>	

A proposal from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law to introduce the Bachelor of Business (Sport Development and Management), as detailed in Attachment A to AB12/135.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted paper AB12/136, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:
<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2012/Document%20Library/7/136-VCsReport-October2012.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

Other issues highlighted were:

- Rankings Working Group would be presenting their findings/recommendations to the Board in the New Year.
- Resignation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability): the Board recorded a vote of appreciation to Professor Carol Adams and wished her well in her future new role.
- TAFE transition plans.
- VTAC pop polls.
- *Vale* Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis, former Chancellor.
- Welcome Professor Meg Morris, Head, School of Allied Health.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

460.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2012 [AB12/132(M)] were confirmed.

460.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

460.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB12/137 and **resolved** to endorse the award of degrees and diplomas, conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees and, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

460.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

- Humanities and Social Sciences: The Rhys Isaac Prize, as detailed in report AB12/138.
- Humanities and Social Sciences: The Laurence Gordon Walters Prize, as detailed in report AB12/139

MgrUE
T Noone
Dir.O&P
A&A

460.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

460.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 19 September 2012

The Board received report AB12/140 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 19 September 2012:

- (a) Report of the Chair.
- (b) Revised Faculty Review Policy, Procedures and Terms of Reference.
- (c) Cluster 9 policies for Review and Initial Report: Majors and Minors in Bachelor Degrees Policy, Procedure and Guidelines; Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Policy and Procedures; and Nested Qualifications Policy and Procedures.
- (d) 2013 Meeting Dates.
- (e) Development of a Service Teaching Policy and Procedure.
- (f) Outcome of AQF Review of Graduate Diplomas and Graduate Certificates.

The Board noted that the Faculty Review Procedure had been further amended to add requirements for the Action Plan and the Panel's Review Report to be presented to PRC for approval; and for 12 month and 18 month Progress Reports to be provided to Planning and Resources Committee, Academic Board (via the Academic Quality Committee) and Council for noting.

The Board **resolved** to approve:

- (a) The revised Faculty Review Policy and Procedures, as detailed in Attachment One to AB12/140, **subject to** the above noted amendments.

EO(AQC)/
EO(Policy)

460.3.2 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 21 September 2012

The Board received report AB12/141 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 21 September 2012:

- (a) Research Brokerage Group report - ATRFs.
- (b) Response to NHMRC revised policy on dissemination of research findings.
- (c) PhD with Distinction - withdrawal.
- (d) RGSC Self Review.
- (e) RGSC Annual Report 2011 to Academic Quality Committee.
- (f) ARC Open Access Policy
- (g) Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
 - Higher Degrees Committee Research:
 - Minutes of Meeting 1 August 2012
 - HDC(R) Annual Report 2011
 - HDC(R) Annual Report 2011 to Academic Quality Committee.
 - University Human Ethics Committee:
 - Membership nomination of Lay Woman, Ms Karly O'Donoghue.
 - Minutes of Meeting 13 August 2012.
 - Animal Ethics Committee:
 - AEC Annual Report 2011 to Academic Quality Committee
 - Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee:
 - Minutes of Meeting 15 August 2012.

The Board **resolved** to approve the cessation of the award of PhD with Distinction, effective at the end of 2012, as detailed in Attachment 1 to AB12/141.

EO(RGSC)/
ChairHDC(R)

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to replace the award of PhD with Distinction with some form of recognition for outstanding students (ie. Prizes, medals etc.).

460.3.3 Report of Education Committee: 26 September 2012

The Board received report AB12/142 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 26 September 2012:

- (a) Membership Report.
- (b) Academic Misconduct Statute 2012.
- (c) A Student's Conscientious Objection to Course Requirements Policy and Procedures.
- (d) Completion within Expected Duration of Study Policy and Procedures.
- (e) Student Workload Policy, Procedure and Guidelines.
- (f) 2013 Meeting Dates.
- (g) AQF Communique on Graduate and Vocational Graduate Certificates and Diplomas.
- (h) Graduate Capabilities.
- (i) Faculty Plans for First Year Experience.
- (j) Subjects Delivered Flexibly and the Courses and Subjects with Small Enrolments Policy and Procedure.

The Board noted the contributions of Professor David Spencer to the Academic Board through his participation on the Education Committee and his substantive work as Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Business, Economics and Law.

The Board **resolved** to approve the following policies, procedures and guidelines:

- (a) Conscientious Objections: Policy and Procedures for a Student to Request Adjustment to Study Requirements, as detailed in Attachment One to AB12/142.
- (b) Student Workload Policy, Procedures and Guidelines, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB12/142.
- (c) Completion within Expected Duration of Study Policy (International Students) and Completion within Expected Duration of Study Procedure (International Students), as detailed in Attachment Three to AB12/142.

EO(EC)/
EO (Policy)

The Board also noted the draft Academic Misconduct Statute 2012, as detailed in Attachment Four to AB12/142, which would be further revised and referred directly to Council for approval.

460.4 Other Matters

460.4.1 Head of School Appointment Procedures

The Board received report AB12/143 and **resolved** to approve the Head of School Appointment Procedures.

EO(Policy)/
ED(P&C)

460.4.2 Head of Department Appointment Procedures

The Board received report AB12/144 and **resolved** to approve the Head of Department Appointment Procedures.

EO(Policy)/
ED(P&C)

460.4.3 La Trobe Melbourne Pathway – Academic Tracking Analysis

The Board received and noted report AB12/145, which provided analysis for La Trobe Melbourne foundation studies and diploma graduates from 2010 and 2011 who entered their University course in 2010 to 2012.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

460.5 Items for Information

460.5.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB12/146 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

P&C

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Dr Jennifer McIntosh, Department of Counselling and Psychological Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Professor Liu Guoxiang, China Health Program, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (c) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Jingfu Mao, China Health Program, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (d) Adjunct Associate Professor: Professor Qunhong Wu, China Health Program, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (e) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Kang Li, China Health Program, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (f) Adjunct Professor: Professor Phillip Steele, Office of the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (appointment to 31 December 2013).

460.5.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: October 2012

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: October 2012 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB12/147.

EO(APC)

PART D – DISCUSSION

460.6 Strategic Plan – *Future Ready: La Trobe University Strategic Plan 2013-2017*

Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor, lead a discussion regarding the latest iteration of the Strategic Plan – *Future Ready: La Trobe University Strategic Plan 2013-2017*, as detailed in confidential circulated report AB12/148. He spoke to a presentation which can be accessed at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2012/Discussion%20Items/7/FutureReady-October2012-AB.pdf>.

Discussion:

Research

- More clarity/flexibility required regarding research programs (ie. thematic strengths vs disciplinary strengths, potential/emerging & existing research strengths).
- What will be funded? Existing or emerging strengths.
- The Board noted that initially research focus would be based on disciplinary strengths – with some work reviewing these required early 2013.

- How will the University Research Institutes fit into the plan? A careful planning framework exists with regard to the Research Institutes and the launch of the Plan provides an opportunity to think about the Institutes and their relation to disciplinary areas.
- Take into account that ERA is unlikely to continue under a new government. Disciplinary strengths may no longer be the focus.
- Opportunity to strengthen emerging fields.

Metrics/Implementation

- Plan needs to be 'dynamic' – able to be easily reviewed as new issues arise.
- The Higher Education Standards Panel – likely that academic standards and quality measures will be implemented. Will these be incorporated into the Plan?
- Fluidity – Plan will need to deal with emerging issues as they arise and some thought needs to go into the architecture of the Plan in order to ensure that this can occur without revisiting the entire document/process.
- Learning and Teaching Metrics: domestic *and international* students.
- No sense of employment of students/industry links/professional bodies involvement anywhere in the Plan.

Our Campuses and Communities

- Agreed with the idea of increased autonomy at regional campuses.
- Some concern regarding structure of Plan being correct – character of LTU needs to be realised at ALL campuses.
- TAFE partnerships and community engagement is important at all campuses not just the regional campuses – not currently captured in Plan.

La Trobe Planning Framework

- Looks tacked on.
- Should include some narrative so that all members of the LTU community feel a part of (included in) the Framework.

Teaching and Learning

- The issue of adding numeracy as a potential 'essential' was flagged– should be included in DfL/graduate capabilities. It was noted that the graduate capabilities were currently being reviewed.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

460.7 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 14 November 2012
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Melbourne Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____