



## ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and ninetieth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 9.30am.

**Present:** Professor Christine Bigby (Chair), Professor Paula Baron (Deputy Chair), Dr Lisa Amir (*via videoconference*), Dr Julie Andrews, Professor Tony Baker, Dr Joanna Barbousas, Dr John Bevaqua, Dr Naveen Chilamkurti, Dr Susanne Davies, Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Margarita Frederico, Mr Marcus Gheller, Dr Deborah Gleeson, Dr Daniel Grant, Dr Stephen Kent, Dr Catherine Lang, Professor Roger Lumley, Professor Sue Martin, Professor Tony McGrew (*Acting Vice-Chancellor*), Dr Bill McGuinness, Dr Carol McKinstry, Mrs Susan Nalder, Dr Deborah Neal (*via videoconference*), Dr Sue O'Keefe, Professor Chris Pakes, Ms Jennifer Peasley, Dr Luke Prendergast, Professor Wenny Rahayu, Mr Matthew Riddle (*vice* Professor Betty Leask), Dr Julie Rudner (*via videoconference*), Professor Brian Smith, Professor Pamela Snow, Professor Richard Speed, Dr Damian Spencer, Dr Gwenda Tavan and Dr Peter Vitartas.

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

**In Attendance:** Professor Leeanne Carey, Mr Mike Connell, Mr Mark Engel, Mr Paul Farley, Dr Richard Frampton, Professor Katie Holmes, Professor Helen Lee, Professor Chris Mackie, Mr Leon Morris and Professor Mary Anne Noone.

### DISCUSSION: 'What type of University do we want to have?'

*Panel Members:*

- Professor Katie Holmes (Chair), Director RFA – Transforming Human Society
- Professor Brian Smith, Head, Department of Chemistry and Physics
- Professor Pamela Snow, Head, La Trobe Rural Health School
- Dr Clare Wright, ARC Future Fellow, Archaeology & History
- Mr Mark Engel, Chief Marketing Officer

Professor Holmes introduced each of the panel members and gave a brief outline of the original Mission of the University as per the University Act. Professor Holmes also suggested that as a University we need to be compelling to the market place and to do that we need to be clear about what we are.

Professor Smith spoke about prospective students and his perceptions of why they should come to LTU. He also suggested that staff need to be 'proud' to belong to the University.

Professor Snow provided a regional perspective and advised that the fundamental question in the regions is not 'what type of University do we want to have?', rather 'what is a University?' and 'how does a University education differentiate from TAFE?'

Dr Wright spoke about how writing a chapter for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book next year had turned her mind to this question and advised that the Mission's

statement about La Trobe being a 'University that is bold and progressive' may have a different meaning in 2016 to when it was first written in 1967. She suggested that our physical environment, both our 'brutalist' architecture and our natural environment, could be used to differentiate our position. Dr Wright suggested that LTU could aim to become the first University in Victoria to offer a carbon neutral degree and, in turn, create links with international carbon neutral universities.

Mr Engel spoke about three factors that he thought were important in answering the question:

1. Delivering on the founding Mission is important – the 'disadvantaged' space a motivating factor for many staff to come to La Trobe.
2. Growth.
3. What is the distinctive part of our purpose? What do we want to be known for?

Market research shows that reputation and rankings; and career readiness and employment outcomes are what prospective students find important when deciding where to attend university.

**Discussion:**

- There has been a huge shift in morale and pride at the University in the last decade or so.
- There is a disconnect between the disciplines and the University.
- Morale was seen to be a localised issue – staff have a sense of pride in their disciplines and what they do.
- One staff member noted that they had returned to La Trobe because they had seen the potential for opportunity or growth. The distinctiveness lies in the intersect between teaching & learning, research and partnerships.
- There are more professional staff (management and administrators) than academic staff and perhaps this needs to be addressed.
- Students are crucial.
- It was suggested that LTU should perhaps move boldly in the area of climate change, asylum seekers and marriage equality – social issues.
- Staff feel they have lost their voice.
- Who holds the reputation? Who decides?
- It was agreed that perhaps the change could have been managed better, but that the majority of professional staff were proud to work for LTU and had faith in its purpose and academic strengths.
- The University cannot be all things to all people.
- Social activism could be a drawcard with students.

An edited transcript and full summary of the Panel Discussion will be made available on the Academic Board Unite site:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/default.aspx>.

## PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### ACTION

#### (i) Apologies & Membership

Apologies were received from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Dr Buly Cardak, Professor Amalia Di Iorio, Professor Karen Dodd, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Dr Peter Green, Professor Russell Hoye, Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos, Dr Greg Jamieson, Professor Patrick Keyzer, Dr Jennifer Laing,

Professor Betty Leask, Professor Jane Long, Dr Bernice Mathisen, Dr Nicola McNeil, Professor Keith Nugent, Dr Jodi Oakman, Dr Greg Powell, Mr Brent Richie, Dr Chris Scanlon, Dr Johannes Schuijers, Mr Kelly Smith, Dr Martin Steinbauer, Mr Robert Stephenson, Professor Gillian Sullivan Mort, Dr Guinever Threlkeld, Professor Eleanor Wertheim and Professor Lawrie Zion.

**(ii) Approval of Agenda**

The Board **resolved to approve** the Agenda, as circulated, **subject to** the starring of the following items for discussion:

- (iv) Matters approved on behalf of the Board.
- 3.4 Report of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 19 August 2016
- 4.2 Other matters – coursework approval process and the sequencing of meetings.

**(iii) Outstanding Matters**

The Board received and noted report AB16/79.

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

The Board received, noted and ratified report AB16/80, a summary of matters which had been approved by the Chair or Deputy Chair on behalf of the Board:

- (a) Award of Higher Degrees, as detailed in Attachment A to AB16/80.
- (b) Proposal from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce, endorsed and referred by the Coursework Committee, to revise the Bachelor of Arts, as detailed in Attachment B to AB16/80.

It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the Bachelor of Arts Core Subjects which appeared to add up to 375 Credit Points not 360 Credit Points. It was agreed that this issue should be taken off-line and any revised paperwork provided to Academic Board at the next meeting for ratification.

Chair, CC  
APVC(CW)  
Head, School  
of H&SS

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

The Board received and noted circulated paper AB16/81, 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/6/81-VCsReport-September2016.pdf> . The *Acting* Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

**Discussion:**

It was noted that Dr Bill McGuinness should be acknowledged for his 12 years as Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery.

**PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL**

**490.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2016 [AB16/77(M)] were confirmed.

**490.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion**

**490.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas**

The Board received circulated report AB16/82 and **resolved to approve** the award of degrees and diplomas, conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees, as detailed therein.

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**490.2.2 Academic Board Proposed Meeting Dates 2017**

The Board **resolved to approve** the meeting dates for 2017, as detailed below:  
Meetings of the Academic Board in 2017 will be held at 9.30am on the following dates, all of which fall on a Wednesday:

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8 February	9 August
8 March	13 September
10 May	11 October
14 June	8 November

**490.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board**

**490.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 17 August 2016**

The Board **received** and **noted** AB16/84, the report of the Academic Quality Committee from a meeting held on 17 August 2016. The following items were considered:

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- (a) Report of the Chair.
- (b) Academic Quality Committee: membership.
- (c) Graduate Research Supervision and Candidature Policy and Procedures.
- (d) Academic Policy: Risk Rating and Consequences.
- (e) Academic Policy Monitoring and Compliance Report.

**490.3.2 Report of Coursework Committee: 18 August 2016**

The Board **received** and **noted** AB16/85, the report of the Coursework Committee from a meeting held on 18 August 2016. The following items were considered:

- (a) Chair's Report.
- (b) Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- (c) Course Submissions from the Colleges of ASSC and SHE.
- (d) Update on Review of the Course Lifecycle policy suite.

The Board **resolved to approve**:

- (a) the following course submissions, as detailed in Attachment 1 to AB16/85:  
*Course Revisions*

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce

- Graduate Certificate in International Relations ACIR
- Bachelor of Business LBB, ECBBW, RBB, RBBM, LMBBP
- Bachelor of Business (Accounting) LBBC, LBBCW, LBBCB, LBBCM, LBBPCS
- Bachelor of Business (Event Management) LBBEM
- Bachelor of Business (Human Resources Management) LBBHR
- Bachelor of Business (Marketing) LBBMK

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DD SAdmin  
APVC(CW)

- Bachelor of Business (Sport Management) LBBS
- Bachelor of Business (Tourism & Hospitality) LBBTH
- Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness) LBBAB
- Bachelor of Commerce LBCOM
- Bachelor of Finance LBF
- Bachelor of International Business LBIB
- Bachelor of Accounting LBC
- Bachelor of Accounting and Master of Financial Analysis LBCMFA
- Bachelor of Business and Master of Management LBBMM

College of Science, Health and Engineering

- Bachelor of Information Technology SBIT
- Master of Health Sciences HMHS
- Bachelor of Exercise Science HBES
- Bachelor of Exercise Science and Master of Exercise Physiology HZESPB
- Master of Public Health HMPHC
- Master of Health Administration HMHA
- Master of Public Health and Master of Health Administration HZPHHA
- Master of Physiotherapy Practice HMPYP HMPYPB

- (b) The revisions to the Course Lifecycle – External Accreditation Procedures, as detailed in Attachment 2 to AB16/85.

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The Board also noted that the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) EDEDMS (approved by the Board in July 2016) will commence delivery on the Mildura Campus in 2017 and not in 2018.

**490.3.3 Report of Education Committee: 26 August 2016**

The Board received report AB16/86 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 26 August 2016:

- (a) Acting Chair's Report.
- (b) Report on Central Recording of Student Achievement Against the Capstones.
- (c) 2015 Annual Report on University's Appeals Committee.
- (d) College of SHE Graduate Capabilities.
- (e) Report on the Teachers Scholars Project.

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**490.3.4 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 19 August 2016**

The Board received report AB16/87 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 19 August 2016:

- (a) Research Platforms Update.
- (b) Research Performance Report.
- (c) Research Centre Strategic Framework.
- (d) Sub-Committee Reports:
  - Animal Ethics Committee: 12 May 2016.
  - University Human Ethics Committee: 8 February & 11 April 2016.
  - Board of Graduate Research: 27 July 2016.
  - La Trobe Institutional Biosafety Committee: 23 September & 25 November 2015; 26 February, 23 March & 25 May 2016.

A number of issues were raised regarding the Research Centre Strategic Framework, as detailed in Attachment A to AB16/87. It was noted that many of

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the funding and grant issues raised in this discussion had not been considered during discussion of the Framework at the Research and Graduate Studies meeting. It was also suggested that the document was still in circulation for feedback and the policy and procedures associated with the framework were in preparation and would be presented for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

The Board **resolved** to not approve the Research Centre Strategic Framework given the concerns raised and to reconsider the Framework and associated policy and procedure at the next meeting.

#### 490.4 Other Matters

##### 490.4.1 Student Related Policy and Procedures

The Board received report AB16/88 and **resolved to endorse**, for referral to Council, the:

- Alcohol and Drugs Student Policy.
- Alcohol and Drugs Procedure (Students).

The Board also received report AB16/89 and **resolved to endorse**, for referral to Council, the:

- Student Behaviours Policy.
- Responding to Violence Procedure (Students).
- Discrimination, Harrassment, Bullying, Vilification and Victimisation Procedure.

##### 490.4.2 Coursework approvals process and the sequencing of meetings

The Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Coursework) from the College of SHE raised a perceived issue with the timing of Coursework Committee meetings and the amount of course approvals/revisions required in the near future and suggested that an additional Academic Board meeting should be held in December and meeting calendars be reviewed to ensure business runs through in an efficient manner.

It was noted that the current practice of the Coursework Committee thoroughly scrutinising the paperwork and the Academic Board delegating its authority to the Chair to sign off on course approvals out-of-session ensured that business was not held up during the months when the Board did not meet. Concerns were raised that this process does not allow for proper checks and balances.

The Chair advised that a review of the course approval process was currently underway and suggested that a formal paper on these issues be provided to the next meeting of Academic Board.

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**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**490.5 Matters for Information**

**490.5.1 Report of the Academic Promotions Committee:  
August 2016**

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: August 2016 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB16/90.

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The meeting closed at 11.00am.

**490.6 Next Meeting**

9.30am  
Wednesday 12 October 2016  
Council Chamber  
John Scott Meeting House  
Melbourne Campus

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

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