

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and fifty-seventh meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 13 June 2012 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Simon Crowe (Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Dr Pauleen Bennett, Professor Alan Borowski, Professor Andrew Brennan, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Dr Andrew Brookes, Mr Bruce Carboon, Dr Peter Cartwright, Mr Rick Churchill, Professor Michael Clarke, Professor Lin Crase, Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Mr Neil Fettleing, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mr Peter Foreman, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Mark Harris, Professor Nick Hoogenraad, Dr Julie Jackson, Mr Earl Jobling, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Anthony Kerr, Dr Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Dr Norva Yeuk-Sze Lo, Professor Chris Mackie, Dr Sue Martin, Dr Geoffrey Mayer, Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Bill McGuinness, Professor Tim Murray, Dr Anita Raspovic, Dr Alison Ravenscroft, Professor Margaret Robertson, Dr Kath Ryan, Dr Brian Smith, Dr Kay Souter, Mrs Joy Spark, Dr Damian Spencer, Professor David Spencer, Professor Hal Swerissen, Dr Gwenda Tavan, Dr Terrie Waddell, Dr David Wilkinson and Professor Evan Willis.

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

In Attendance: Professor David Bradley, Dr Ric Canale, Professor Brian Davey, Professor Geoffrey Durden, Dr Claire Macken, Professor Norie Neumark, Professor Susan Paxton, Professor Malcolm Rimmer, Dr Christopher Scanlon, Professor Jack Singh, Professor Phillip Steele, Professor Gillian Sullivan Mort, Professor Peta Tait and Professor Peter Wilson.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Attendance/Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Paula Baron, Dr Ishaq Bhatti, Professor Christine Bigby, Professor Tim Brown, Dr Damon Cartledge, Professor Jane Farmer, Professor Paul Fisher, Dr Tony Jarvis, Professor Lorraine Ling, Dr Marion Milton, Ms Mary Anne Noone, Dr Chris Pakes, Dr Warren Paul, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Professor John Rosenberg, Mr Andrew Skewes, Dr Caroline Walta and Dr Suzanne Zyngier.</p> <p>The Chair noted that this was Dr David Wilkinson's last meeting before retirement and thanked him for his 25 years of membership and contribution to the Board.</p>	
<p>(ii) Approval of Agenda</p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB12/82.

(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board received report AB12/83 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:

(a) Award of Degrees and Diplomas, as detailed in Attachment A to AB12/83.

(b) Establishment of Prizes:

(i) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law: Strategem Financial Group Prize, as detailed in Attachment B to AB12/83.

(ii) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: The Nancy Iacono Psychology Prize, as detailed in Attachment C to AB12/83.

(c) Major Course Revision:

A proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering for a suite of major revisions, as detailed in Attachment D to AB12/83:

- SWASID Bachelor of Agricultural Science/Bachelor of International Development.
- SWASB Bachelor of Agricultural Science/Bachelor of Business.
- SVAS Bachelor of Agricultural Science – changes to course duration as a result of credit point conversions, course name change, addition of Honours year and change of delivery arrangements.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted paper AB12/84, 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/4/84-VC%27sReportJune2012.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

Other issues highlighted were:

- Congratulations to Dr Liz Johnson on receiving an *Office for Learning and Teaching National Teaching Fellowship*.
- News article in The Australian Higher Education supplement regarding the budget challenges facing the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Concerns were raised about the scale of changes reported; risk of job losses; adverse impacts on academic reputation, capacity and quality; research; and the impacts on the regional mission.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

457.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2012 [AB12/80(M)] were confirmed.

457.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

457.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB12/85 and **resolved** to endorse the conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees and, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

457.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

- (a) Education: The Derek Toomey Prize for Education, as detailed in report AB12/86.
- (b) Health Sciences: The Alfred Group – Janet Sloane Rehabilitation Award [*amendment*], as detailed in report AB12/87.

MgrUE
T Noone
Dir.O&P
A&A

457.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

457.3.1 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 18 May 2012

The Board received report AB12/88 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 18 May 2012:

- (a) Federal budget announcement.
- (b) Draft Strategic Plan.
- (c) ERA Report.
- (d) Self review of RGSC.
- (e) Research submission to the Review of Department of Computer Science & Computer Engineering/Department of Mathematics & Statistics.
- (f) Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
 - Higher Degrees Committee Research, Minutes of Meeting – 4 April 2012.
 - University Human Ethics Committee, Minutes of Meeting – 16 April 2012.
 - University Human Ethics Committee, Annual Report 2011.
 - Animal Ethics Committee, Minutes of Meetings – 8 March 2012, 5 April 2012.
 - Animal Ethics Committee, Annual Report 2011.
- (g) Reports from Members of Faculty Research Committees:
 - Centre for Dialogue Annual Report 2011.
 - Centre for Sport and Social Impact Annual Report 2011.
 - ARCSHS Annual Report 2011.
 - MCHRC Annual Report 2011.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research) spoke to the ERA 2012 report from Research and Graduate Studies Committee, as detailed in the attachment to AB12/88, and thanked all staff who had prepared submissions.

457.3.2 Report of Education Committee: 23 May 2012

The Board received report AB12/89 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 23 May 2012:

- (a) Revisions to the English Language Entry Requirements policy and procedures.
- (b) Subject Learning Guide Resubmission.
- (c) Revisions to the Nested Qualifications policy and procedures.
- (d) Revisions to the Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications policy.
- (e) Revisions to the Admissions – Special Entry procedures.
- (f) Report of the Learning Spaces and Technologies Committee held on 20 February 2012.

- (g) Report of the Programs Committee held on 10 May 2012.
- (h) Service Teaching.
- (i) The role of ALLU in embedding development of academic literacies and/or graduate capabilities into discipline subject curricula.
- (j) Transnational Education Policy.

The Board **resolved** to approve:

- (a) The Subject Learning Guide templates and implementation plan, as detailed in Attachment One to AB12/89.

- (b) New Courses, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB12/89:

Faculty of Health Sciences

- HMMH Master of Mental Health and exit points at Graduate Certificate and Postgraduate levels.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- AMSC Master of Strategic Communication, including the nested awards of Graduate Diploma in Strategic Communication and Graduate Certificate in Strategic Communication, **subject to** final approval of the Business Case and Cost Calculator by CALPS.

- (c) Significant Course Revisions, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB12/89:

Faculty of Health Sciences

- HMAT Master of Art Therapy.
- Suite of Master of Nursing courses to create the single Master of Nursing (Clinical Speciality):
 - Master of Nursing Generic.
 - Master of Nursing (Research Methods).
 - Master of Nursing Science.
 - Master of Nursing (Acute Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Breast Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Cancer/Palliative Care)
 - Master of Nursing (Cardiac Care)
 - Master of Nursing (Critical Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Emergency Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Intensive Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Neonatal Intensive Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Perianaesthetic Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Perioperative Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Renal Care).
 - Master of Nursing (Spinal Cord Injury).
 - Master of Nursing (Urology & Continence).
 - Master of Nursing Sc (Child, Family & Community).

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- ABCA Bachelor of Creative Arts.
- ABMS Bachelor of Media Studies.

- (d) Major Course Revisions, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB12/89:

Faculty of Health Sciences

- HMCP Master of Counselling Psychology.

- (e) Course Closures, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB12/89:

Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

- SHIS Bachelor of Information Systems (Honours), effective from 1 January 2013.
- SBBCB Bachelor of Biotechnology and Cell Biology, effective from 1 January 2013.

EO(EC)/
DirAS/
DirO&P

EO(EC)/
DirAS/
DirO&P

EO(EC)/
DirAS/
DirO&P

EO(EC)/
DirAS/
DirO&P

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- AMIBIR Master of Business/Master of International Relations, effective from 1 January 2013.
- Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing, effective from 1 January 2013.
- Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing, effective from 1 January 2013.

Faculty of Health Sciences

- RBPH Bachelor of Public Health, effective from 31 December 2012.
- GDAT Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy, effective from 31 December 2012.

- (f) Revisions to the Admissions – Special Entry and Access Schemes Procedures, as detailed in Attachment Three to AB12/89.
- (g) Revisions to the Nested Qualifications Policy and Procedures, as detailed in Attachment Four to AB12/89.
- (h) Revisions to the English Language Entry Requirements Policy, Procedures and Schedules, as detailed in Attachment Five to AB12/89.
- (i) Changes to the composition of the Learning Spaces and Technologies Committee to add the Director, Academic Services.

EO(EC)/
EO(Policy)
EO(EC)/
EO(Policy)
EO(EC)/
EO(Policy)
EO(EC)

457.4 Other Matters

457.4.1 Professors of Practice

The Board received report AB12/90 and noted the following advice from People and Culture regarding the Professor/Associate Professor of Professional Practice Procedures, which had been approved in principle by the Board at the February 2012 meeting:

- The NTEU was consulted about this proposal in July and August 2011 and the draft policy and procedures documents were provided to the NTEU in October 2011. The NTEU were invited to provide a response to the proposal and no formal feedback had been received by People and Culture.
- The fixed-term employment category “Recent Professional Practice” (LTU Collective Agreement 2009, Part B, 16.2(d)) is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the appointment of Professors/Associate Professors of Professional Practice.
- The term of appointment under LTUCA 16.2(d) is for a fixed period not exceeding two years. Therefore the term of appointment in the procedural documents for Professors/Associate Professors of Professional Practice will need to be amended from 3 years to 2 years. No other amendments to the procedural documents are required.

The Board **resolved** to approve the amendment to the Professors/Associate Professors of Professional Practice – Appointment Procedures, as detailed in the Attachment to AB12/90.

J Carr/
EO(Policy)

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

457.5 Items for Information

457.5.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB12/91 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

P&C

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Professor Olga Rossi, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Professor: Professor Willy Sarlet, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (c) Adjunct Professor: Professor Demeter Krupka, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years)
- (d) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Gavin Rees, MDFRC (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (e) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Darren Baldwin, MDFRC (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (f) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Darryl Nielsen, MDFRC (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (g) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Rick Stoffels, MDFRC (re-appointment – 3 years).

457.5.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: June 2012

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: June 2012 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB12/92.

EO(APC)

457.5.3 Senior Academic Appointments

The Board received report AB12/93 and noted that the following senior academic appointments had recently been made:

P&C

- Professor Meg Morris, Head, School of Allied Health.
- Professor Lynne Jansen, Head, Department of Paramedicine.
- Professor Susan McDonald, Head, Department of Midwifery.
- Professor Nicholas Taylor, Allied Health.

457.5.4 Minutes of the Library Committee: 16 April 2012

The Board received and noted LIB12/11(M), the minutes of the Library Committee from a meeting held on 16 April 2012.

457.5.5 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Business, Economics and Law: 24 April 2012 (FBEL/FB12/04M).

PART D – DISCUSSION

457.6 *...and the last shall be the first: Can La Trobe benefit from the late move to a more flexible learning environment?*

The Chair introduced the Discussion Panel:

- (a) Dr Claire Macken, Director, Flexible and Online Learning Development
- (b) Dr Christopher Scanlon, Senior Lecturer, Communication Arts and Critical Enquiry
- (c) Dr Amanda Kenny, La Trobe Rural Health School – *it was noted that Dr Kenny was unwell and a late apology.*

Dr Macken and Dr Scanlon spoke to a presentation which can be accessed at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2012/Discussion%20Items/4/FlexibleLearning.pdf>.

Dr Macken agreed that La Trobe could benefit from a late move to a more flexible learning environment:

- La Trobe could be an innovative late mover.
- Flexible learning comes in many forms, not just on-line.
- Provision of different modes of learning required.
- Technological innovations could benefit La Trobe.
- Learning at *and* beyond campus.
- Anywhere, anytime learning.
- Personalised and engaging learning.
- La Trobe cannot afford to be left behind.
- Face-to-face learning still required.

Dr Scanlon also agreed that the University could benefit from a late move to a more flexible learning environment and spoke about two main areas where the University was not performing in this area: cultural and structural.

- “Computer says no” culture among some staff.
- Students may be bypassing La Trobe for more flexible options elsewhere.
- LTU currently lacks structures and resources to support staff in flexible delivery options. Example: Knowledge Division Teams at Deakin – a team of 9 to support each faculty in the production process for on-line subjects/courses.
- ICT server/capacity constraints.
- Lack of flexibility at La Trobe.
- Workload Management System seen as an impediment to flexibility and innovation.
- Staff need to be appropriately supported.
- Flexible delivery is not a cost cutting option.

Discussion:

Increased collaboration between staff, departments and faculties is required to encourage more flexible/online learning.

Learning should be interactive – collaborative effort between staff and students.

More attention could be paid to Summer and Winter schools and block mode as a low cost, student demand driven way of offering courses.

It was noted that the University needed ICT to have a robust enterprise systems structure, but that staff could use external subscription services. Staff should be provided with information about the services available.

There are pockets of innovation around La Trobe – these need to be tapped into.

On-line delivery can be expensive and time consuming and needs to be funded appropriately.

Support and infrastructure must be resourced for facilitation of innovative flexible delivery modes. The University needs to commit these appropriately if there is to be more flexible provision of courses.

Regional campuses could be better utilised for block mode teaching.

University endorsed templates/examples/models for use by the whole of the University should be available to staff. Should be no need to reinvent the wheel.

A late move to a more flexible learning environment would be expensive and time consuming for academic staff.

Development time for academic staff should be factored in.

It was suggested that some courses (as a starting point) could be prioritised – then used to create templates/examples for others to use.

Students should be engaged in this conversation – they are eager to have diversity and flexibility.

A more flexible learning environment could provide new channels to reach students.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

457.7 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 8 August 2012
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Melbourne Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____