



## ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and sixty-fifth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at 9.30am.

**Present:** Professor Simon Crowe (Chair), Professor Christine Bigby (Deputy Chair), Dr Pauleen Bennett (*via videoconference*), Professor Allan Borowski, Professor Andrew Brennan, Mr Bruce Carboon, Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Karen Dodd, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Mr Neil Fettling, Professor Paul Fisher, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Dr Greg Heath, Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Mr Earl Jobling (*via video conference*), Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Stephen Kent, Professor Lorraine Ling, Professor Jane Long, Dr Claire Macken, Dr Sue Martin, Professor Paul Mather, Dr Carol McKinstry, Dr Bill McGuinness, Professor Tim Murray, Professor Keith Nugent, Ms Katia Overmars, Dr Chris Pakes, Ms Jennifer Peasley, Ms Kathleen Pleasants (*via videoconference*), Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Dr Jack Reynolds, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Kath Ryan, Dr Christopher Scanlon, Dr Brian Smith, Mrs Joy Sparks (*via videoconference*), Dr Damian Spencer, Dr Guinever Threlkeld (*via videoconference*), Mr Peter Vitartas, Mr Chris Wheeler, Dr Kim Williams and Dr Suzanne Zyngier.

**Secretariat:** Ms Robyn Sinclair, Senior Executive Officer, Governance Services.

**In Attendance:** Mr Matt Brett, Professor Lin Crase, Dr Andrew Harvey, Mr Conor King, Professor Diane Kirkby, Ms Natalie MacDonald and Professor Norie Neumark.

### PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>(i) Attendance/Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Anthony Kerr, Dr Liz Lavender, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Sue O’Keefe, Dr Warren Paul, Dr Anita Raspovic, Mr Robert Stephenson, Dr Gwenda Tavan and Dr Caroline Walta.</p>	
<p><b>(ii) Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p>The Board <b>resolved</b> to <b>approve</b> the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	
<p><b>(iii) Outstanding Matters</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted report AB13/71.</p>	
<p><b>(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board</b></p> <p>The Board received report AB13/72 and noted the following matters which had</p>	

been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:

(a) Award of Degrees and Diplomas, as detailed in Attachment A to AB13/72.

(b) *Establishment of Prizes:*

(i) Bendigo Campus: Richard and Claire Guy Community Foundation for Central Victoria Scholarship, as detailed in Attachment B to AB13/72.

(ii) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law: The Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia Introductory Financial Accounting Prize, as detailed in Attachment C to AB13/72.

(iii) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law: The Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia Advanced Financial Accounting Prize, as detailed in Attachment D to AB13/72.

(iv) Faculty of Health Sciences: The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch, La Trobe Dental School Year 2 Prize; The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch, La Trobe Dental School Year 3 Prize; and The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch, La Trobe Dental School Year 4 Prize, as detailed in Attachment E to AB13/72.

(v) Faculty of Health Sciences: The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch, La Trobe Dental School Final Year Prize, as detailed in Attachment F to AB13/72.

(vi) Office of the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President: Sri Amitabh Bachchan Scholarship, as detailed in Attachment G to AB13/72.

(vii) Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Bendigo Campus): Richard and Claire Guy La Trobe University Sri Lanka Planning Program Bursary, as detailed in Attachment H to AB13/72.

(c) *Exemption to the AQF Transition Policy*

Request from the Faculty of Health Sciences for an exemption to the AQF Transition Policy by maintaining the intake into the existing Bachelor and Master courses in 2013, as detailed in Attachment I to AB13/72.

(d) *Course Submissions:*

- A proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce the following double degrees, as detailed in Attachment J to AB13/72:
  - Bachelor of Paramedic Practice/Bachelor of Public Health Promotion.
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Medical Classification)/Bachelor of Health Information Management.
- A proposal from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law to revise the Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Media Studies (including a name change to the Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Media), as detailed in Attachment J to AB13/72.

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

The Board received and noted paper AB13/73, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcmeeting013/MP/3/44-VCsReport-JUNE2013.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

Other issues highlighted were:

- Recent confirmation that it is unlikely that the Federal Government will be able to legislate its efficiency dividend program before the Federal election. This, in turn, will delay in the completion of the 2014-2016 individual

University funding agreements which will create significant uncertainty for universities. Notwithstanding this high level of uncertainty, the University is proceeding with strategies for managing costs through its recent establishment of an Expenditure and Revenue Committee. Regardless of the Federal election outcome, it is evident that government funding of higher education will be significantly decreased in the future.

- The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has received the KPMG Report on the 2012 OCIS which will inform the change management for the wider University.
- The Federal Minister for Higher Education and Skills, the Honourable Ms Sharon Bird had recently officiated at the launching of the La Trobe Rural Health School at the Bendigo campus. Congratulations were extended to all staff involved in the completion of this major initiative.
- Congratulations were extended to Dr Warwick Grant on his recent Grand Challenges Explorations award which is funded by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation. This is a particularly significant achievement in light of the fact that Dr Grant is one of only two Australians to receive this award;
- It is most pleasing to receive the recent Federal Government announcement that La Trobe University, in partnership with RMIT has been funded to create a new Food Industry Precinct in Melbourne. This success points to the importance of the University's Research Focus Strategy.
- The University has received strong community support for its joint Murray Darling Medical School proposal. The joint proposal with Charles Sturt University aims to provide a solution to the current shortage of rural doctors in rural New South Wales and Victoria.
- La Trobe University has secured funding for the Murray Darling Fresh Water Research Centre, with strong support from Honorable Minister Peter Walsh. The Board is invited to acknowledge the contributions of Professor Brian McGaw in this achievement.
- The current NTEU industrial campaign to withhold assessment results has the potential to disadvantage students and this will be monitored over the next few weeks.

## PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

### 465.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2013 [AB13/69(M)] were confirmed.

### 465.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

#### 465.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB13/74 and **resolved** to **approve** the award of degrees and diplomas, conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/  
RGSO

#### 465.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

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

- Science, Technology and Engineering: The Lucia Science Award, as detailed in report AB13/75.
- Science, Technology and Engineering: The Lycaenidae Excellence Award in

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- Conservation Biology, as detailed in report AB13/76.
- (c) Science, Technology and Engineering: The Francis Biological Science Bursary, as detailed in report AB13/77.

A&A

### 465.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

#### 465.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 15 May 2013

The Board received report AB13/78 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 15 May 2013:

- (a) Cluster 12 – Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- (b) Cluster 14 – Assessment Policy and Procedures.
- (c) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Review Outcome Report.
- (d) Monitoring Policy Compliance.

The Board also noted the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law 2012 Review Report and Action Plan, as detailed in Annex One to AB13/78.

EO(AQC)

#### 465.3.2 Report of Education Committee: 22 May 2013

The Board received report AB13/79 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 22 May 2013:

- (a) Chair's report.
- (b) Revisions to the Membership, Terms of Reference and Reporting Arrangements of the Education Committee.
- (c) Assessment Policy and Procedures and Assessment (VET) Policy.
- (d) Australian Qualifications Framework Alignment Policy and Procedures.
- (e) Report of the Programs Committee held on 11 April 2013.
- (f) Report of the Programs Committee held on 9 May 2013.
- (g) Report on surveys.
- (h) Beyond Graduation Survey (BGS) Report.
- (i) Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE).
- (j) Presentation on Pivot Table University Experience Survey Report.
- (k) Commencing Cohort Semester 1, 2013.
- (l) Future Ready Graduate Capabilities.
- (m) Draft Learning and Teaching Plan.
- (n) Update on Academic Integrity Statute 2012.
- (o) Student Submission of Assessments.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Jane Long, spoke to the Teaching and Learning Plan, and in so doing, highlighted the following aspects:

- the contributions of the Associate Deans (Academic), the Executive Deans, students and other key stakeholders to the development of this Plan;
- the Plan articulates five highly integrated goals designed to produce Future Ready La Trobe graduates;
- the Essentials covering Global Citizenship, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Thinking provide the necessary skills for Future Ready; and
- the Plan outlines the University's commitment to quality learning and teaching.

In response to a query from the Academic Board about the proposed

professional development and support for sessional staff who were not new career academics but very experienced academics, Professor Jane Long informed the Board that currently the details of professional development programs for academic staff are being developed in consultation with the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Centre.

The Board **resolved** to **approve**:

- (a) The *Future Ready: Learning and Teaching Plan 2013-2017*, as detailed in Attachment One to AB13/79. DVCA
- (b) The introduction of the Australian Qualifications Framework Alignment Policy and the Australian Qualifications Framework Alignment Procedures, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB13/79. EO(EC)/  
EO(Policy)
- (c) The reconfiguration of its Standing Committees, as detailed in Attachment Three to AB13/79, including: EO(AB)/  
EO(EC)/  
EO(PC)/  
EO(LSTC)
- the disestablishment of the Learning Spaces Technologies Committee;
  - the establishment of the Programs Committee as a major policy committee of Academic Board directly reporting to the Board and consequential amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Programs Committee and Education Committees; and
  - the establishment of a new Admissions Committee directly reporting to Academic Board.
- (d) The following course proposals, as detailed in Attachment Five to AB13/79: EO(EC)/  
DirAS/  
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- Course Revisions:
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Law
- Master of Accounting and Financial Management (LMAFM).
  - Master of Business Information Management and Systems (LMBISC).
  - Master of Financial Analysis (LMFA).
  - Master of Financial Analysis Investment (LMFAF).
  - Master of Financial Analysis FRM (LMFAM).
  - Master of Financial Analysis FP (LMFAP).
  - Master of Management (LMMGTC).
  - Master of International Business (LMIB).
  - Master of Islamic Banking and Finance (LMIBF).
  - Master of Information Systems Management (LMISMC).
  - Master of Management EI (LMMEI).
  - Master of Management HRM (LMMHRM).
  - Master of Marketing Management (LMMM).
  - Master of Professional Accounting (LMPA).
  - Master of Financial Analysis/Master of Islamic Banking and Finance (LYFAIB).
  - Master of Financial Analysis/Master of International Business (LFAIM).
  - Master of Financial Analysis/Master of Professional Accounting (LYFAPA).
- Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering
- Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) (SVEB).
  - Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) (SCHEB).
  - Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours)/Bachelor of Science (SZCESB).
  - Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours)/Bachelor of Business (SZCEBB).
  - Bachelor of Pharmacy (SVBP).
  - Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) (RHP).
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Master of Digital Communication, including change of name to the Master of Journalism (Digital).

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Master of Ergonomic, Safety and Health (HMERGD DE)
- Master of Public Health/Master of International Development (HZPHID).

*Course Closures:*

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Public Health (Bendigo) (RZNPB).
- Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) (HSBNSW).
- Bachelor of Pastoral Care (Graduate Entry) (HBPC,ME), effective from undisclosed date – no new intakes.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Master of International Business/Master of Global Communication.
- Bachelor of Community Development and nested award, Diploma of Community Development (ABCD), effective from Semester 1, 2014.

Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

- Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science (SPFS), effective from Semester 2, 2013.

*New Courses:*

Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

- Bachelor of Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering (Honours).

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

- Master of Management (Sport Management).

The Board also received and noted the Report of the Strategic Plan Implementation Group: Review of the Graduate Capabilities, as detailed in Attachment Four to AB13/79.

**465.3.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 17 May 2013**

The Board received report AB13/80 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 17 May 2013:

EO(RGSC)

- Update on the Research Focus Areas.
- Institutional Research Support Strategy.
- Update on the development of the eResearch Strategy.
- Discussion on the method of ranking RFA Scholarship candidates.
- Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
  - Animal Ethics Committee:
    - Minutes of meeting held 11 April 2013.
  - eResearch Committee:
    - Minutes of meeting held 23 April 2013.
  - University Human Ethics Committee:
    - Minutes of meeting held 15 April 2013.

**465.4 Other Matters**

**465.4.1 Academic Promotions – Proposed Amendments to Procedures**

The Board received report AB13/81, a proposal from the Academic Promotions Committee to amend the Academic Promotions Procedures to clarify that the Academic Promotions Committee will base its decisions on the material provided in the application process and will not take into account information that is

known to the Committee, but which is not referred to and supported with evidence in the application. In addition to the views provided by the relevant Dean, Head, Professor and Assessors, the Committee will fulfill an important deliberative role in applying its expertise and bringing to bear a University-wide perspective, to determine the outcome of an application.

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the proposed amendment to the Academic Promotions Procedure.

EO(APC)/  
EO(Policy)

**465.4.2 Outside Studies Program – Proposed Amendments to Procedures**

The Board received report AB13/82 and **resolved** to **approve** a proposal from the Central Committee on Outside Studies Programs to amend the Outside Studies Program for Academic Staff – Procedure.

EO(COSP)/  
EO(Policy)

**465.4.3 Emeritus Professor Nominations**

*(a) Professor Brian Davey*

The Board received report AB13/83 and **resolved** to **approve** the proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Brian Davey.

EO(AB)/  
EO(Council)/  
P&C

*(b) Professor Malcolm Rimmer*

The Board received report AB13/84 and **resolved** to **approve** the proposal from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Malcolm Rimmer.

EO(AB)/  
EO(Council)/  
P&C

**465.4.4 2013 Honours Year Grant Report**

The Board received and noted AB13/85, the 2013 Honours Year Grant Report.

SO

**465.4.5 AUQA Progress Report Update**

The Board received report AB13/86 and noted the update to the Progress Report on implementation of the Action Plan developed in response to the 2010 AUQA Audit Report.

PVC(EP&Q)

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**465.5 Items for Information**

**465.5.1 Adjunct Appointments**

The Board received report AB13/87 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

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- (a) Adjunct Professor: Professor John Edward King, School of Economics, Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Professor: Rosa Storelli, Faculty of Education (appointment – 3 years).
- (c) Adjunct Professor for the Arts: Stefano De Pieri, La Trobe Art Institute (LAI), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3

- years).
- (d) Adjunct Professor: Professor Ian Dunn, La Trobe Law School, Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (re-appointment – 3 years).
  - (e) Adjunct Professor: Professor Steve Swain, Botany Department, School of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (appointment – 3 years).
  - (f) Adjunct Professor: Mr David Caple, Department of Human Biosciences, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
  - (g) Adjunct Professor: Professor Evan Willis, School of Public Health and Human Biosciences, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).

**465.5.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: May 2013**

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: May 2013 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB13/88.

EO(APC)

**465.5.3 Library Committee Minutes: 15 April 2013**

The Board received and noted AB13/89, the minutes from the Library Committee meeting held on 15 April 2013.

EO(LC)

**PART D – DISCUSSION**

**465.6 Crisis, what crisis? Funding higher education.**

**Discussion Panel:**

- (a) Mr Matt Brett, Manager Higher Education Policy.
- (b) Mr Conor King, Executive Director, IRU.
- (c) Professor John Rosenberg, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Mr Matt Brett briefly outlined the recent history of growth in student demand in higher education and concomitant increase in Higher Education Sector funding by consecutive Federal Governments. A comparison between the Coalition and the Labor Party's policy response was also provided.

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcmeeting013/DiscussionItems/4/Mr%20Matt%20Brett's%20Presentation.pdf>

Mr Conor King provided a brief presentation on the current policy context in terms of Higher Education Funding and the Government drive for efficiencies. Mr King's presentation covered the current status of the legislative framework to support the introduction of the Gonski Reforms, anticipated policy and funding changes in the advent of a Coalition Government and potential changes for Research in a changed political context.

Professor John Rosenberg outlined LTU's approach to the recent Federal Government cuts and mooted cuts under the HESA Efficiency Dividend. The impact of the efficiency dividend and the cuts to research block grants was detailed in a series of graphs. The Board was advised that a consultancy will be commissioned to identify realistic and achievable avenues for savings and revenue raising. His presentation can be accessed at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcmeeting013/DiscussionItems/4>



[/Professor%20John%20Rosenberg's%20Presentation.pdf](#)

#### **Discussion**

The following matters were raised during the discussion that ensued:

- the University's proposed strategy to identify cost savings through an investigation of duplication between the centre and the Faculties was a prudent approach in light of the ongoing cost cuts that have been made to the academic profile of the University over the past decades;
- it is anticipated that the proposed changes to higher education funding will have an irrevocable impact on the University sector, with some institutions choosing to: become teaching only Polytechnics, amalgamating with other universities, or limiting the breadth of their offerings. La Trobe University is currently exploring options for closer arrangements with NMIT;
- it is too early to predict the impact, if any, that the Higher Education Budget cuts will have on class sizes; and
- La Trobe intends to prioritise strategies to increase revenue in the future.

The meeting closed at 10.55am.

#### **465.7 Next Meeting**

9.30am  
Wednesday 14 August 2013  
Council Chamber  
John Scott Meeting House  
Melbourne Campus

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

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