



ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the five hundred and eleventh meeting of the Academic Board held in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 9.30am.

- Present:** Professor Christine Bigby (Chair), Professor Paula Baron (Deputy Chair), Dr Sasha Anderson, Dr Kate Ashman (*via videoconference*), Professor Bala Balachandran, Dr Josie Barbaro, Dr Ishaq Bhatti, Dr Narelle Brack, Professor Lisa Brophy, Ms Sarah Cox, Professor Aniruddha Desai, Professor Amalia Di Iorio, Dr Michael Dillon, Dr Jason Dutton, Professor David Edvardsson, Professor Simon Evans, Dr Christopher Fisher, Professor Margarita Frederico, Dr Warwick Frost, Dr Deborah Gleeson, Dr Peter Green, Professor Mark Gussy (*via videoconference*), Mr Damien Hamel, Professor Jane Hamilton, Mr Abdul Haseeb (*via videoconference*), Dr Emma Henderson, Mr Brad Hodge (*via videoconference*), Professor Katie Holmes, Professor Russell Hoye, Mr Greg Jamieson, Ms Pam Kappelides, Dr Sejal Kendal, Mr Mohsin Khawaja, Ms Julie Kiroloch (*via videoconference*), Ms Spomenka Krizmanic, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Dr Prem Kurup, Professor Helen Lee, Professor Nicki Lee, Professor Sandra Leggatt, Dr James Leibold, Professor Dennis McDermott, Dr Carol McKinstry (*via videoconference*), Dr Sarah Midford, Dr Deborah Neal, Professor Matthew Nicholson, Professor Chris Pakes, Professor Simon Pervan, Professor Robert Pike, Dr Luke Prendergast, Ms Fiona Salisbury, Professor Axel Schultz, Professor Jill Slay, Professor Brian Smith, Mr Kelly Smith, Professor Kersten Steiner, Mr Robert Stephenson (*via videoconference*), Dr Rwth Stuckey, Dr Gwenda Tavan, Dr Colleen Thomas, Professor James Walker, Professor Anne Wallace, Professor Yvonne Wells, Dr David Wilson, Professor Rob Wilson, Mr David Wishart and Professor Lawrie Zion.
- Secretariat:** Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer, Governance and Policy Services.
- In Attendance:** Dr MaryAnne Aitken, Dr Emmaline Bexley, Mr Mark Engel, Ms Robyn Harris, Dr Andrew Harvey, Dr Christine Hawkins, Mr Fotios Lampropoulos, Mr Leon Morris and Ms Fiona Reed.
- Acknowledgement of Country:** Professor Dennis McDermott acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional owners of the land upon which the La Trobe Campuses are situated: Latji Latji and Barkindji (Mildura), Dja Dja Wurrung (Bendigo), Dhudhuroa and WayWurru (Wodonga), Yorta Yorta and Bangerang (Shepparton), Wurundjeri (Bundoora), Wurundjeri and Boonerwung (City) and Gadigal (Sydney). On behalf of the University Professor McDermott paid respects to the elders past and present, emerging leaders and future generations.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

511.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the five hundred and eleventh meeting of the Academic Board.

ACTION

Apologies were received from Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Marilyn Anderson, Ms Julie Andrews, Dr Joanna Barbousas, Professor Jordana Bayer, Professor Pauleen Bennett, Professor Nick Bisley, Professor Nick Bond, Professor Lynn Bosetti, Dr Kate Bridgman, Ms Donna Burnett, Dr Edgar Burns, Dr Buly Cardak, Professor Shaun Collin, Professor Kay Crossley, Dr Geoff Dickson, Professor Gary Dowsett, Dr Elly Djouma, Dr Nicole El-Haber, Professor Matthias Ernst, Professor Paul Gustin, Dr Andy Gendell, Professor Andy Herries, Professor Andrew Hill, Professor Fiona Kelly, Professor Patrick Keyzer, Professor Emmanuel Kuntsche, Professor Birgit Loch, Professor Sue Martin, Professor James Maxwell, Dr Clare McCausland, Dr Silvia McCormack, Professor Lisa McKenna, Professor Robyn Murphy, Dr Jennifer Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Dr Sonia Reisenhofer, Professor Terri Seddon, Professor Mahsood Shah, Professor Pamela Snow, Professor Richard Speed, Dr Evelien Spelten, Dr Keir Strickland, Professor Vijaya Sundararajan, Dr Guin Threlkeld, Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, Dr Suzanne Vasallo, Professor Jim Whelan, Professor Karen Willis, Ms Andrea Young and Professor Suzanne Young.

511.2 Approval of the Agenda

Academic Board **resolved** to **approve** the agenda, as circulated (AB19/22(A)).

511.3 Matters Outstanding – March 2019

Academic Board **received** and **noted** paper AB19/23.

511.4 Out of Session Approvals on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board **received**, **noted** and **ratified** report AB19/20, a summary of matters which had been approved on behalf of the Board since the last meeting:

- Course Revision, *College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce* Bachelor of Technology Education (EBTE, EBTEB), as detailed in Attachment A to AB19/20.
- Academic Board Policy Committee Membership - Coursework Committee (Professor James Walker), as detailed in Attachment B to AB19/20.

511.5 Report of the Chair

The Chair did not provide a verbal report.

511.6 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board **received** and **noted** circulated paper AB19/24, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Paper/3/AB19-24%20Item%206%20Academic%20Board%20VC's%20report%20April%202019.pdf>.

The *Acting* Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, also provided a brief verbal update on the following issues:

- Congratulations to all named in the 2018 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessments, in which La Trobe had shown significant

improvement. Professor Krause advised that there was one item missing from the report: the Banking and Finance Team has achieved an ERA 5 rating.

- The government had released two documents important to the higher education sector over the weekend:
 1. *Report of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers*, undertaken by the Hon Robert French AC.
 2. Draft Contract Cheating Legislation.
- *Improvements in Student Satisfaction at La Trobe*: Professor Krause spoke to a snapshot of the results from 2016 and the marked improvement in 2018. These slides can be accessed at the following link: <https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Useful%20resources/3/Academic%20Freedom%20for%20Academic%20board.pdf>. It was noted that the significant improvement (74.7% to 78%) was a result of students and staff working together and an increase in student engagement. Professor Krause advised that more accessible data would be made available to the Board and suggested that this topic may warrant a more detailed discussion at a future Board meeting.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

511.7 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Academic Board **confirmed** the minutes of the 510th meeting held on 13 March 2019 were a true and accurate record (AB19/19 (M)).

511.8 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received paper AB19/25 and **resolved to approve** the award of degrees, diplomas and higher degrees and posthumous award of degrees and diplomas, as detailed therein.

AEGTO
GRS

511.9 Standing Committees of Academic Board

511.9.1 Report of Coursework Committee: 14 March 2019

The Board received report AB19/26 and noted that the Coursework Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 14 March 2019:

- (a) Course Submissions from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce.
- (b) Course Submissions from the College of Science, Health and Engineering.
- (c) New member.
- (d) Academic Course Reviews Schedule Summary Report.
- (e) Consultation.

The Board **resolved to approve**:

Course Revisions

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce

- Bachelor of Education (Primary) (EBEDP, EBEDPB), as detailed in

EO(CC)
GenMgr
DD SAdmin
APVC(CW)

- Attachment A to AB19/26.
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (EBEDS, EBEDSB), as detailed in Attachment A to AB19/26.

College of Science, Health and Engineering

- Bachelor of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse) (HBNEN, HBNENS, HBNENB, HBNENM, HBNENW, HBNENK), as detailed in Attachment A to AB19/26.

511.9.2 Report of Education Committee: 20 March 2019

The Board received report AB19/27 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 20 March 2019:

- (a) Revised Single Subjects Policy and Procedure.
- (b) Revised Course Advisory Committee Policy.
- (c) Streamlining Centralised Exams – Strategic Enhancements.
- (d) Policy Waiver request to the Bachelor of Honours Policy for the Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) (out-of-session via email circulation).
- (e) Terms of Reference for the Disability Access and Inclusion Sub-Committee (out-of-session via email circulation).

The Board **resolved to approve** the:

- (a) revised Single Subjects Policy, as detailed in Attachment A to AB19/27.
- (b) revised Course Advisory Committee Policy, as detailed in Attachment B to AB19/27.
- (c) policy waiver request to the Bachelor Honours Policy for the Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours), as detailed in Attachment C to AB19/27.
- (d) Terms of Reference for the Disability Access and Inclusion Sub-Committee, as detailed in Attachment D to AB19/27.

EO(EC)
Policy Adv.

DVCA
Chair, AB

511.9.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 14 March 2019

The Academic Board received report AB19/28 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 14 March 2019:

- (a) Research Centres Update
- (b) Verbal update from the Academic Board Executive Committee.
- (c) Excellence in Research Australia & Engagement and Impact Assessment (ERA & EIA) 2018 Update.
- (d) Graduate Researcher Experience and Wellbeing: Implementation Plan 2019-2022.
- (e) Graduate Research Load and Completions.
- (f) Sub-Committee Reports:
 - Animal Ethics Committee: minutes from meetings held on 11 October 2018, 8 November 2018, 6 December 2018 and 14 February 2019.
 - University Human Ethics Committee: minutes from meetings held on 15 October 2018, 12 November 2018, 3 December 2018 and 7 February 2019.
 - La Trobe Institutional Biosafety Committee: minutes from meetings held on 17 October 2018, 21 November 2018 and 11 December 2019.

EO(RGSC)

511.9.4 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 27 March 2019

The Academic Board received report AB19/29 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 27 March 2019:

EO(AQC)

- (a) Policy Compliance Report – Double, Combined, Dual and Joint Qualifications Policy.
- (b) Policy Compliance Report – Equivalence of Professional Experience with Qualification Levels for Academic Staff Policy.
- (c) 2019 Business Schedule Update.
- (d) Academic Quality Committee Membership Update.

511.9.5 Report of Admissions Committee: 18 March 2019

The Academic Board received report AB19/30 and noted that the Admissions Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 18 March 2019:

EO(AC)

- (a) Articulation Tables from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce.
- (b) Articulation Tables from the College of Science, Health and Engineering.

511.9.6 Academic Board Policy Committee Membership: Admissions Committee

The Academic Board received paper AB19/31 and **resolved to approve** the following nominations to the Admissions Committee under membership Category C – *Four Academic Board nominees: academic staff members with experience in admissions - two from each College:*

EO(AC)

- College of Science, Health and Engineering: Dr Sonia Reisenhofer
- College of Science, Health and Engineering: Dr Hossam Aboel Naga
- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce: Professor Helen Lee

511.10 Panel Discussion: Is academic freedom adequately protected here at La Trobe University?

Panel Members:

- Dr Miriam Bankovsky, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Media and Philosophy
- Dr Jacqui Hoepner, Early Career Fellow HDR Supervision and Lecturer, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU

The Board **received** and **noted** circulated paper AB19/32, a briefing document provided by Dr Bankovsky.

Dr Bankovsky also spoke to a powerpoint presentation, which can be accessed at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Useful%20resources/3/Academic%20Freedom%20for%20Academic%20board.pdf>, asking the following questions:

1. Why must this question be considered?
2. What role can Academic Board play?

Dr Bankovsky then went on to outline and give examples of the six sector-wide challenges that she believed existed at La Trobe University.

Dr Jacqui Hoepner spoke about her experience as a 2nd year PhD student who was unable to continue with her chosen PhD topic – Wind Turbine Syndrome – due to the response of anti-wind groups and the media. As a result, Dr Hoepner decided to investigate areas of research that were ‘silenced’. Dr Hoepner recommended the following actions to ensure academic freedom was supported and clearly understood by higher education institutions:

1. Reflexivity training
2. Academic autonomy
3. Clarify the responsibility of the University towards their academic staff – examine current legislation/policy and advise staff of their rights.
4. Sanctity of academic freedom – ANU seen as a forerunner in this area.

Discussion:

During discussion regarding the issue of academic freedom, several questions and issues were raised:

- Concerns were raised regarding the issue of interference of special interest groups, with an example being given of the La Trobe University Confucius Institute and the decision not to register the Institute under the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme. The PVC(I) advised that the Risk Office has assessed this issue and made a decision based on the legislation. It was further noted that a review of the Confucius Institute was due.
- In response to a concern raised regarding the French Review’s citing the IPA understanding of freedom of speech, which provides a platform for almost anyone, Dr Bankovsky advised that the French Review clearly states that University’s will have the right to make decisions regarding invited and external speakers.
- It was suggested that it was unclear where our PhD students sit with regard to academic freedom and the protections that may be offered by the institution. Dr Bankovsky advised that the French Review refers to both staff and students, but she would like to review the documentation more thoroughly before providing a more comprehensive answer.
- The *Acting* DVCR advised that there currently isn’t any reference to academic freedom in the postgraduate research students policy. It was also noted that he would be interested in further discussing ‘reflexivity training’ for PhD students with Dr Hoepner offline.
- Is it seen as interference by an external funding body, when the Institution is annually asked if they are doing research into specific areas ie tobacco, alcohol, gambling?
- The question of ethics was also raised. Are there processes in place regarding religious or cultural beliefs?
- A suggested additional challenge was raised regarding gender equity. It was suggested that this was usually covered by scholarly norms, but Dr Bankovsky offered to discuss this issue further with Dr Frost offline.

The Chair thanked the Dr Bankovsky and Dr Hoepner.

A full transcript of the discussion can be accessed at the following link:
<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Useful%20resources/3/DiscussionPanelTranscript.pdf>.

The Chair advised that an Academic Freedom Working Group would be established, co-convened by the DVCA and the Chair, Academic Board. The membership to include:

- 2 nominees from the membership of Academic Board
- a student
- Vice-President Administration
- General Counsel
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

An EOI would be circulated regarding Academic Board nominations to the membership.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

511.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 8 May 2019 in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, Melbourne Campus.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.