



## ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the five hundred and sixteenth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at 9.30am.

- Present:** Professor Christine Bigby (Chair), Dr Julie Andrews, Dr Josie Barbaro, Dr Joanna Barbousas, Professor Jordana Bayer, Dr Narelle Brack, Dr Kate Bridgman, Professor Lisa Brophy, Ms Elizabeth Capp, Professor Shaun Collin, Professor John Dewar, Dr Michael Dillon, Professor Susan Dodds, Professor Grant Drummond, Dr Nicole El-Haber, Professor Simon Evans, Professor Ashley Franks, Professor Margarita Frederico, Professor Warwick Frost, Dr Anthony Gendall, Dr Peter Green, Professor Jane Hamilton, Dr Emma Henderson, Professor Darren Henry, Professor Katie Holmes, Professor Helen Irving, Mr Greg Jamieson, Ms Pam Kappelides, Professor Amanda Kenny, Professor Stephen Kent, Mr Mohsin Khawaja, Ms Julie Kiroloch, Ms Spomenka Krizmanic, Dr Amy Larsen, Dr Karen Lawrence, Professor Nicki Lee, Professor Christopher Mackie, Dr Kate Mai, Professor Susan Martin, Dr Clare McCausland, Dr Jodi Oakman, Professor Jennifer Oates, Professor Suzanne O'Keefe, Professor Chris Pakes, Professor Simon Pervan, Professor Luke Prendergast, Professor Chris Roche, Ms Fiona Salisbury, Professor Brian Smith, Professor Tonya Stebbins, Dr Rwth Stuckey, Professor Vijaya Sundararajan, Professor Marija Tabain, Dr Colleen Thomas, Dr Guinever Threlkheld, Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, Dr Suzane Vassallo, Dr Terrie Waddell, Professor James Walker, Professor Yvonne Wells, Ms Andrea Young, Professor Suzanne Young, and Professor Lawrie Zion.
- Secretariat:** Ms Sonia Nelson, Senior Executive Officer, Governance and Policy Services.
- In Attendance:** Mr Alistair Duncan, Dr Richard Frampton, Ms Robyn Harris, Ms Natalie McDonald, Mr Leon Morris, Ms Fiona Reed, and Ms Anna Maria Schurmann.
- Acknowledgement of Country:** Dr Julie Andrews acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional owners of the land upon which the La Trobe Campuses are situated: Dja Dja Wurrung (Bendigo), Wurundjeri (Bundoora), Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri (City Campus), Latji Latji (Mildura), Yorta Yorta and Bangerang (Shepparton), and Dhudhuroa and Waywurru (Wondonga). On behalf of the University, Dr Andrews paid respects to the Elders past and present. Dr Andrews described the current political and cultural challenges that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders:
- the need to include Indigenous knowledge in bushfire management in approaches to this issue in the future
  - racist backlash in response to the closure of Uluru to climbing and the process for an Indigenous voice to Parliament
  - Aboriginal deaths in custody
  - the distance to Canberra, and
  - difficulties in finding a place and an area for Indigenous peoples to be involved.
- Dr Andrews noted the importance of education in opening up opportunities for Indigenous people.

**PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**ACTION**

**516.1 Welcome and Apologies**

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

Apologies were received from:

Professor Lisa Amir, Dr Sarah Anderson, Professor Samar Aoun, Professor Paula Baron, Professor Nick Bisley, Professor Jill Cook, Ms Sarah Cox, Professor Sheila Crewther, Professor Kay Crossley, Professor Amalia Di Ioro, Dr Jason Dutton, Professor David Edvardsson, Professor Matthias Ernst, Mr Paul Farley, Dr Christopher Fisher, Dr Megan Fisher, Dr Tracy Fortune, Professor Paul Gastin, Dr Deborah Gleeson, Dr Andrew Harvey, Professor Andrew Hill, Professor Emi Kashima, Professor Petko Kalev, Professor Patrick Keyzer, Professor Michael Kingsley, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Professor Emmanuel Kuntsche, Professor Jo Lampert, Mr Fotios Lampropoulos, Professor Karl Landorf, Professor Sandra Leggat, Professor George Liu, Professor Birgit Loch, Professor Alex Maritz, Professor Dennis McDermott, Professor Lisa McKenna, Professor Noel Meyers, Professor Meg Morris, Dr Robyn Murphy, Dr Deborah Neal, Professor Matthew Nicholson, Mr Simon O'Mallon, Professor Paul Pigram, Professor Robert Pike, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Professor Wenny Rahayu, Dr Sonia Reisenhofer, Professor Amanda Richdale, Professor Terri Seddon, Mr Jeremy Seward, Professor Nora Shields, Professor Alan Shiell, Professor Jill Slay, Mr Kelly Smith, Professor Pamela Snow, Professor Richard Speed, Ms Mira Stammers, Dr Kerstin Steiner, Professor Karen Willis, Professor Carlene Wilson, and Professor Clare Wright.

**516.2 Approval of the Agenda**

The Board **resolved to approve** the agenda, as circulated (AB19/89(A)).

**516.3 Report of the Chair**

The Chair, Professor Christine Bigby:

- Advised members of the outcomes of the elections for Chair and Deputy Chair of Academic Board (Professors Bigby and Walker respectively).
- Acknowledged the work of Professor Paula Baron during her tenure as Deputy Chair of Academic Board from 2016-2019, with acclamation. The Chair noted Professor Baron had very ably chaired Academic Quality Committee and was Deputy Chair for Coursework Committee.
- Acknowledged outgoing ex officio and elected members of Academic Board, thanking them for their contribution during their tenure.
- Advised members that a call for Expressions of Interest in membership of Academic Board committees will be circulated to members with a closing date of late November.
- Welcomed newly promoted Professors to membership of Academic Board, as follows:
  - Jennie Pryce
  - Luke Prendergast
  - Clare Wright
  - Brian Abbey
  - Michael Foley
  - Lisa Amir

- Amanda Richdale
- Michael Kingsley
- Travis Beddoe.
- Drew members' attention to the process of reviewing Academic Board which is commencing. The Review will involve an initial stage, overseen by Academic Board Executive Committee and an external review, sponsored by Council.

## PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

### 516.5 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Academic Board **confirmed** the minutes of the 515<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9 October 2019 were a true and accurate record (AB19/88(M)).

### 516.6 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received paper AB19/91 and **resolved to approve** the conferring of awards and the award of research degrees, as detailed therein.

AEGTO  
GRS

### 516.7 Standing Committees of Academic Board

#### 516.7.1 Report of the Education Committee: 16 October 2019

The Board received report AB19/92 and **noted** that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting on 16 October 2019:

EO(EC)

- (a) Qualifications Issuance Policy
- (b) Scholarship at La Trobe
- (c) Speak Up Quarterly Report
- (d) University Appeals Committee Report
- (e) Rescission of the La Trobe Essentials and Revision of the Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Policy
- (f) Student Equity and Diversity Plan (2022-2022)
- (g) Centre for Higher Education Equity and Diversity Research: An Overview of Major Activities: January 2019 and October 2019
- (h) Request for Policy Waiver – Credit Points and Undergraduate Course Structure Policy

The Board **resolved to approve** the following items:

- the Qualifications Issuance Policy
- the approach to addressing the requirements of the scholarship elements of the Higher Education Standards Framework.

The Acting Chair of Education Committee, Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, spoke to the report, drawing members' attention to the Speak Up Service, and University Appeals Reports. Members were advised that the Committee is seeking additional data in order to further understand recurrent themes.

Amendments to the Qualifications Issuance Policy were outlined. In relation to the report on the University's approach to Scholarship, Professor Vanderlelie noted this is in response to the TEQSA Guidance Note on Scholarship. Members were advised that the Committee had endorsed establishing a project team to develop guiding principles to support Scholarship across the University and

mitigate risk. The University will need to demonstrate compliance as part of its TEQSA re-registration in 2023.

Members sought advice on mechanisms to reduce the number of appeals and were advised these included:

- understanding trends to better support and educate students, particularly in relation to academic integrity
- increasing visibility of the requirements of academic integrity
- simplifying and unifying appeals processes and legislation, and
- reducing the number of students reaching stage 3 in their academic progress.

Education Committee will monitor the changes to the academic progress process and report back to Academic Board.

Members noted the resource intensive nature of appeals.

#### **516.7.2 Report of Coursework Committee: 17 October 2019**

The Board received report AB19/93 and **noted** that the Coursework Committee had considered the following items at the meeting held on 17 October 2019:

- Course Closures from the College of Science, Health and Engineering.
- Course Submissions from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce.
- Course Closure from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce.

The Board **resolved to approve:**

- a) Course Closure proposal from the College of Science, Health and Engineering, as detailed in Attachment A to AB19/93
  - Graduate Diploma in Science.
- b) Course revision proposals from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce, as detailed in Attachment B to AB19/93
  - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Science (LWLPHY, LWLPYB)
  - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Media and Communication (LWLPMC)
  - Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (AHA)
  - Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Curriculum, Teaching & Learning (RCHE)
  - Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (LBPPE)
  - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (LWLPPE).
- c) Course Closure proposals from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce, as detailed in Attachment B to AB19/93
  - Bachelor of Business Montpellier (France) (RBBMO)
  - Master of Management (Entrepreneurship and Innovation) Sydney Campus (LMMEISY).

The Chair of the Coursework Committee, Mr Greg Jamieson, spoke to the report, providing a brief description of each proposal.

Members queried the level of consultation undertaken with students in relation to the proposed revisions to the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

EO(CC)  
GenMgrs  
ED SSA  
APVC(CW)

The Chair of Coursework Committee noted this can sometimes be variable and undertook to remind Colleges of the requirement.

It was noted that the mapping for honours was omitted from the course intended learning outcomes in the proposed revisions to the Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Science. The Chair of Coursework Committee undertook to ensure the mapping was included.

### **516.7.3 Report of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 17 October 2019**

The Board received report AB19/94 and **noted** that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at the meeting held on 17 October 2019:

EO(RGSC)

- Research Performance and Industry Engagement Report
- Research Centres Update
- Research Governance Policy (new)
- Establishment of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health
- Annual Reports of Research Centres and Institutes
- HDR Loads and Completions Report
- RGSC - 2020 Meeting Dates
- Graduate Research Examinations Policy and Procedure Suite (revised)
- Board of Graduate Research Report including the minutes of meetings held on 20 June and 1 August 2019
- Animal Ethics Committee Report including the minutes of the meetings held on 8 August and 12 September 2019
- University Human Ethics Committee Report including the minutes of the meetings held on 1 August and 5 September 2019
- La Trobe Institutional Biosafety Committee Report and the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the following:

- New Research Governance Policy
- Establishment of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health
- Revised Graduate Research Examinations Policy and Procedure Suite
- Revised Graduate Research Course Management Policy

The Chair of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee, Professor Susan Dodds spoke to the report, providing a brief description of the items for which approval was sought. A query was raised in relation to the disestablishment of coursework subjects within the PhD pathways program, and the determination of replacement subjects and opportunities for staff to express interest in teaching into those programs. The Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Chris Pakes, noted subjects were a matter for the Schools to determine.

### **516.7.4 Report of the Board of Graduate Research: 31 October 2019**

The Board received report AB19/95, reviewed and **approved** proposed revisions to the following courses:

EO(BGR)  
DGS

- Doctor of Clinical Science (HDCS)
- Doctor of Midwifery (HDMID)
- Doctor of Nursing (HDNR)
- Doctor of Physiotherapy (HDP)

- Master of Applied Science (HMASR).

The Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Chris Pakes, advised that the minor revisions align the courses with the revised Graduate Research Admissions Policy which was approved in June 2019.

#### 516.8 Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom Working Group

The Board received paper AB19/96 and **approved** the following policies:

- Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Policy
- External and Invited Speakers on Campus Policy
- Media Engagement and Public Utterances Policy

EO(FoE & AF  
WG)

The Board **resolved to receive** and **note** the following policies:

- Code of Conduct (revised)
- Workplace Behaviours Policy (revised)
- Space Planning – Booking and Usage Procedure (revised)
- Space Planning – City Campus Space Use and Charging Procedure (revised)
- Events Safety Procedure (revised)
- Student Behaviours Policy (revised)
- Media Engagement Policy (to be rescinded)
- Representing the University (Public Utterances) Procedure (to be rescinded)
- Social Media Procedure (to be rescinded)

The Co-convenor of the Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom Working Group, Professor Christine Bigby, spoke to the paper, reminding members that advice regarding policy development, revision and rescission to implement the French Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in Australian Higher Education Providers, had been provided to the October 2019 meeting of Academic Board. The policies involved have since undergone a period of consultation through the University's Policy Bulletin Board. While the proposed revisions received a higher number of views on the Bulletin Board, few comments were received.

Members were advised that the changes entailed:

- removing the need, when speaking based on expertise, to have regard for the reputation of the University
- clarifying unacceptable behaviour, and
- establishing insurance liability for staff impacted negatively by speaking out.

The Working Group will now focus on stage 2 involving academic freedom. Dr Miriam Bankovsky is undertaking a survey in relation to academic freedom.

#### 516.4 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted paper AB19/90, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which is available from the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Paper/9/90%20-%20%20VCs%20report%20November%202019.pdf>

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, spoke to the report. The items highlighted included:

- the election of Professors Bigby and Walker as Chair and Deputy Chair of Academic Board respectively
- the service to Academic Board of the Chair, Professor Christine Bigby during the last two years
- the omission of New Colombo funding to the La Trobe Business School projects in Indonesia from the Vice-Chancellor's written report
- the appointment of Professor Katie Holmes as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences
- the Distinguished Alumni Award dinner and award recipients, and
- Professor Mike Clark's recent media interview in relation to bushfires and landscape management.

#### **516.9 Report of the Vice-Chancellor: State of the Nation: Vice-Chancellor's Address**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abmeeting2019/Paper/9/13%20November%202019%20-%20VC%20State%20of%20the%20Nation%20Address.pdf>) which canvassed the challenges facing La Trobe University and universities generally, positive factors and opportunities, and a reflection on the future of universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

Challenges include:

- Being pulled in many directions – delivering for students, the community, industry, and the general public, while working in a competitive environment.
- Meeting government expectations and regulation. Universities need to show they are:
  - Instruments in driving productivity
  - Producing job-ready graduates
  - Protecting the international education industry
  - Increasing the quality and quantity of research while being mindful of foreign influence.
- Responding to the impacts of policy changes at Federal and State level and relative uncertainty in the wake of several higher education reviews.
- Responding to the emerging issues of decreasing or flat applications for admission and the potential for international student admissions to decrease.

Positive factors:

- The relatively high trust rating for universities, researchers and lecturers and that most Australians believe universities are teaching students what they need for both the current and future workforce.
- Improvement in the University's research rankings – now in the top 400 in three major international rankings.
- An increase in the University's total research income.
- A range of significant and 'cutting edge' research which impacts both the metropolitan and regional communities the University serves.
- Improvements in undergraduate and postgraduate student experience and employment outcomes.
- Survey results indicate the University is above the global median for net satisfaction with services.

Opportunities:

- The University received the highest number of destination Australia scholarships (95) awarded to a single university and the largest number awarded to any campus nationally (67 scholarships for the Bendigo campus).
- New post study work rights for international students at regional campuses.
- A 170% increase since 2018 in the amount raised during staff giving month (\$34,759) which means the University is on track to deliver another 10 scholarships in semester 1, 2020.

The future of universities:

- A project led by the University of Lincoln has sought to identify 10 interdependent global challenges to set out a framework to rise to the challenges based on university core activities – to educate, to research and to engage.
- The idea of a permeable university – embracing a more fluid, more contingent and more permeable relationship to wider society. This will require a rethinking of what and how teaching occurs. Delivering permeable research means a need to build research into our learning, offering students opportunities to engage with the process of research, as researchers, as contributors and as communicators. It means extending further our disciplinary boundaries to tackle ‘wicked’ research problems.
- In La Trobe’s strategic planning, there is recognition of the need for a new type of university – the concept of a university 4.0. The University is deeply connected with its communities, outward looking and has never shied away from taking bold positions on the issues grappling Australia or the world (e.g. stance on same-sex marriage referendum or climate change commitments).
- Changes in the University’s operating philosophy has led to changes in the way we work:
  - Employability is now central to our teaching and learning
  - We have our own accelerator program with almost 50% of applications coming from regional campuses
  - We strive for a diverse student profile
  - We are showing leadership on climate change
  - We are building partnerships with leading organisations, and
  - We have embarked on a massive campus development project.
- The launch of the Clever Learning Program which connects the University’s learning and teaching, regional and globalisation plans.
- The University is bigger and more complex than 5 years ago resulting in a need to review its operating model. There is also an opportunity to refresh the leadership team. Issues to address include:
  - Performance on performance-based funding measures
  - Strong leadership of the Clever Learning initiative
  - Clarification of decision rights and accountabilities.

## 516.12 Emeritus Professor Nominations

### 516.12.1 Professor Paula Baron

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the proposal from the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (AB19/99), as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Paula Baron.



**516.12.2 Professor Geoffrey Crouch**

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the proposal from the La Trobe Business School (AB19/100), as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Geoffrey Crouch.

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**516.10 Academic Promotions Report – Round 2, 2019**

The Board **received** and **noted** paper AB19/97, the report on Academic Promotions approved in Round 2, 2019 and the 2019 Promotions Summary.

EO

**516.11 Elections for Chair and Deputy Chair of Academic Board**

The Board **received** and **noted** the report (AB19/98) on the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Academic Board.

**516.13 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 12 February 2020 in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, Melbourne Campus.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.