

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

Minutes of the four hundred and fiftieth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 10 August 2011 at 9.30am.

**Present:** Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Tom Angelo, Professor Paula Baron, Mr George Bath, Professor Christine Bigby, Professor Judith Brett, Professor Tim Brown, Mr Bruce Carboon, Professor Lin Crase, Professor Leigh Drake, Professor Geoff Durden, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Mr Neil Fetting, Professor Paul Fisher, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mr Peter Foreman, Dr Trevor Hogan, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Tony Jarvis, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Terri Joiner, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Stephen Kent, Dr Liz Lavender, Professor Lorraine Ling, Professor Paul Mather, Professor Brian McGaw, Mr Matt Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Dr Kath Ryan, Mr Andrew Skewes, Dr Kay Souter, Professor Hal Swerissen, Professor Richard Tay, Dr John Tebbutt, Dr Pamela Wallace, Dr Julie White, Dr David Wilkinson and Professor Evan Willis.

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

**In Attendance:** Ms Kerry Amery (*vice* Professor A Dewe), Professor Jim Cameron, Mr David Ensor, Professor Diane Kirkby, Ms Meg Lithgow, Professor Norie Neumark, Mr Robert Stephenson.

**PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>(i) Attendance/Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Michael Clarke, Professor Brian Davey, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Jane Farmer, Professor Noel Gough, Professor Jae Paul Kim, Dr Katherine Legge, Dr Sue Martin, Dr Geoffrey Mayer, Dr Bill McGuinness, Mr Venkat Narayanan, Dr Howard Nicholas, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr John Russell, Professor David Spencer and Ms Lily Jade Chung Kim Yueng.</p>	
<p><b>(ii) Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p>The Board <b>resolved</b> to approve the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	
<p><b>(iii) Outstanding Matters</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted report AB11/94.</p>	
<p><b>(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board</b></p> <p>The Board received report AB11/95 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since the last meeting:</p>	

- (a) Recision of award, conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/95.
- (b) Establishment of prizes:
  - (i) Health Sciences: Soroptimists International (Bendigo) Midwifery Bursary, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/95.
  - (ii) Humanities and Social Sciences: Jose Maria Sangiau Prize, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/95.
  - (iii) Humanities and Social Sciences: Alice and Isabel Watson Essay Prize, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/95.
- (c) Proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to establish a Bachelor of Information Systems (Honours), as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/95.
- (d) *Honorary Awards Committee*: proposal for a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*) to be conferred upon Mrs Sylvia Jane Walton, former Chancellor of La Trobe University, as detailed in Attachment F to AB11/95.

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

The Board received and noted paper AB11/96, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:  
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/Papers-2011/August/96-VC'sReportAugust2011.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

The Vice-Chancellor also reported that the Course and Load Planning Sub-Committee, a sub-committee of the Planning and Resources Committee, had been involved in load planning discussions with each Faculty and it seemed likely that the University would have a similar number of students in 2012 as in 2011. There were two factors which would affect the financial position and operations of the University in 2012:

- A likely decline in international student numbers.
- Entering a competitive environment with regard to Commonwealth Supported Places.

It was noted that product differentiation and increasing the level of student engagement were two areas that should be thoroughly reviewed by the University in an effort to remain competitive.

Last Thursday, Terry Moran announced his retirement as Head of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He will be replaced by Ian Watt. Both are alumni of La Trobe University.

**PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL**

**450.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2011 [AB11/92(M)] were confirmed.

**450.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion**

**450.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas**

The Board received report AB11/97 and **resolved** to endorse the conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/  
RGSO

#### 450.2.2 Committee Membership

##### (a) Academic Quality Committee

The Board **resolved** to approve the appointment of Professor Christine Bigby to replace Professor Philip Broadbridge as a Category G member of the Academic Quality Committee.

EO(AQC)

#### 450.2.3 Academic Board (Amendment) Regulations 2011

The Board **resolved** to endorse the amendments to the Academic Board Regulations, as detailed in report AB11/98.

LS

#### 450.2.4 Visiting Professor: La Trobe Institute for Social and Environmental Sustainability

The Board **resolved** to approve the following Visiting Professor appointment:

- Professor Jim Falk, La Trobe Institute for Social and Environmental Sustainability within the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability), as detailed in AB11/99.

P&C

### 450.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

#### 450.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 8 June 2011

The Board received report AB11/100 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Self review of Committees.
- (b) Methods to be used by this Committee.
- (c) Policy and Procedures:
  - Access to Restricted Materials Procedures
  - Animal Ethics Procedures
  - Genetically Modified Organisms Procedures
  - Human Ethics Procedures
  - Research Integrity Policy

The Board also noted the difficulties of the Animal Ethics Committee in reaching quorum at its meetings. The Deputy Chair advised that it had been suggested that a stipend for the external members of the Committee may assist and he would be in contact with the Vice-Chancellor regarding this.

DepChair

#### 450.3.2 Report of Education Committee: 27 July 2011

The Board received report AB11/101 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Procedures.
- (b) Subject Learning Guide.
- (c) Work Ready Degrees.
- (d) Late Submission of Assessment Policy and Procedures.
- (e) Report and Minutes of the Programs Committee: 18 July 2011.
- (f) Report and Minutes of the Learning Spaces and Technologies Committee: 20 June 2011.

- (g) Final First Year Experience Plan 2012-2015.
- (h) Update on CIMS Project.
- (i) Teaching and Learning Development – staff participation in Curriculum Teaching and Learning Development Policy.
- (j) Indigenous Education Statement.
- (k) Response from Committee Feedback 2009/2010.
- (l) Co-option to the Committee.

The Board **resolved**:

- (a) to approve the following new courses, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/101:
  - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences:
    - Master of Spatial Planning Management and Design
    - Graduate Certificate in Spatial Planning Management and Design
    - Graduate Diploma in Spatial Planning Management and Design
  - Faculty of Law and Management:
    - Bachelor of Business Accounting, Bachelor of Business Accounting (Honours)
    - Bachelor of Business (Accounting and Finance)
    - Bachelor of Business (Financial Services), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (Investment), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (Financial Risk Management), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (Corporate Finance), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (Wealth Management), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (International Banking and Finance), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance (Banking), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Finance, Bachelor of Finance (Honours), Diploma of Commerce
    - Bachelor of Business (Leadership and Management)
  - Faculty of Health Sciences:
    - Master of Advanced Occupational Therapy
- (b) to approve the following course changes, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/101:
  - Faculty of Law and Management:
    - Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) to create the new award Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) (Honours)
    - Bachelor of Business (Marketing) to create the new award Bachelor of Business (Marketing) (Honours)
    - Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)
    - Bachelor of Laws (Undergraduate Entry)
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Accounting
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of International Relations
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Economics
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Finance
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Media Studies
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Science
    - Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Science
    - Bachelor of Accounting

EO(EC)/  
DirAS/  
Dirso&P

EO(EC)/  
DirAS/  
Dirso&P

- Master of Business Administration, Graduate Diploma in Business Administration, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
- Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering:
  - Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- (c) to approve the following course closures, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/101:
  - Faculty of Law and Management:
    - Graduate Diploma in Sport and Leisure Management
    - Postgraduate Diploma in Tourism Management
    - Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management
  - Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering:
    - Bachelor of Finance/Bachelor of Science
- (d) to approve the amendments to the Programs Committee terms of reference, as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/101.
- (e) to endorse the concept of Work Ready Degrees, as detailed in Attachment F to AB11/101.

EO(EC)/  
DirAS/  
Dirso&P/

EO(PC)

EO(EC)

The Board agreed to the Chair's suggestion that recommendation 1.4.II, a request from the Faculty of Health Sciences for an extension of time to revise its courses to make them AQF compliant (as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/101), be deferred. It was noted that interested parties were meeting to further discuss this issue.

#### **450.3.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 24 June & 27 July 2011**

The Board received paper AB11/102 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at meetings held on 24 June and 27 July 2011:

- (a) Policy and Procedures:
  - Authorship of Research Publications Procedures (new).
  - Animal Ethics Procedures (revised).
  - Research Centres and Institutes Procedures (revised)
- (b) Centres and Institutes:
  - Review of the Centre for dialogue: consideration of Review Report and Centre response.
  - Institute for Social Participation – revised Constitution.
  - Centre for Public Sector Governance, Accountability and Performance – revised Constitution.
  - Centre for Bionic Ear and Neurosensory Research – resignation of Director.
- (c) Revision to the University's Research Plan.
- (d) University Analysis of Research Quality (measure to complement ERA).
- (e) RGSC composition, membership and terms of reference - revisions.
- (f) Administration of R&D Tax Credits Scheme – public consultation.
- (g) Human Ethics Review Implementation Plan.
- (h) Changes to Doctor of Juridical Science degree.
- (i) Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties:
  - Animal Ethics Committee: 12 May, 9 June & 14 July 2011.
  - Higher Degrees Committee (Research): 6 April, 12 May & 8 June 2011.
  - University Human Ethics Committee: 11 April & 4 July 2011.
  - Research Misconduct Procedures Working Group: 10 December 2010, 20 May & 10 June 2011.

- (j) Membership of the Higher Degrees Committee (Research): appointment of a Category B member.
- (k) Membership of the University Human Ethics Committee: appointment of Pastoral Care member.
- (l) Membership of Animal Ethics Committee: appointment of Category B and C members.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) suggested that the concerns of the Academic Quality Committee regarding the provision of a stipend to external members of the Animal Ethics Committee should be taken up at Planning and Resources Committee due to it being a budgetary issue.

The Board **resolved** to:

- approve the revised Constitution of the Institute for Social Participation, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/102; DVC(R)
- approve the revised composition, membership and terms of reference of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/102; EO(RGSC)
- approve the Authorship of Research Publications Procedures, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/102; EO(Policy)
- approve the revised Animal Ethics Procedures, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/102; EO(Policy)
- approve the revised Research Centres and Institutes Procedures, as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/102; EO(Policy)
- approve the proposed revisions to the Doctor of Juridical Science degree, as detailed in Attachment F to AB11/102. EO(RGSC)/DirAS

It was noted that the report on the review of the Centre for Dialogue should have been provided to the Board at this meeting and would be provided to the September meeting for formal endorsement. EO(RGSC)

#### 450.4 Other Matters

##### 450.4.1 Information Literacy Policy and Procedures

The Board **resolved** to endorse, for referral to Council, the Information Literacy Policy, as detailed in AB11/103. EO

The Board also **resolved** to approve the Information Literacy Procedures and Information Literacy Framework, as detailed in AB11/103. EO(Policy)/EO(LC)

##### 450.4.2 Discontinuance of the Greek Archives Project Committee as a specific purpose committee of Academic Board

The Board received report AB11/104 and **resolved** to endorse the transfer of the Greek Archives Project Committee as a specific purpose committee of Academic Board to a sub-committee of the Planning and Resources Committee. EO(GAPC)

## PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

### 450.5 Items for Information

#### 450.5.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB11/105 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Professor Harry Aveling, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (re-appointment – to 31 December 2015).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Heather Gardner, School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (c) Adjunct Professor: Paul Bartlett, School of Law, Faculty of Law and Management (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (d) Adjunct Professor: Professor Kerin O’Dea AO, Department of Dietetics, School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (e) Adjunct Associate Professor: Trevor Johnston, National Institute for Deaf Studies & Sign Language, School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).

SnrRecAdv

#### 450.5.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: August 2011

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: August 2011 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB11/106.

EO(APC)

#### 450.5.3 La Trobe University Library – Year in Review 2010

The Board received and noted the 2010 annual report of the La Trobe University Library, as detailed in report AB11/107.

#### 450.5.4 Minutes of the Library Committee: 15 July 2011

The Board received and noted the minutes of the Library Committee from a meeting held on 15 July 2011, as detailed in report LIB11/28.

#### 450.5.5 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

- (a) Law and Management: 31 May 2011 [FLM/FB11/03M].

## PART D – DISCUSSION

### 450.6 Will meeting equity targets compromise quality? What price equity?

The Deputy Chair introduced the Panel.

Discussion Panel:

- (a) Mr Andrew Skewes, Director, Bendigo Campus.
- (b) Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Academic Director, Faculty of Education.
- (c) Dr Kerry Ferguson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Student Services).

Mr Andrew Skewes spoke of the government's target of achieving 20% of low SES undergraduate higher education enrolments by 2020 and provided some data analysis based on this. He suggested that the greatest challenge lies on the demand side. Mr Skewes presentation can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/AndrewSkewes-WhatPriceEquity-August2011.pdf>

Professor Tanya Fitzgerald discussed equity being viewed as a commodity and her concerns regarding the bigger issue of diversity. It was suggested, with regard to Indigenous students, that Australia should look to New Zealand educational institutions and their engagement with the Maori. Universities in Australia should review how advantage and prestige works and commit to social inclusion. Professor Fitzgerald used two quotes to support her views and these can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/TanyaFitzgerald-ABquotes-August2011.pdf>

Dr Kerry Ferguson discussed the myths between quality and standards, immersion in the idea of "quality" and higher education becoming a private good rather than a public good in the current increasingly competitive environment. It was noted that low SES was only one aspect of equity. Dr Ferguson stated that there was a moral duty to encourage equity and diversity and provide access to education to all. Dr Ferguson's presentation can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/academicboard/assets/downloads/discussions-2011/KerryFerguson-August2011.pdf>

**Discussion:**

It was noted that regional students attract an additional \$3.7m in funding and queried whether there should be internal incentives to encourage faculties to meet targets. It was agreed that the University should have a clear and auditable trail with regard to funding provided for specific objectives. It was also noted that there were no disincentives for taking in low SES students.

In response to a query regarding whether the panel had any suggestions for alternative measures of aptitude for prospective students, Dr Ferguson provided the following examples of measures (most based around teacher recommendation) that were currently being used at La Trobe:

- SALT program.
- Indigenous students being taken outside of traditional ENTER scores.
- Recognition of prior learning/experience.
- Use of school information.

Concerns about the increasingly competitive nature of outreach programs into schools were noted and it was queried whether these could be better coordinated.

It was noted that there was no Reconciliation Action Plan at La Trobe University and suggested a plan would help foster an environment where Indigenous students felt welcome. La Trobe University has a reconciliation statement. Dr Ferguson advised that Gary Thomas, Director, Centre for Indigenous Education, was working on an Indigenous Education Strategy for La Trobe.

It was also noted that support services at the University extend beyond low SES students, with more than 50% of students struggling financially.

The meeting closed at 10.55am.

**450.7 Next Meeting**

9.30am  
Wednesday 14 September 2011  
Council Chamber  
John Scott Meeting House  
Bundoora Campus

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

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