



ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and seventy-first meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Simon Crowe (Chair), Professor Christine Bigby (Deputy Chair), Ms Lee Ann Basser, Dr Pauleen Bennett (*via videoconference*), Professor Andrew Brennan, Mr Bruce Carboon, Dr Melody Carter, Dr Damon Cartledge, Dr Peter Cartwright, Dr Naveen Chilamkurti, Dr Mary Debrett, Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Margarita Frederico, Mrs Kaye Harris (*via videoconference*), Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Dr Julie Jackson, Mr Earl Jobling (*via videoconference*), Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Stephen Kent, Dr Katherine Legge (*via videoconference*), Professor Lorraine Ling, Professor Chris Mackie, Dr Sue Martin, Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Michalis Michael, Professor Meg Morris, Mrs Susan Nalder, Dr Deborah Neal, Professor Keith Nugent, Ms Jennifer Peasley, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Mr Ben Reeson, Dr Mary Rosengren (*via videoconference*), Dr Kath Ryan, Dr Damien Spencer, Dr Donna Starks, Ms Rose Steele, Mr Robert Stephenson, Dr Jan Strugnell, Dr Sandy Suardi, Dr Guiniver Threkheld, Dr Peter Vitartis, Dr Suzanne Young, Dr Lawrie Zion and Dr Suzanne Zyngier.

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

In Attendance: Mr Matt Brett, Mr Paul Farley, Dr Richard Frampton, Dr Andrew Harvey, Professor Katie Holmes, Professor Diane Kirkby, Professor Helen Lee, Ms Natalie MacDonald, Professor Rhonda Small and Professor Eleanor Wertheim.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Apologies & Membership</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Allan Borowski, Professor Philip Broadbridge, Ms Helen Dean, Professor Karen Dodd, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Professor Jane Long, Dr Bill McGuinness, Dr Chris Pakes, Mr Bruce Pridham, Ms Karina Quinn, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Chris Scanlon and Professor Richard Speed.</p>	
<p>(ii) Approval of Agenda</p> <p>The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.</p>	
<p>(iii) Outstanding Matters</p> <p>The Board received and noted report AB14/29.</p>	

(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board

The Board received and noted report AB14/30, a summary of matters which had been approved by the Chair or Deputy Chair on behalf of the Board:

- (a) Award of Degrees and Diplomas and Conferring of Awards *in absentia*, as detailed in Attachment A to AB14/30.
- (b) D M Myers University Medal Nominees for the 2013 Academic Year, as detailed in Attachment B to AB14/30.
- (c) Membership of Committees
 - (i) *Academic Quality Committee* – Category F Academic Board nominee with expertise in Research Ethics: Ms Lee Ann Bassler, as detailed in Attachment C to AB14/30.
 - (ii) *Honours Year Grants Committee* – change to the composition – Category A Chair – from Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Student Services) to Nominee of the Chair, Academic Board (Chair), as detailed in Attachment D to AB14/30.
- (d) Establishment of Prizes
 - (i) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law: La Trobe University – Foreign Trade University 10th Anniversary Alumni Awards, as detailed in Attachment E to AB14/30.

(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Board received and noted paper AB14/31, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcMeeting2014/Papers/2/31-VCsReport-March2014.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

Other issues highlighted were:

- (a) An announcement had been made at the Funding Future Ready All Staff Forum held on Friday 28 February regarding planned redundancies. As a result of the media attention that had followed, the Vice-Chancellor had been briefing local politicians regarding their concerns about the announcement and its implications.
- (b) A Funding Future Ready Program Update to be provided as a standing item on the Academic Board agenda.
- (c) Activities in the TAFE sector.
- (d) Members of the senior executive team recently attended the Universities Australia Conference where Chris Pyne gave his first significant policy speech as Minister.

EO(AB)
DVCFR

Discussion:

- Concerns were raised regarding the proposed academic restructure and small staff number disciplines such as Theatre and Drama that still had reasonable numbers of students. It was suggested that the issue of threshold numbers for specific disciplines be further discussed with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on her return from overseas.
- In response to a query regarding what the reaction had been to the announcements regarding staff cuts, it was noted that most concerns had been raised by local politicians regarding the effects to local areas from potential job losses. It was generally understood that all universities were undergoing change as a result of diminishing resources and increased uncertainty regarding student recruitment.

DVCA

- It was suggested that the lack of clarity regarding where staff reductions would occur was creating instability. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Future Ready) advised that decisions were likely to be made by the end of the second quarter for implementation in the third quarter and requested that areas that had specific concerns invite him to come and speak to them.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

471.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 [AB14/27(M)] were confirmed.

471.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

471.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB14/32 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

471.2.2 Establishment of Prizes

The Board **resolved to approve** the establishment of the following Prizes:

- Faculty of Education: The Derek Toomey Prize for Education, as detailed in report AB14/33.
- Faculty of Health Sciences: Occupational Therapy Australia, Victoria Division, New Graduated Award for Clinical Excellence (*prize change*), as detailed in report AB14/34.
- Faculty of Health Sciences: The Valma Angliss Fund Pty Ltd Research Scholarship, as detailed in report AB14/35.
- Faculty of Health Sciences: Dr Ben Keith Prize in Dentistry, as detailed in report AB14/36.
- Faculty of Health Sciences: 2014 AV Inglewood and District Ambulance Auxiliary Scholarship in Paramedic Practice, as detailed in report AB14/37.
- Faculty of Health Sciences: ASORC Trevor Hawkins Prize (*amendment*), as detailed in report AB14/38.

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471.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

471.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 19 February 2014

The Board received report AB14/39 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 19 February 2014:

- Academic Quality Committee Schedule of Business for 2014
- Annual Reports of the Academic Board Standing Committees:
 - Academic Quality Committee
 - Programs Committee
 - Admissions Committee
 - University Human Ethics Committee
 - Animal Ethics Committee
- Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering 2013 Review Report and

EO(AQC)

Action Plan, as detailed in Attachment A to AB14/39.

- (d) The synchronisation of professional accreditation reviews and La Trobe University reviews of disciplines/departments.

The Board **resolved** to **endorse** the recommendation that the Chair make contact with the La Trobe Student Union to discuss ways in which to encourage student representatives to attend University Committee meetings. It was also suggested that there should be some discussion regarding the reduced involvement of regional students.

ChairAQC

471.3.2 Report of Education Committee: 26 February 2014

The Board received report AB14/40 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 26 February 2014:

- (a) Acting Chair's Report.
- (b) Elite Athlete Support Policy and Procedures.
- (c) Revision to the Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Policy and Procedures.
- (d) Report on Publication and Access to Student Feedback.
- (e) Revisions to the Course Lifecycle-Course Revision Procedures.
- (f) Outcomes of the 2013-2014 Membership Survey.
- (g) Revisions to the Graduate Capabilities for Students Policy and Procedures.
- (h) Standing Report from the Working Group on Learning Technologies.
- (i) Report on Implementation of Special Consideration Policy and Procedures.

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

- the Elite Athlete Support Policy and Elite Athlete Support Procedure, as detailed in Attachment One to AB14/40.
- the revisions to the Course Lifecycle-Course Review Procedures including the Five Yearly Academic Course Review and Re-accreditation Guidelines, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB14/40.
- the revisions to the Student Feedback on Subjects Policy, the Student Feedback on Subjects – Administration Procedures and the introduction of new procedures the Student Feedback on Subjects – Publication Procedures, as detailed in Attachment Three to AB14/40.

EO(EC)
EO(Policy)

It was also agreed that the issue of reduced response rates for student feedback and what could be used to incentivise and increase student response rates be addressed by the Education Committee.

EO(EC)
Chair(EC)

The Board also noted that the Education Committee had received and considered the outcomes of the 2013 membership survey. The details of the survey and the annual progress against the Committee's Terms of Reference will be presented to the March meeting of the Academic Quality Committee.

471.3.3 Report of Programs Committee: 20 February 2014

The Board received report AB14/41 and noted that the Programs Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 20 February 2014:

- (a) Chair's Report.
- (b) Committee membership report.
- (c) Matters arising from the minutes.
- (d) Course submissions from the Faculties of Business, Economics and Law

- and Health Sciences.
- (e) Audit of monthly business.
 - (f) Minor revisions approved by the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.

The Board **resolved to approve:**

(i) *Course Revisions:*

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

- Master of Management (Sport Management), Graduate Diploma of Sport Management and Graduate Certificate of Sport Management.

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Bachelor of Paramedic Practice and Bachelor of Public Health Promotion.
- Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Paramedic Practice.
- Bachelor of Health Sciences.
- Bachelor of Health Sciences with Honours.
- Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Occupational Therapy Practice.
- Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Podiatric Practice.
- Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy, including course name change to Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy.

(ii) *Course Closure:*

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Exercise Physiology.

The Board also noted:

- Mr Matt Riddle, La Trobe Learning and Teaching, has been coopted to the Programs Committee;
- Dr Sherrie Wentworth was appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Programs Committee during the absence of Dr Vilma Stanisich;
- the Programs Committee's appreciation of the contributions of the outgoing Faculty of Education representative, Dr Damon Cartledge.

471.3.4 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 21 February 2014

The Board received report AB14/42 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 21 February 2014:

- (a) RFA KPIs and measurement – Publications and Income.
- (b) ERA Draft Submission and Guidelines – Public Consultation LTU Comments.
- (c) Nominations for Cluster Chairs and FOR Champions.
- (d) Research Integrity Audit Report.
- (e) Publication Award Scheme.
- (f) Establishment of a Steering Committee and Working Group for the La Trobe Graduate Research School.
- (g) Annual Reports from Centres and Institutes:
 - Philippines Australia Study Centre Annual Report 2012
- (h) Report of Sub-Committees:
 - Higher Degrees Committee (Research): minutes of meetings held on 4 September, 6 November and 9 December 2013.

EO(PC)
DirAS
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- University Human Ethics Committee: minutes of meeting held on 9 November 2013.
- Animal Ethics Committee: minutes of meetings held on 10 October and 21 November 2013.
- eResearch Committee: eResearch Committee Annual Review for 2013.
- Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee: minutes of meeting held on 20 November 2013.

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

- the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to close the professional doctoral course – Doctor of Clinical Science - Clinical Speech Pathology, as detailed in Attachment A to AB14/42.
- an amendment to the membership composition of the University Human Ethics Committee to include a second member in the pastoral care category.

EO(RGSC)
DirAS
DirO&P

471.4 Other Matters

471.4.1 Delegation of Academic Board's Degree-Confering Power

The Board received report AB14/43 and **resolved** to **approve** the delegation of its degree-confering power on Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis (relying on its power of delegation in section 4 of the *Academic Board Statute 2009*) on a one-off basis to confer an Honorary Degree on Dr Aaron Beck in the USA in April 2014.

A&A
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471.4.2 Emeritus Professor Nominations

(a) *Professor Peter Mathews*

The Board received report AB14/44 and **resolved** to **approve** the proposal from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Peter Mathews.

EO(AB)
EO(Council)
P&C

471.4.3 2013 Community Awards Report

The Board received report AB14/45, the Community Awards Committee Report and **resolved** to **approve** an addition to the terms of reference to ensure that an applicant is not awarded more than one award during the same application period/year.

EO(CAC)

471.4.4 2014 Honours Year Grant Report

The Board received and noted report AB14/46, the 2014 Honours Year Grant Report.

EO(HYGC)

471.4.5 Disestablishment of Honours Year Grant Committee

The Board received report AB14/47 and **resolved** to **approve**:

- the disestablishment of the Honours Year Grants Committee, a specific purpose Committee of the Board; and
- that it be recommended to Planning and Resources Committee that the Scholarships Committee – a sub-committee of the Planning and Resources Committee – assume responsibility for the management of the Honours Year Grant Scheme, with the Senior Coordinator, Central Scholarships

EO(HYGC)
EO(PRC)
EO(SC)

overseeing the transition.

The Board also noted that any changes to the conditions of the Honours Year Grants Scheme in the future would require Academic Board approval.

471.4.6 Academic Year 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017

The Board received report AB14/51 and **resolved** to **approve** the following academic schedules:

- Academic Year 2014 (amendment to include commencement of Summer 1 intake), as detailed in Attachment 1 to AB14/51.
- Academic Year 2015, as detailed in Attachment 2 to AB14/51.
- Academic Year 2016, as detailed in Attachment 3 to AB14/51.
- Academic Year 2017, as detailed in Attachment 4 to AB14/51.

It was agreed that future proposals regarding the academic year and schedules were to be reviewed by the Education Committee prior to being referred to the Board for approval.

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PVC(EP&Q)

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PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

471.5 Items for Information

471.5.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB14/48 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- Adjunct Professor: Dr Ian Mansergh, Environmental Management and Ecology, Life Sciences, Research Centre for Alpine Ecology, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (re-appointment – 3 years).
- Adjunct Professor: Professor Richard Joel Wassersug, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, School of Public Health and Human Biosciences, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- Adjunct Professor: Professor Lyn Littlefield OAM FAPS, School of Psychological Science, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (re-appointment – 3 years).

P&C

471.5.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: February 2014

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: February 2014 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB14/49.

EO(APC)

471.5.3 Senior Academic Appointments Report: February 2014

The Board received report AB14/50 and noted that the following senior academic appointment had recently been made:

- Professor Jan Nicholson, Inaugural Roberta Holmes Professorial Chair – Transition to Contemporary Parenthood.

P&C

PART D – DISCUSSION

471.6 Review of Demand Driven Funding System

Professor Simon Crowe, Chair, Academic Board introduced the discussion panel:

- (a) Mr Matt Brett, Manager Higher Education Policy
- (b) Dr Andrew Harvey, Director, Access and Achievement Research Unit
- (c) Ms Rose Steele, President, La Trobe Student Union

Mr Brett provided a brief overview of the Demand Driven Funding Review, its terms of reference, the themes of the 79 public submissions, La Trobe's submission and some of the implications of the opt-out funding model. He spoke to a presentation which can be accessed at the following link:
<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcMeeting2014/UsefulResources/2/ReviewofDemandDrivenFunding.pdf>.

Dr Harvey provided some context and background, outlining the current situation in the UK where fees had been increased (with a HECS-style income scheme) with little long-term impact on student numbers or low SES student applications. He also summarised the current Australian situation since moving to a demand driven system which had opened up participation in higher education (a growth of 23% in CSP over the last four years), though without a major proportional increase in low SES or regional groups. Dr Harvey then outlined the possible impacts and challenges of moving to an opt-out model (eg equity, institution stratification).

Ms Steele spoke about the impact on students now and in the future and equity issues. It was noted that the increasingly competitive nature of education and the impact of Funding Future Ready would lead to the amalgamation and closure of courses and there was a great risk of closure of 'critical thinking' courses. A potential positive of a move to a more competitive system could be innovations regarding learning technologies, while the negatives include larger classes, with face-to-face time reduced. Fee increases may not stop students enrolling, but may lead to an increase in equity issues (two thirds of students currently living below the poverty line, increased working hours, impacts on women studying etc). Retention rates and the ability to pay back debt were also seen as significant issues for students in a more competitive environment.

Discussion:

- There was some discussion regarding how the government could reinvest any savings made if they move forward with the opt-out funding model. Dr Harvey advised that in the UK Funding/Access Agreements exist and if institutions choose to charge the maximum fee they must spend significant amounts on access.
- In response to a query regarding whether there had been any discussion as part of this process regarding research funding, it was noted that while the terms of reference had not specifically referred to research, some of the Go8 submissions had referred to it. Teaching and learning costs were the main topics in the submissions.
- It was queried whether Fee HELP would still exist if the government chose the opt-out model and Panel Members suggested that this may be capped or limited if course fees increase and Income Contingent Loan Schemes were being reviewed.

The meeting closed at 10.50am.

471.7 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 14 May 2014
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Melbourne Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____