



## ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and seventy-third meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 9.30am.

**Present:** Professor Simon Crowe (Chair), Professor Christine Bigby (Deputy Chair), Ms Lee Ann Basser, Dr Pauline Bennett (*via videoconference*), Professor Andrew Brennan, Mr Bruce Carboon, Dr Melody Carter, Dr Naveen Chilamkurti, Professor Michael Clarke, Dr Mary Debrett, Professor Leigh Drake, Professor Jane Farmer, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Dr Trevor Hogan, Professor Nick Hoogenraad, Professor Russell Hoyer, Professor Teresa Iacono (*via videoconference*), Dr Julie Jackson, Mr Earl Jobling (*via videoconference*), Dr Mary Keeffe (*via videoconference*), Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Professor Patrick Keyzer, Dr Susan Lawler (*via videoconference*), Professor Lorraine Ling, Professor Jane Long (*Acting Vice-Chancellor*), Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Bill McGuinness, Dr Michalis Michael, Mrs Susan Nalder, Professor Keith Nugent, Dr Chris Pakes, Ms Jennifer Peasley, Professor Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Professor Wenny Rahayu, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Mary Rosengren (*via videoconference*), Dr Kath Ryan, Dr Christopher Scanlon, Dr Damian Spencer, Ms Rose Steele, Mr Robert Stephenson (*via videoconference*), Dr Jan Strugnell, Dr Raelene Wilding and Dr Lawrie Zion.

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

**In Attendance:** Professor Philip Broadbridge, Professor Diane Kirkby, Professor Betty Leask, Professor Helen Lee, Ms Natalie MacDonald, Dr Carol McKinstry, Professor Mary Anne Noone, Professor Susan Paxton, Professor Peta Tait and Professor Eleanor Wertheim.

### PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

**(i) Apologies & Membership**

Apologies were received from Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Allan Borowski, Professor Karen Dodd, Dr Brican Erbas, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald, Ms Margarita Frederico, Dr Kaye Harris, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Meg Morris, Dr Deborah Neal, Dr Sue O’Keefe, Ms Karina Quinn and Dr Guiniver Threkheld.

**(ii) Approval of Agenda**

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the Agenda, as circulated.

**(iii) Outstanding Matters**

The Board received and noted report AB14/73.

**(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board**

The Board received and noted report AB14/74, a summary of matters which had

**ACTION**

been approved by the Chair or Deputy Chair on behalf of the Board:

- (a) Establishment of Prizes
  - (i) Faculty of Business, Economics and Law: Crowe Horwarth Prize (formerly WHK Prize), as detailed in Attachment A to AB14/74.
- (b) Bonus ATAR for Elite Athletes, as detailed in Attachment B to AB14/74.  
A proposal from La Trobe Sport, referred and endorsed by the Admissions Committee to:
  - offer a special entry scheme to eligible elite athletes seeking admissions via VTAC.
  - offer eligible elite athletes 5 bonus ATAR points.
  - seek support from VTAC to automate the process and ratify application's eligibility.
- (c) Funding Future Ready: Amendment to Academic Board Statute, as detailed in Attachment C to AB14/74.

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

The Board received and noted paper AB14/75, 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/4/75-VCsReport-June2014.pdf>

The *Acting* Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane Long, spoke to the report and reported the following additional items:

- (a) Queen's Birthday 2014 Honours List included the following with links to La Trobe:
  - Professor Nick Hoogenraad AO – for distinguished service to science education and technological development, particularly in the fields of biochemistry and microbiology.
  - Emeritus Professor Anne Mitchell AO – for distinguished service to community health, particularly through sexual health research, policy development and program delivery to marginalised communities.
  - Heather Gardner OAM – for service to education in the field of public health.
  - Mrs Olga Tennison OAM – for service to children with autism spectrum disorders.
  - Dr Ronald Price OAM – for service to tertiary education and to Australia-China relations.
  - Ms Maureen Wheeler AO & Mr Tony Wheeler AO (La Trobe Alumni) – for distinguished service to business and commerce as a publisher of travel guides, and as a benefactor to a range of Australian arts and aid organisations.
- (b) Acknowledgement that this was the final Academic Board meeting for the following senior staff members:
  - Professor John Rosenberg, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
  - Professor Tim Murray, Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Board thanked them for their contributions to the Board and their many years of significant service to the University.

**Funding Future Ready Program Update**

The Board received and noted paper AB14/76, the Funding Future Ready

Program Report. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Future Ready) also provided a verbal update on a number of issues:

- Organisational Change Proposals are due in June.
- Council were supportive of the current strategy and had approved the Future Ready submission on 19 May.
- Consultation had commenced on the Change Proposal for Tranche 1 – College Leadership.
- Consultation would commence for Tranche 2 on 23 June and Tranche 3 on 30 June.
- The NTEU dispute was due to be heard at Fair Work Australia on 16 and 17 June.
- A detailed transition plan is being worked on for the period July 2014 to February 2015.

## PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

### 473.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2014 [AB14/71(M)] were confirmed.

### 473.2 Matters Arising

#### 473.2.1 Student Feedback on Subjects – matters arising from the Report of the Vice-Chancellor

(Min ref. 472(v), AB14/71(M) – 14 May 2014)

The Board received report AB14/77, the response to the motions regarding Student Feedback on Subjects, tabled at the 14 May 2014 meeting of the Board, and noted that the University is undertaking a review of its Student Feedback on Subjects Policy and Procedures.

DVCA  
DirPIPU

### 473.3 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

#### 473.3.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB14/78 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

#### 473.3.2 Committee Membership

(a) *Academic Quality Committee*

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the nomination of Professor Philip Broadbridge as a co-opted member of the Academic Quality Committee.

EO(AQC)

#### 473.3.3 Delegation of Academic Board's Degree-Conferring Power

The Board received report AB14/79 and **resolved** to **approve** the delegation of its degree-conferring power on Dr Stephen Kent (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 November 2014.

A&A  
UE

#### 473.4 Standing Committees of Academic Board

##### 473.4.1 Report of Admissions Committee: 28 March 2014

The Board received report AB14/60 and noted that the Admissions Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 28 March 2014:

- (a) Articulation agreements
- (b) Admissions activities for 2014: Admissions Focus Paper
- (c) Admissions Strategy Options 2014
- (d) Bonus ATAR points for elite athletes
- (e) VCE (Baccalaureate)
- (f) Terms of reference – updated membership
- (g) VTAC Management Committee: 2013/2014 Selection Report
- (h) VCE (Baccalaureate) – frequently asked questions
- (i) Admissions Committee – end of year review 2013

The Board **resolved** to **endorse** the Admissions Strategy Options for 2014, as detailed in Attachment A to AB14/60.

EO(AC)

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

- a proposal to offer all courses for VCE (Baccalaureate) awarded students.
- the updated composition and membership of the Admissions Committee, as detailed in Attachment C to AB14/60.

DirAS

The Board also noted that the proposal for bonus ATAR points for elite athletes, as detailed in Attachment B to AB14/60, had been approved out-of-session and is listed in item (iv) in Part A.

##### 473.4.2 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 2 May 2014

The Board received report AB14/80 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 2 May 2014:

EO(RGSC)

- (a) Update on Graduate Research School.
- (b) Grant Applications Summary.
- (c) ERA 2015 Update on Nominations.
- (d) HERDC Preliminary Publication Data Update.
- (e) Annual Reports from Centres and Institutes:
  - Philippines Australia Study Centre Annual Report 2013
- (f) Report of Sub-Committees:
  - Higher Degrees Committee (Research): minutes of meeting held on 12 February 2014.
  - University Human Ethics Committee: minutes of meeting held on 10 February and Annual Report for 2013.
  - Animal Ethics Committee: minutes of meetings held on 12 December 2013, 13 February 2014 and 13 March 2014 and Annual Report for 2013.
  - Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee: minutes of meeting held on 12 February 2014 and Annual Report for 2013.

#### 473.4.3 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 21 May 2014

The Board received report AB14/81 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 21 May 2014:

- (a) Outcome of meeting with the Education Committee.
- (b) Proposal for an academic policy process.
- (c) Update on progress of the Policy Working Group of AQC.
- (d) Annual Reports of the Academic Board Standing Committees:
  - Genetic Manipulation Supervisory Committee Annual Report 2013.

EO(AQC)

#### 473.4.4 Report of the Programs Committee: 15 May 2014

The Board received report AB14/82 and noted that the Programs Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 15 May 2014:

- (a) Matters arising from the minutes.
- (b) Course submissions from the Faculties of Business, Economics and Law, and Science, Technology and Engineering.
- (c) Academic Course Review Report and Action Plan for the Master of Biotechnology, Master of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics and Graduate Diploma in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics.

The Board **resolved to approve:**

- (i) Course proposals, as detailed in Attachment One to AB14/82.

*New Courses:*

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

- Bachelor of Commerce.
- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws.
- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Arts.
- Juris Doctor.

Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

- Bachelor of Civil Technology.

*Course Closures:*

Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

- Bachelor of Computer Science in Games Technology, effective from Semester 1 2015.
  - Bachelor of Biological Sciences (Advanced Science), effective from Semester 1 2015.
  - Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry, effective from Semester 1 2015.
- (ii) The Academic Course Review Report and the Action Plan of Academic Course Review of the Master of Biotechnology, Master of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics and Graduate Diploma in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, as detailed in Attachment Two to AB14/82.

EO(PC)  
DirAS  
DirsO&P

#### 473.4.5 Report of Education Committee: 28 May 2014

The Board received report AB14/83 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 28 May 2014:

- (a) Chair's Report.
- (b) Matters arising: Alignment of the Education and Academic Quality Committees' Work Plan.
- (c) Revision to the Student Workload and Assessment Policies.
- (d) Academic Integrity – Consultant's Report.
- (e) Report from the Learning Technologies Working Group.

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

- the revised Assessment Policy, as detailed in Attachment One to AB14/83.
- the revised Student Workload Policy, as detailed in Attachment One to AB14/83.

EO(EC)  
EO Policy

The Board also noted the Education Committee's appreciation of the contributions to the Committee and quality teaching and learning at the University made by Dr Claire Macken, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Future Learning).

#### 473.5 Other Matters

##### 473.5.1 La Trobe Sport Annual Report

The Board received and noted report AB14/84, the La Trobe Sport Annual Report 2013. The Director La Trobe Sport, spoke to a presentation outlining La Trobe Sport's goals and achievements which can be accessed at the following link: <https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/abcMeeting2014/UsefulResources/4/LaTrobeSportAnnualReport-presentation.pdf>.

DirLTS

##### 473.5.2 Honorary Degree Policy and Procedure

The Board received report AB14/85 and **resolved** to **approve** amendments to:

- the Honorary Degree Policy, as detailed in Attachment 1 to AB14/85.
- the Honorary Degree Procedure, as detailed in Attachment 2 to AB14/85.

DirAAO  
EO(Policy)

##### 473.5.3 Disestablishment of Community Awards Committee

The Board received report AB14/86 and **resolved** to **approve**:

- the disestablishment of the Community Awards Committee, a specific purpose Committee of the Board.
- that it be recommended to Planning and Resources Committee that the Scholarships Unit assume responsibility for the management of the following four community awards:
  - SCU/Lincoln Scholarship
  - Pauline Toner Award
  - Westpac Award
  - Harvey Naghten Memorial Award

with the Scholarships Committee – a sub-committee of the Planning and Resources Committee – providing final sign-off on grants awarded.

The Board also noted that any changes to the conditions of these community awards in the future would need to be approved by the Board.

EO(CAC)  
EO(PRC)  
EO(SC)

##### 473.5.4 Establishment of the Hallmark Program Board of Studies

The Board received report AB14/87 and **resolved** to **approve** the establishment of the Hallmark Program Board of Studies as sub-committee of the Education Committee, a Policy Committee of Academic Board.

DVCA  
EO(EC)  
EO(AB)

**473.5.5 Emeritus Professor Nomination**

*(a) Professor Stephen Duckett*

The Board received report AB14/88 and **resolved to approve** the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences, as endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor, to confer the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor Stephen Duckett.

EO(AB)  
EO(Council)  
P&C

**473.5.6 Funding Future Ready: Amendments to Legislation**

The Board received report AB14/89 and **resolved to approve** the draft Future Ready Amendments Statute 2014 and the draft Academic Integrity Statute 2014.

GenCounsel  
EO(Council)

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**473.6 Matters for Information**

**473.6.1 Adjunct Appointments**

The Board received report AB14/90 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

- (a) Adjunct Professor: Professor Alison Perry, Human Communication Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences (re-appointment – 3 years).
- (b) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Jane Tracy, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (c) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis, Psychological Science, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (appointment – 3 years).

P&C

**473.6.2 Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: May 2014**

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: May 2014 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB14/91.

EO(APC)

**473.6.3 Senior Academic Appointments Report: May 2014**

The Board received report AB14/92 and noted that the following senior academic appointment had recently been made:

- Dr Trevor Hogan, Associate Dean Research.

P&C

**473.6.4 Minutes of the Faculty Boards**

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

- (a) Science, Technology and Engineering: 6 March 2014, as detailed in AB14/93
- (b) Science, Technology and Engineering: 3 April 2014, as detailed in AB14/94.

## PART D – DISCUSSION

### 473.7 Debate: This University should issue trigger warnings for subject material which could prove confronting to students

Professor Simon Crowe, Chair, Academic Board introduced the panel.

*Moderator:*

Professor Andrew Brennan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research)

*Affirmative:*

Speaker 1: Professor Eleanor Wertheim, Psychology

Speaker 2: Professor Patrick Keyzer, Head, La Trobe Law School

*Negative:*

Speaker 1: Dr Damian Spencer, Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering

Speaker 2: Dr Carol McKinstry, Acting Head of Department, Rural and Regional Allied Health

**Discussion:**

- Restrictions could create a learning context that is superficial and not transformative.
- How does this fit with the University's Funding Future Ready strategy where the vision is all about attracting creative and independent thinkers and stretching people with confronting and progressive ideas?
- Important to provide a supportive environment for students.
- By giving a trigger warning are we then giving students permission to not attend class?
- How far do we take this? What is the end point regarding warnings about confronting material? Creates a huge task for academic staff.
- Universities are places for people to be challenged.
- Important to protect the students we have here by providing them with special consideration and support services for physical disabilities or mental health issues. Trigger warnings may create a safer environment for students.

The meeting closed at 10.55am.

### 473.8 Next Meeting

9.30am

Wednesday 13 August 2014

Council Chamber

John Scott Meeting House

Melbourne Campus

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

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