



ACADEMIC BOARD

Confirmed

Minutes of the five hundred and eighteenth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Christine Bigby (Chair), Dr Sarah Anderson, Dr Miriam Bankovsky, Dr Josie Barbaro, Professor Joanna Barbousas, Professor Jordana Bayer, Dr Paulina Billett, Professor Nick Bisley, Professor Irene Blackberry, Dr Narelle Brack, Dr Liz Branigan, Professor Leeanne Carey, Professor Shaun Collin, Dr Megan Cook, Dr Suzanne Davies, Professor Amalia Di Iorio, Professor Susan Dodds, Professor Grant Drummond, Dr Kirsty Duncanson, Professor Christine East, Professor David Edvardsson, Ms Kate Emond, Dr Kelly Farrell, Dr Megan Fisher, Professor Ashley Franks, Professor Margarita Frederico, Dr Jennifer Frost, Professor Warwick Frost, Professor Paul Gustin, Professor Richard Gray, Professor Jane Hamilton, Professor Darren Henry, Dr Suzanne Hodgkin, Ms Andrea Holman, Professor Russell Hoyer, Dr James Lachlan, Mr Greg Jamieson, Ms Anne Jedzini, Dr Markandeya Jois, Dr Wade Kelly, Professor Stephen Kent, Dr Shanshan Kou, Professor Emmanuel Kuntsche, Professor Karl Landorf, Dr Karen Lawrence, Dr Lauren Lawson, Professor Helen Lee, Professor Nicki Lee, Dr John Lesku, Professor Virginia Lewis, Professor George Liu, Dr Clare McCausland, Professor Lisa McKenna, Dr Rachel Martin, Dr Sarah Midford, Professor Robyn Murphy, Dr Deborah Neal, Dr Hien Nguyen, Professor Matthew Nicholson, Dr Jodi Oakman, Professor Suzanne O'Keefe, Dr Ross O'Shea, Professor Chris Pakes, Professor Paul Pigram, Professor Robert Pike, Dr Luke Prendergast, Professor Wenny Rahayu, Professor Chris Roche, Dr Tania Romano Stasis, Ms Annabelle Romano, Ms Fiona Salisbury, Professor Brian Smith, Ms Penny Smith, Professor Richard Speed, Dr Evelien Spelten, Professor Tonya Stebbins, Mr Robert Stephenson, Dr Rwth Stuckey, Professor Vijaya Sundararajan, Professor Marija Tabain, Ms Tricia Van Der-Kuyp, Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, Dr Matthew Varley, Dr Suzane Vassallo, Dr Prakash Veeraraghavan, Professor James Walker, Professor Yvonne Wells, 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 Bridget Soulsby, Dr Paul Ramage, and Ms Anna Maria Schurmann.

Acknowledgement of Country: The Deputy Chair acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land upon which the La Trobe Campuses are situated: Dja Wurrung (Bendigo), Wurundjeri (Bundoora), Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri (City Campus), Latji (Mildura), Yorta and Bangerang (Shepparton), and Dhudhuroa and Waywurru (Wondonga).

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

518.1 Welcome and Apologies

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

ACTION

Apologies were received from:

Dr Karen Anderson, Ms Vibi Bangaar, Dr Melanie Bish, Professor Lisa Brophy, Ms Elizabeth Capp, Professor Michael Clarke, Professor Jill Cook, Professor Kay Crossley, Professor Simon Crowe, Dr Craig Deed, Professor John Dewar, Dr Michael Dillon, Professor Cheryl Dissanayake, Professor Matthias Ernst, Professor Simon Evans, Mr Paul Farley, Dr Tracy Fortune, Dr Emma Henderson, Professor Andy Herries, Professor Katie Holmes, Dr Phillip Hughes, Mr Kaeden Jenkin, Professor Emi Kashima, Professor Fiona Kelly, Professor Patrick Keyzer, Mr Fotios Lampropoulos, Ms Wendy Martinec, Professor Paul Mather, Professor Dennis McDermott, Dr Nicola McNeil, Professor Timothy Murray, Professor Jennifer Oates, Professor Craig Patch, Mr Peter Powell, Ms Fiona Reed, Professor Amanda Richdale, Professor Terri Seddon, Professor Alan Shiell, Professor Subra Subrahmanyam, Professor Gillian Sullivan Mort, Mr Brody Tanner, Dr Guinever Threlkeld, Dr Terrie Waddell, Ms Tayla Wakley, Dr Andrea Waling, Professor Eleanor Wertheim, Dr Laura Whitburn, Professor Carlene Wilson, Ms Andrea Young

518.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the agenda, as circulated (AB20/14(A)).

518.3 Matters Outstanding

The Board **resolved** to **note** that there were no matters outstanding to report.

518.4 Report of the Chair

The Chair, Professor Christine Bigby, drew members' attention to the Reports of the Academic Board Executive Committee, noting that the change to reporting foreshadowed at the February 2020 meeting has been implemented.

518.5 Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement), Professor Susan Dodds, spoke to the report on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar.

Professor Dodds outlined the University's response to the COVID 19 pandemic, noting the response has had two phases:

- how to support students who were unable to travel to commence classes, and
- contingency planning based on the advice of state and federal medical officers.

The University's COVID 19 webpage, including a 'frequently asked questions' section was highlighted.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) highlighted the quality assurance measures which have been put in place and advised that the University is monitoring the student experience and providing support to staff and students.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement) drew members' attention to:

- the Vice-Chancellor's email which described the need to reduce discretionary spending, including recruitment and international travel.
- The National Regional, Rural and Remote Education Strategy led by the Hon Dr Denis Napthine
- The appointment of Professor Stacey Faraway to the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)

- The expansion of role and change of title for Professor Chris Pakes to Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate and Global Research)
- The Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning awarded to Dr Dilhani Premaratna
- The launch of the Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation

In response to a query, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement) advised that reductions in discretionary spending are being applied across the University. Additional suggestions for reductions in spending may be made through the College Provosts. Members were also advised that while outside earnings funds have not been frozen, only essential expenditure should occur - non-essential expenditure such as travel to conferences should be deferred.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

518.6 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Academic Board **confirmed** the minutes of the 517th meeting held on 12 February 2020 were a true and accurate record (AB20/13(M)).

518.7 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received paper AB20/16 and **resolved to approve** the award of degrees and diplomas as detailed in AB20/16.

AEGTO
GRS

518.8 Standing Committees of Academic Board

518.8.1 Report of the Education Committee: 5 February 2020

The Board received report AB20/17 and **noted** that the Education Committee had considered the following items at a meeting on 5 February 2020:

EO(EC)

- Report of the Chair
- Speak Up Annual Report
- Clever Learning Update
- Graduate Capabilities Policy
- Subject and Course Coordinator Role Description and Guidelines
- Annual Reviews of the Education Committee against the Terms of Reference 2018 and 2019
- Education Committee Membership

The Board **resolved to approve** the:

- renaming of the Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Policy to Graduate Capabilities Policy
- revised Graduate Capabilities Policy
- rescission of the La Trobe Essentials Policy
- revised membership of the Education Committee.

The Chair of Education Committee, Professor Nicolette Lee, spoke to the report, noting:

- the Speak Up Annual Report had provided a sense of the stresses students experience. The Committee had discussed the processes and services available to assist students.
- An update on the Clever Learning program was provided.

- The development of course and subject co-ordinator role descriptions continues. Further consultation over the next six months will refine the descriptions which will result in revisions to the Policy.
- Revisions to the Graduate Capabilities and rescission of the Essentials Policy will streamline approaches to outcomes and decrease the workloads involved. This has been enabled by the incoming Course Management System.

518.8.2 Academic Board Executive Committee

518.8.2.1 Report of the Academic Board Executive Committee: 6 February 2020

The Board received report AB20/18 and **noted** that the Academic Board Executive Committee had considered the following items at the meeting held on 6 February 2020:

- a. Academic Board Review
- b. 2020 Academic Board Business Schedule and Panel Discussion Plans
- c. Short term provisions for international students who were delayed in arriving to commence studies
- d. Committee membership vacancies

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

- Professor Tonya Stebbins to the vacant Category C position for one Academic Board nominee from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce on Coursework Committee.
- Professor Bernadette Walker-Gibbs to the vacant Category D position for one Academic Board nominee from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce on Education Committee.
- Professor Suzanne O'Keefe to the vacant position for a senior Academic appointed by Academic Board as Deputy Chair of Education Committee.

518.8.2.2 Report of the Academic Board Executive Committee: 4 March 2020

The Board **received** and **noted** report AB20/22, a summary of matters which had been approved on behalf of the Board since the last meeting; and **ratified** the matters approved out of session on behalf of the Academic Board at a meeting held on 4 March 2020:

- New course
 - Master of Information and Communication Technology (Bendigo)(SMINCTB)
- Course Revision
 - Master of Information and Communication Technology (SMINCT)

517.8.3 Report of the Coursework Committee: 12 February 2020

The Board **received** report AB20/19 and **noted** that the Coursework Committee had considered the following items at the meeting held on 12 February 2020:

- New course and course revisions from the College of Science, Health and Engineering
- Course revision from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce
- 2019 Coursework Committee Annual Report Against the Terms of Reference
- Coursework Committee Survey 2019

EO(ABEC)

EO(ABEC)

EO(CC)
GenMgrs
ED SSA
AP(LT)

The Board resolved to approve:

- a. Course revision proposal from the College of Science, Health and Engineering, as detailed in Attachment A to AB20/19:
 - Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)(HMNNP)
- b. Course revision proposal from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce, as detailed in Attachment A to AB20/19:
 - Postgraduate Enabling Program (LPEPBB, LPEPSY)

The Chair of Coursework Committee, Mr Greg Jamieson, spoke to the report and outlined the proposed course revisions, noting that two of the proposals had been considered by the Academic Board Executive Committee in early March 2020.

518.9 Honorary Degrees

The Board received report AB20/20 and **resolved to approve** the following applications for Honorary Degrees to be conferred in 2020:

AAO

- Professor Richard Larkins AC AO (Chancellor of La Trobe University 2017-2018), DUniv - Doctor of the University
- Professor Peter Høj (Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Queensland), DSc - Doctor of Science
- Ms Fran Kelly (ABC Journalist) DLitt - Doctor of Letters

518.10 Presentation and Open Discussion: Research 2030

The Board received and discussed paper AB20/21 and endorsed the broad directions of the Research and Industry Engagement Plan, 2020-24: Research 2030, including the Industry Engagement Plan 2020-2024.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement), Professor Susan Dodds, spoke to the Plan, noting that it seeks, over the next five years, to consolidate the University's research effort and position the University to be known for world-leading research across thematic areas of focus by 2030.

Current constraints on research performance include diffracted school and central support and complex research structures. Current structures involve two Colleges, 11 Schools, 20 Research Centres, five research focus areas with varying levels of support. The Plan seeks to realign research support and re-organise research structures around a set of problem-based thematic areas.

The Chair and Deputy Chair posed questions to the panel about the motivation for the plan, how research themes will be developed, the role of research centres and institutes, industry partnerships, research income targets, interdisciplinary collaboration within the university, and postgraduate involvement with industry. Members were advised:

- Consultation with researchers is being undertaken to identify the 'big questions' for 2030 and the University's capacity to address those questions. Existing data and external benchmarking will also be used as evidence. Further group consultations will occur to identify the research questions the University will pursue. Hence, the identification of strengths and themes will be a bottom up process. While Research Focus Areas (RFAs) will provide some basis for decisions, the University's research output has doubled since RFAs were introduced seven years ago. In addition, the Research Centres Policy is due for review.

- It is proposed that Research Centres are established for five-year periods (rather than annual renewals) with clear key performance indicators and measures. Clear expectations regarding the limits of central funding and a requirement that Centres become self-funded will form part of establishment and renewal. Research Centres will be located within themes with the thematic area providing administrative support.
- The Plan recognises that industry partnerships are not only corporate or science based and may include Government, non-government organisations, start-ups, and small to medium enterprises. Examples of deep research partnerships include the University's partnerships with AdAlta and Optus.
- The targets included in the Plan are long term targets and are considered realistic.
- Category 2/3 grants accounted for 60-65% of the University's research income in 2015.
- The number of industry funded PhD scholarships has increased from seven in 2017 to 57 co-funded scholarships in 2019. Five of the 28 industry-based PhD students are located on regional campuses.

The Panel also replied to a number of questions from the floor regarding the distribution of targets, revision of Academic Workload Planning, support for researchers and the nature of the University's research. The Panel advised:

- Research targets will be distributed through Schools – based on how the School is contributing to thematic or Institute goals.
- The identification of themes and research objectives will lead to changes to, or a recalibration of, targets which will also impact on Academic Workload Planning.
- Individual researchers, or disciplines too small to form research centres, will be supported through the thematic areas.
- Research into rural and regional issues is not located solely at the regional campuses, nor is it the only area of research undertaken by those campuses.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement) reiterated that there will be a bottom up approach taken to identifying the big research questions/issues for 2030, the University's strengths, and capabilities. Consultation on the research themes will be undertaken in May/June. Discussions on institutes and research centres will be held in May.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

517.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 8 April 2020 in the Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, Melbourne Campus.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.