

La Trobe University
ACADEMIC BOARD
2025

Establishment

See Section 20, Part 3 of the La Trobe University Act, Academic Board Statute 2009 and Academic Board Regulations 2019.

Role / Terms of reference

Terms of reference

(min. ref. AB08/56(M), 423.6)

1. Academic Board is responsible for approving and monitoring the implementation of policy on academic matters including admission to degrees, diplomas and other awards; new and revised programs; teaching and learning; assessment; student conduct; research; reviews of courses and academic units; academic staff promotions and senior (Level D & Level E) academic appointments; and prizes and scholarships.
2. Academic Board will monitor institutional benchmarks for academic quality and outcomes.
3. Academic Board will provide academic oversight to assure the quality of teaching, learning, research and research training.
4. Academic Board will monitor the management of academic risks.
5. Academic Board will consider and advise the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council on academic matters and any other broad issues which affect the academic excellence of the University.
6. Academic Board will provide a forum to facilitate information flow and debate within the University.

Membership

Term of office of elected members

- (a) The term of office of a staff member is 2 years.
- (b) The term of office of a student member is 1 year.

The following persons are prescribed as members *ex officio* of the Board:

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| (a) Chair | Professor Carol McKinstry |
| (b) Deputy Chair | Professor Axel Schulz |
| (c) Vice-Chancellor & President | Professor Theo Farrell |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Ind Eng) | Professor Chris Pakes |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) | Associate Professor Sharna Spittle |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Future Growth) | Dr Stacey Faraway |
| (e) Provost | Professor Robert Pike |
| (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research) | Associate Professor Dan Bendrups |
| (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) | Associate Professor Michael Donovan |
| (g) Chair, Coursework Committee | Professor Bernadette Walker-Gibbs |
| (h) Deputy Chair, Research & Graduate Studies Committee | Professor Daswin De Silva |
| (h) Deputy Chair, Education Committee | Professor Suzanne O'Keefe |
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(i) the Head/Executive Director of each Regional Campus | |
| Albury-Wodonga: | Dr Guinever Threlkeld |
| Bendigo: | Marg O'Rourke |

Mildura:
 Shepparton:

Sandra Connor
 Elizabeth Capp

- (j) the Head of each School
- (j) Professor Shaun Collin, Dean, School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment
 - (j) Professor Russell Hoyer, Dean, School of Allied Health, Human Services & Sport
 - (j) Professor Simone Rochfort, Dean, School of Applied Systems Biology
 - (j) Professor Suzanne O'Keefe, Dean, La Trobe Business School
 - (j) Professor Marco Herold, Dean, School of Cancer Medicine
 - (j) Professor Wenny Rahayu, Dean, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
 - (j) Professor Joanna Barbousas, Dean, School of Education
 - (j) Professor Nick Bisley, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - (j) Professor Lorne Neudorf, Dean, La Trobe Law School
 - (j) Professor Marie Gerdtz, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
 - (j) Professor Monica Thielking, Dean, School of Psychology and Public Health
 - (j) Professor Jane Mills, Dean, La Trobe Rural Health School

Elected staff members comprising:

- (a) 20 x Level E academic staff.
- (b) 15 x Level A/B academic staff.
- (c) 15 x Level C/D academic staff.
- (d) 6* x Level 1-8 professional staff.
- (e) 5 x Level 9 or above professional staff.

- (a) Professor Christine Bigby
- (a) Professor Nick Bond
- (a) Professor Graham Brown
- (a) Professor Bircan Erbas
- (a) Professor Richard Gray
- (a) Professor Mark Hulett
- (a) Professor Helen Irving
- (a) Professor Marcel Jackson
- (a) Professor Debbie Kirk
- (a) Professor James Leibold
- (a) Professor Chaojie (George) Liu
- (a) Professor Adam Mechler
- (a) Professor Robyn Murphy
- (a) Professor Jodi Oakman
- (a) Professor Suzanne O'Keefe
- (a) Professor Luke Prendergast
- (a) Professor Stephen Teo
- (a) Professor Coral Warr
- (a) Professor Yvonne Wells
- (a) Professor Lawrie Zion
- (b) Tara Buratto
- (b) Vacant
- (b) Dr Tina (Yingting) Cao
- (b) Rashaam Chowdhury
- (b) Dr Stephanie Downes
- (b) Fiona Durand
- (b) Adamm Ferrier
- (b) Dr Matthew King
- (b) Dr Lauren Lawson
- (b) Dr Fung Lay
- (b) Dr Huong Nguyen
- (b) Dr Mohammad-Sadegh Taskhiri
- (b) Dr Binh Tran
- (b) Dr Matthew Wade

- (b) Dr Victoria Weale
- (c) Dr Kate Ashman
- (C) Associate Professor Narelle Brack
- (c) Associate Professor Buly Cardak
- (c) Associate Professor Carina Chan
- (c) Associate Professor Elly Djouma
- (c) Dr Colleen Holt
- (c) Dr Mumtaz Hussain
- (c) Dr Brooke Huuskes
- (c) Dr Mofi Islam
- (c) Associate Professor Ross O'Shea
- (c) Dr Shahin Sharifi
- (c) Dr Keir Strickland
- (c) Professor Art Stukas
- (c) Dr Laura Whitburn
- (c) Dr Lakshmi Wijeyewickrema
- (d) Marcella Bulic
- (d) Shelley White
- (d) Clare O'Donoghue
- (d) Natalie Rhook
- (d) Charlotte Usher
- (d) Maddison Wells
- (e) Weiyu Jiang
- (e) Jasleen Kaur
- (e) Maree Norden
- (e) Belinda Thompson
- (e) Andrea Young

Student members comprising:

- (a) 1 post graduate student who is a graduate research candidate, elected by and from the graduate research candidates of the University.
 - (b) 2 post graduate students, elected by and from post graduate students of the University. One must be from a metropolitan campus and the other from a regional campus.
 - (c) 3 students who are not post graduate students, elected by and from those students of the University who are not post graduate students. One must be from a regional campus and one must be from a metropolitan campus.
 - (d) President, La Trobe University Student Union (LTSU)
 - (e) Council Presidents, La Trobe Student Association (LTSA)
 - (f) Two Indigenous students (one coursework student and one graduate research candidate) appointed through an Expression of Interest process
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- (a) Isabella Currie
 - (b) Francesca Collins
 - (b) Muntashir Bin Solaiman
 - (c) Tayisa Millar-Shannon
 - (c) Myra Muhammad
 - (c) Aaryan Sehgal
 - (d) Parth Jadav
 - (e) Yashoda Adhikari, Bethany Gray, Danielle McMillan, Karthik Nandyala, Thomas Prince, and Senith Waduge
 - (f) Vacant
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*For the 2024-2025 membership period only. From 2026 the number of HEO1-8 Professional Staff members will revert to 5.

In Attendance (prescribed persons)

Chief Operating Officer
 Chief Financial Officer

Mark Smith
 Jodie Banfield

Chief Information Officer
Chief Marketing Officer
Chief of Staff, Vice-Chancellor's Office
Executive Director, Human Resources
Executive Director, Infrastructure and Operations
Executive Director, Operations
Executive Director, Research Office
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and Employability)
Director, Student Administration
Senior Manager, Higher Education Policy

Shainal Kavar
Mary Dempsey
Katie Phillis
Regan Sterry

Bridget Soulsby
Alistair Duncan
Associate Professor Sarah Midford
Dr Naomi Dempsey
Rachel Cumberland
Anna-Maria Schurmann

In Attendance

The Professoriate

Co-opted membership

Academic Board may co-opt members to ensure that the membership of the Board is reflective of the multi-campus nature of the University and supports the University's commitment to promoting gender equity. The term of office for these appointments will normally be two years.

Reporting

To **Council** after each meeting.

Quorum

50% of the membership plus one.

Frequency of meetings

Normally 6 times a year.

List of any sub-committees

- Academic Board Executive Committee
- Animal Ethics Committee
- Board of Graduate Research
- Coursework Committee
- Education Committee
- Higher Doctorates Committee
- Human Research Ethics Committee
- La Trobe Institutional Biosafety Committee
- Research and Graduate Studies Committee

Secretariat

Governance

Contact person and phone / email

Sonia Nelson
Senior Executive Officer
Email academicboard@latrobe.edu.au

Updated: 28/07/2025