

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and fifty-first meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Melbourne Campus on Wednesday 14 September 2011 at 9.30am.

Present: Professor Malcolm Rimmer (Chair), Professor Simon Crowe (Deputy Chair), Professor Carol Adams, Professor Tom Angelo, Ms Lee Ann Bassler, Professor Andrew Brennan, Professor Judith Brett, Mr Bruce Carboon, Dr Michael Clarke, Professor Lin Crase, Professor Brian Davey, Professor Jane Farmer, Dr Kerry Ferguson, Dr Christine Hawkins, Dr Peter Hughes, Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Dr Julie Jackson, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Professor Paul Johnson (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Terri Joiner, Dr Mary Kennedy-Jones, Dr Stephen Kent, Dr Katherine Legge, Professor Lorraine Ling, Dr Norva Yeuk-Sze Lo, Dr Sue Martin, Professor Tim Murray, Mr Matt Oates, Dr Suzanne O'Keefe, Dr John Russell, Dr Kath Ryan, Mr Andrew Skewes, Dr Kay Souter, Professor David Spencer, Professor Annette Street, Professor Hal Swerissen, Dr John Tebbutt, Dr David Wilkinson and Professor Evan Willis.

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

In Attendance: Professor Phoebe Chen, Mr David Ensor, Mr Geoff Payne (*vice* Professor A Dewe), Professor Phillip Steele.

PART A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

	ACTION
<p>(i) Attendance/Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Professor Paula Baron, Professor Christine Bigby, Professor Tim Brown, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Professor Leigh Drake, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Dr Liz Lavender, Professor Paul Mather, Professor Brian McGaw, Dr Howard Nicholas, Ms Kathleen Pleasants, Professor John Rosenberg, Dr Pamela Wallace, Dr Caroline Walta, Dr Julie White and Ms Lily Jade Chung Kim Yuen.</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 AB11/110.</p>	
<p>(iv) Matters Approved on Behalf of Academic Board</p> <p>The Board noted that there were no matters to report.</p>	
<p>(v) Report of the Vice-Chancellor</p> <p>The Board received and noted paper AB11/111, the Report of the Vice-Chancellor, which can be located at the following link:</p>	

<https://unite.latrobe.edu.au/sites/sc/sgc/abc/14%20September/Document%20Library/1/111-VCsReport-September2011.pdf>. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report.

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had taken a proposal to Council on Monday regarding the budget shortfall for 2012 and requested that they adapt their required target surplus to a minimum of 3% and a maximum of 5%, which Council had endorsed.

PART B – MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

451.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2011 [AB11/109(M)] were confirmed.

451.2 Items for Approval not requiring discussion

451.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB11/112 and **resolved** to endorse the award of degrees and diplomas, conferring of awards *in absentia* and award of higher degrees, as detailed therein.

AEGTO/
RGSO

451.2.2 Committee Membership

(a) Faculty of Health Sciences Review

The Board **resolved** to approve the appointment of Professor Judith Brett to the Faculty of Health Sciences Review Panel (internal senior academic, to be appointed by Academic Board).

PR&IO

451.2.3 Academic Board: proposed meeting dates 2012

The Board received report AB11/113 and **resolved** that its meetings in 2012 be held on the following dates:

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8 February	8 August
14 March	12 September
9 May	10 October
13 June	14 November

The Board noted that all meetings would commence at 9.30am and would be held in the Council Chamber of the John Scott Meeting House, Melbourne Campus.

451.2.4 Establishment of Prizes

The Board **resolved** to establish or amend the following Prizes:

- Mildura Campus: Milton Whiting Memorial Scholarship, as detailed in report AB11/114.
- Law and Management: School/Departmental Scholarship – Accounting Honours and Master of Accounting (Research Studies), as detailed in report AB11/115.

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- (c) Health Sciences: APA Paediatric Physiotherapy Group Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/116.
- (d) Health Sciences: Aquatic Physiotherapy Group Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/117.
- (e) Health Sciences: Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Australia Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/118.
- (f) Health Sciences: Constance Read Memorial Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/119.
- (g) Health Sciences: Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapy Australia Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/120.
- (h) Health Sciences: Eliza McAuley Memorial Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/121.
- (i) Health Sciences: Elsevier Australia Book Prize – Second Year [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/122.
- (j) Health Sciences: Gerontology Special Group Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/123.
- (k) Health Sciences: LifeCare Health Physiotherapy Award [amendment – was HNA Physiotherapy Award], as detailed in report AB11/124.
- (l) Health Sciences: Josephine Jennings and Edith Pratt Memorial Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/125.
- (m) Health Sciences: Kay Spencer Memorial Award [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/126.
- (n) Health Sciences: BakBalls Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Prize [amendment – was Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Prize], as detailed in report AB11/127.
- (o) Health Sciences: National Neurology Group Prize [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/128.
- (p) Health Sciences: Patricia Cosh Award [amendment], as detailed in report AB11/129.
- (q) Health Sciences: ASORC Trevor Hawkins Prize [amendment – was ASORC Victoria Award in Rehabilitation Counselling Prize], as detailed in report AB11/130.

451.3 Standing Committees of Academic Board

451.3.1 Report of Academic Quality Committee: 10 August 2011

The Board received report AB11/131 and noted that the Academic Quality Committee had considered the following items at their most recent meeting:

- (a) IRU benchmarking database.
- (b) PIPU project with Governance Unit.
- (c) Report of the Review of the Faculty of Education 2010.
- (d) Policies and Procedures:
 - Access to Restricted Materials Procedures
 - Animal Ethics Procedures
 - Human Ethics Procedures
 - Course Lifecycle – Course Review Procedures
 - Course Lifecycle – Course Revision Procedures
 - Course Lifecycle – New Coursework Program Procedures
 - Course Lifecycle Policy
 - Course Lifecycle – Course Suspension and Closure Policy
 - Course Lifecycle – Course Suspension and Closure Procedures
 - Graduate Capabilities for Undergraduate Students Policy
 - AQF Transition Policy

- AQF Transition Procedures
- Subject Lifecycle – Subject Design Policy
- Undergraduate Curriculum Design Policy

451.3.2 Report of Education Committee: August 2011

The Board received report AB11/132 and noted that the Education Committee had considered the following items via circular resolution:

- (a) Late Submission of Assessment Tasks.
- (b) Enabling Courses Policy.

Board members made the following comments regarding the Late Submission of Assessment Tasks Policy and Procedures detailed in Attachment 1 to AB11/132:

- Noted that there had been no universal agreement regarding the percentage of the total possible marks for delay in submission (listed as 2%).
- 10 day policy too lenient and hard to manage administratively.
- Needs to be a strict deadline for take home exams.
- Queried why a consistent University-wide approach was required.
- Consistency important with the move to multi-disciplinary programs.
- TEQSA risk if inconsistent.
- Policy to apply only to assessment of 15% or greater.

After much discussion, the Board **resolved** to defer any decision regarding the Late Submission of Assessment Tasks Policy and Procedures and referred the Policy and Procedures back to the Education Committee for further consultation and amendment.

EO(EC)

The Board **resolved** to approve the revisions to the Enabling Courses Policy and Enabling Courses Procedures, as detailed in Attachment 2 to AB11/132.

EO(EC)/
EO(Policy)

451.3.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: August 2011

The Board received paper AB11/133 and noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had considered the following items at a meeting held on 26 August 2011:

- (a) Revision to the University's Research Plan.
- (b) ERA 2012 Steering Committee.
- (c) Centres and Institutes:
 - Centre for Dialogue Review and revised Constitution.
- (d) Policy and Procedures:
 - Human Ethics Procedures.
 - Animal Ethics Procedures.
- (e) ERA 2012 Activity Report.
- (f) Master of Planning.
- (g) Annual Reports 2010.
- (h) Research Computing.
- (i) EPSS Training.
- (j) ERE and ERA Consultation Paper.

The Board received and noted Attachment F to AB11/133, which contained the following Annual Reports:

- La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science

- Australian Institute for Primary Care and Ageing
- Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
- Musculoskeletal Research Centre
- Mother and Child Health Research

It was noted that there were a number of typos in Attachment B to AB11/133, including being incorrectly dated. When queried, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research) confirmed that the Constitution of the La Trobe Institute for Social and Environmental Sustainability was not in conflict with the revised Research Centres and Institute Procedures.

The Board **resolved** to:

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| • approve the revised Constitution of the Centre for Dialogue, as detailed in Attachment A to AB11/133; | DVC(R) |
| • approve the revised Research Centres and Institute Procedures, as detailed in Attachment B to AB11/133, subject to the correction of typos; | EO(Policy) |
| • approve the revised Centre for Dialogue Review Recommendations, as detailed in Attachment C to AB11/133; | DVC(R) |
| • approve the Human Ethics Procedures, as detailed in Attachment D to AB11/133; and | EO(Policy) |
| • approve the proposal to establish a Master of Planning (Research), as detailed in Attachment E to AB11/133. | EO(RGSC)/
DirAS |

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

451.4 Items for Information

451.4.1 Adjunct Appointments

The Board received report AB11/134 and noted that the Vice-Chancellor had recently made the following adjunct appointments:

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| (a) Adjunct Associate Professor: Ms Tracy Beaton, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | P&C |
| (b) Adjunct Professor: Dr Mark Staniforth, Archaeology Program, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (c) Adjunct Associate Professor: Professor Trevor Johnston, National Institute for Deaf Studies and Sign Language, School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (d) Adjunct Professor: Professor Charles Sowerwine, History Program, School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (e) Adjunct Professor: Professor Peter McPhee, History Program, School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (f) Adjunct Professor: Dr Ron Adams, History Program, School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (g) Adjunct Professor: Professor Dale Kent, History Program, School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |
| (g) Adjunct Professor: Professor Dale Kent, History Program, School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years). | |

- (h) Adjunct Professor: Professor Janna Thompson, Philosophy Program, School of Communications, Arts and Critical Enquiry, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years).
- (g) Adjunct Associate Professor: Dr Ross Brady, Philosophy Program, School of Communications, Arts and Critical Enquiry, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (appointment – 3 years).

451.4.2 Report of Academic Promotions Committee: September 2011

The Board received the Report of the Academic Promotions Committee: September 2011 and noted that the persons named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB11/135.

EO(APC)

451.4.3 Report of the Professional Library Promotions Committee

The Board received the Report of the Professional Library Promotions Committee 2011 and noted that the person named therein had been promoted, as detailed in report AB11/136.

EO(LPC)

451.4.4 Senior Academic Appointments

The Board received report AB11/137 and noted that the following senior academic appointments had recently been made:

- Professor Steve Falconer, Chair in Archaeology
- Professor Della Forster, Professor Midwifery & Maternity Services Research
- Dr Megan Davidson, Head, School of Allied Health
- Professor Sandra Leggat, Head, School of Public Health & Human Biosciences
- Professor Jack Singh, Research Professor & Director CTI
- Professor Phillip Steele, Assistant to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Professor Christopher Handley, Director Musculoskeletal Research Centre

PART D – DISCUSSION

451.5 Can we sustain regional quality in today's competitive environment?

The Chair introduced the Panel.

Discussion Panel:

- (a) Dr Katherine Legge, Associate Dean Regions, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering.
- (b) Professor Jane Farmer, Associate Dean Regional, Faculty of Health Sciences.
- (c) Professor Evan Willis, Associate Dean Regions, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr Legge suggested that the threat from a competitive environment would be felt more at the metropolitan campus than on regional campuses and that La Trobe should not worry about other universities poaching our students rather we should concentrate on building our reputation for social inclusivity. Regional campuses serve their immediate and surrounding communities. If quality was synonymous with research excellence then competition would bring little

change to regional campuses. The regional campuses already deal with a higher number of students with lower ATAR scores creating a greater need for staff support, leaving less time for research. Dr Legge also suggested that strength of the professional courses meant that employability was more important to undergraduate students at regional campuses than research. With its internationally renowned research strengths on the Melbourne campus and strong community support on the regional campuses La Trobe should better define itself as a multi-campus university that reaches out to all communities, offering access to high quality academic programs through our network of campuses.

Professor Farmer stated that there were models that attract 'quality' students and staff to regional campuses. Supporting students based at these campuses increased the work load for staff. Students at rural or regional campuses were usually more focused on vocational outcomes and quite often the first in the family to attend university. With regard to research in the regions, the University should build on niche themes with investment being required to increase research quality.

Professor Willis asked "how do we balance the level of quality of students with the need to increase student numbers for budgetary reasons?" Issues that affect the regional experience included:

- Technology an issue – videoconferencing is not that great.
- Restrictions on travel.
- Bundoora colleagues often not keen to visit other campuses.
- Staffing freeze – important staff members not being replaced.
- Equity argument by students at non-metropolitan campuses.

To increase the quality at regional campuses, Professor Willis suggested:

- more resources should be allocated to academic skills;
- careful attention should be paid to quality assurance (ie checkmarking);
- marketing strategies to attract additional students;
- some travel between campuses should still be possible; and
- the development of better technologies (suggested members Google: Musion Telstra to view hologram projection).

Discussion:

Growth should be nurtured in our regional areas with the University focusing on opportunities with feeder schools and TAFEs.

It was noted research had shown that there was no correlation between students ATARs and their achievements at university. It was suggested that the University should establish programs that engage 'disadvantaged' students in research.

It was noted that La Trobe has a good reputation in the regions and should build on this by maintaining academic excellence.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

451.6 Next Meeting

9.30am
Wednesday 12 October 2011
Council Chamber
John Scott Meeting House
Melbourne Campus

Chair: _____

Date: _____