CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING 20/5 OF
ACADEMIC BOARD – 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Meeting 20/5 of the Academic Board of the University of Technology Sydney held at 9am on Wednesday 11 November 2020 via Zoom (https://zoom.uts.edu.au/j/93337891917).

PRESENT:	Professor Joanne Gray (Chair), Professor Shirley Alexander, Associate Professor Adel Al-Jumaily, Professor Alaina Ammit, Associate Professor Matthew Arnold, Professor Monica Attard, Ms Rebecca Lorena Bachmann, Associate Professor James Ball, Dr Robin Bowley, Professor Ian Burnett, Professor Suzanne Chambers AO, Mr Kurt Cheng JP, Mr Matthew Choy, Professor Thomas Clarke, Associate Professor Mary Coupland, Dr Alexandra Crosby, Professor Alan Davison, Dr Daniel Demant, Professor Sara Denize, Professor Maryanne Dever, Professor Chris Earley, Associate Professor Maxine Evers, Associate Professor Beth Goldblatt, Mr Michael Gonzalez, Professor Lesley Hitchens, Ms Wendy John, Ms Jane Kenny, Ms Georgia Lloyd, Associate Professor Natalie Lloyd, Professor Lori Lockyer, Professor Heather MacDonald, Professor Michael McDaniel, Ms Jan McLean, Professor Louise McWhinnie, Associate Professor Peter Meier, Professor Elizabeth Mossop, Dr Christina Nikitopoulos, Ms Nicola Panapoulos, Professor Andrew Parfitt, Dr Jenna Price, Associate Professor Jochen Schweitzer, Professor Peter Scott, Associate Professor Lynn Sinclair, Associate Professor David Suggett, Dr Nicole Vincent, Mr Iain Watt, Professor Stuart White, Professor Glenn Wightwick, Ms Jacqui Wise and Dr Stephen Woodcock. Mr Bill Paterson (University Secretary), and Ms Komal Jagad (Executive Officer).
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Nick Glover (Director of Risk for item 3.5), Ms Louise Wheeler (Manager, Research Integrity and Research Programs) and Ms Elbreg Zwaan (Senior Governance Support Officer).
APOLOGIES:	Professor Attila Brungs, Professor Kate McGrath, and Dr Peter McLean.
ABSENT:	Professor Michael Eyles, Ms Brooke Lazarus, and Mr Sam Silcock.

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

RESOLVED AB/20-5/74 – Welcome/Apologies

Academic Board resolved to note the apologies received from members as noted above and agree that these members be excused for their absence.

Note for the record

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country and of the Traditional Owners.

The Chair welcomed the Academic Board members and attendees. Student members present introduced themselves. The Chair thanked:

- the student members for their active participation in the meetings of the Board and at the Chair's briefings

- Ms Wendy John (elected student member from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) for reviewing the Academic Board induction and suggesting ideas to improve the session.

The Chair thanked Academic Board and its committees for its valuable contribution in 2020. The following members were thanked for their contribution to the work of the Board during the year:

- Deputy Chair of Academic Board;
- chairs and deputy chairs of Academic Board committees; and
- members who were concluding their term in 2020, including the members who were leaving UTS under the Voluntary Separation Program.

The Chair congratulated the Deputy Chair of Academic Board Professor Maryanne Dever for being elected as the Chair of Academic Board for next term (1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022).

The Chair noted that the 20/5 meeting (11 November) was the Chair's last Board meeting in the position as Chair, after filling the position for six years. The Chair thanked the following members for their excellent support to the Chair over the years:

- University Secretary Mr Bill Paterson, the Executive Officer (Governance Support) Ms Komal Jagad, and other members of the Governance Support Unit
- University Librarian Mr Michael Gonzalez
- Manager, University Academic Programs Office (UAPO) Ms Anne-Lise Daniel and the UAPO team
- Director, Student Administration Unit (SAU) Ms Jacqui Wise and the SAU team

- Director, Student Services Unit (SSU) Mr Brett Smout and the SSU team.

The apologies as listed above were received and leave of absence from the meeting granted.

There were no declarations of interest.

1.2 MINUTES

Confirmation of the minutes of meeting 20/4 held Wednesday 30 September 2020

RESOLVED AB/20-5/75

Academic Board resolved to confirm the minutes of meeting 20/4 of Academic Board held on Wednesday 30 September 2020, as detailed in Document 1.2, as a true record.

1.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

1.4 RECEIPT OF TABLED PAPERS

There were no tabled papers.

1.5 STARRING OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

RESOLVED AB/20-5/76 – Starring of items

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   pre-star items 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.5.1; and

.2   adopt the remaining unstarred items as approved.

Note for the record

The following items were pre-starred: 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.5.1.

The Chair noted that agenda items 3.4 and 3.4.1 will be unstarred. The teaching and learning strategy presentation will be provided under agenda item 4.5 – *Teaching and Learning Committee Report*.

Members were invited to star further items for discussion. No further items were starred.

2 REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

*2.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED AB/20-5/77 – Report from the Chair/Deputy Chair

Academic Board resolved to:

.1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 2.1 – *Report from the Chair/Deputy Chair* and its attachments;

.2 note the executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Board on 20 October 2020 to approve appointment to Academic Board, as detailed in Document 2.1;

.3 note the 2020 Forward Plan as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 2.1;

.4 note the Academic Board Actions List as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 2.1; and

.5 note the 2021 Academic Board meeting dates as detailed in Document 2.1.

Note for the record

The Chair noted that the 2020 Academic Board forum held on 14 October 2020 was a success with around 100 attendees present. The forum focussed on UTS research contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair thanked the members for attending and the presenters for the informative presentations.

The Chair thanked the members of the Board and its committees for completing the Academic Board/committee self-evaluation surveys. Results of the surveys will be reported to Academic Board in March 2021.

The Chair recommended that members note the 2021 Academic Board meeting dates, the 2020 forward plan and action items. The Chair thanked the Deputy Chair and Executive Officer (Governance Support) in supporting the Chair and the work of the Board during 2020 and ensuring that the items in the forward plan and action items were completed.

*2.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

RESOLVED AB/20-5/78 – Report from the Vice-Chancellor

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 2.2 – *Report from the Vice-Chancellor*.

Note for the record

In the absence of Vice-Chancellor Professor Attila Brungs, acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Parfitt spoke to this report.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive, the acting Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for the excellent advancement Academic Board has made over the last six years, under the leadership of the Chair, as it continued to focus on its goals. The Chair has been successful in ensuring that Academic Board fulfils its terms of reference of providing oversight of the quality of UTS academic activities and reporting these outcomes to UTS Council.

The Chair was commended for undertaking a range of successful projects and initiatives, including the review of the Board's composition and structure, the review of the Academic Risk Register and the Academic Standards Framework and for achieving the high level of internal and external engagement with the Board's activities, especially from student members of the Board.

The acting Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report, highlighting the following and noting that the rest of the report be taken as read.

- **Congratulations** were extended to:
  - Distinguished Professor Saravanamuthu Vigneswaran from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering on being named one of the International Water Association's (IWA) Distinguished Fellows for 2020
  - the finalists in the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes the nation's premier science awards – Distinguished Professor Karu Esselle, Dr Jiajia Zhou, Dr Qilin Wang, and Professor David Booth
  - the coral biologist and marine bio-geochemist Dr Emma Camp, who has been named both L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science 2020 Fellow, and TIME Magazine Next Generation Leader for 2020, for her research into coral reef ecosystems and climate change
  - the UTS researchers for their valued contributions, with a number of UTS mentions in the media –
    - Professor Dayong Jin and his team, for their successful research into coronavirus testing
    - Professor Phil Hansbro, for the study into health impacts of bushfire smoke.
  - the seven UTS applicants that received the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) 2021 – funding of nearly $3M
  - to all staff members for their contribution towards the remarkable achievement of a positive outcome of high satisfaction level from the recent Student Feedback Survey.

- Universities will be subject to wide-ranging investigation by proposed anti-corruption body the Commonwealth Integrity Commission, according to draft legislation released by federal Attorney-General Christian Porter.

- The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security announced an inquiry into national security risks affecting the Australian higher education and research sector. Submissions were being accepted and the hearings would be held in early 2021. UTS is working with the Government to provide an appropriate response.

Academic Board noted student members concerns on the need to maintain quality of teaching and learning in courses, while there are staff reductions occurring for some courses under the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP). It was clarified that the VSP applications were approved only if it did not materially affect the operations of the local areas. Teaching and learning is UTS's core function and maintaining quality in academic activities is integral to UTS's strategy and the local areas will ensure that this is managed appropriately. The Fit for 2027 Blueprint has been circulated for feedback, which identifies the financial issues and provides some options for the future including how the impact of VSPs will be managed.

Academic Board noted an update on UTS's engagement with the NSW Government on a pilot program for overseas students to return to Australia via the secure corridor from early 2021.

3   PRIORITY ISSUES

*3.1   UTS 2027 strategy

RESOLVED AB/20-5/79 – UTS 2027 strategy

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the presentation on UTS 2027 strategy.

Note for the record

Academic Board received a presentation from the Provost Professor Andrew Parfitt on UTS 2027 strategy and Fit for 2027 project. The presentation provided a snapshot of the current focus of UTS 2027, which was around:

- reviewing business cases for strategic funding in 2021

- narrower focus and prioritising strategic projects that will generate review or generate efficiencies

- assessing 35 business cases (as opposed to 102 last year)

- funding decisions to be made later this month – to align with Fit for 2027 planning.

The Provost provided an overview of the financial impact of COVID-19 pandemic noting that the UTS's projected end-of-year loss was at $83m, with further losses in 2021 and 2022. The Fit for 2027 project and blueprint was identify the financial issues and provide options for the future to guide the change that is required to manage these losses and ensure UTS can operate strategically and efficiently. An overview of Fit for 2027 project streams (Scale and Scope, Systems and Processes and Operational Efficiency), its purpose and indicative timeline was provided.

The Blueprint's objectives and concepts were outlined, and the consultation process was noted. Members were asked to provide feedback on the Blueprint.

Academic Board noted feedback on the suggested measures outlined in the Blueprint of additional staff redundancies of approximately 100 to 150 full time employee job losses in 2021 beyond the VSPs ($30 million in additional salary savings). Concerns were raised that the proposed staff redundancies could possibly damage UTS's capacity to succeed in the future for the following reasons:

- staff redundancies are unnecessary when cost savings could happen through natural staff turnover, through further voluntary separations

- the potential salary savings could be exceeded by the cost of damage to strategic alignment of staff with UTS goals impacting motivation of staff to perform their duties and UTS's commitment to social justice (including justice to staff).

The Provost acknowledged the feedback and added that detailed review and steps were undertaken to address this issue to the extent possible, however, the challenges are real, and that additional savings are needed to offset revenue losses. The Provost urged staff to provide feedback and ideas on other measures that would help address this challenge to ensure that further staff redundancies are at a minimum. All steps would need to be measured in terms of UTS's strategy and relevant risks involved.

*3.2   COVID-19 update

RESOLVED AB/20-5/80 – COVID-19 update

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 3.2 – *COVID-19 update* and its attachment.

Note for the record

The Provost provided an update on campus reactivation, as covered in the report noting that the current phase (phase two) of the campus reactivation plan was extended to the end of Summer session (27 February 2021).

Campus reactivation is constantly being reviewed with a risk-based approach, aligned with NSW Health advice by the UTS COVID-19 Taskforce led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) Mr Patrick Woods. UTS staff and students have provided mixed feedback on return to campus and the feedback is being considered by the taskforce in relevant decisions. It is likely that a blended approach will be in place for at least first half of 2021, further advice will be provided when advice is received from NSW Health.

Student members provided feedback that most students within their faculties were keen to return to campus and blended learning would be a preference.

Academic Board noted feedback on timetabling of on-campus classes that in order to maintain social distancing, some of the classes were scheduled very late in the evening and students were feeling unsafe to travel at that time. It was noted that this feedback will be provided to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students) and Director of Student Administration Unit for further consideration.

*3.3 **2019 Course and Subject Performance Report**

RESOLVED AB/20-5/81 – Course and Subject Performance Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 3.3 – *Course and Subject Performance Report* and its attachments;

.2   note the Course and Subject Performance Report 2019 as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 3.3;

.3   note commendations on strongly performing courses and subjects as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 3.3;

.4   note the faculty responses to the Course and Subject Performance Report 2019 and proposed actions to address unsatisfactory course and subject performance as detailed in this report and **Attachments 2 - 9**; and

.5   note the actions undertaken, as detailed in **Attachment 10** of Document 3.3, to address the unsatisfactory course and subject performance as reported in the Course and Subject Performance Report 2018.

Note for the record

The Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee Professor Shirley Alexander provided an overview of the UTS Course and Subject Performance Report

Indicators (UAC Pref 1–3, Attrition Rate and Student Feedback Survey per cent agreement, employment rate) and the classification of courses (commendable, acceptable or of concern to be closely monitored) based on the indicators. If a course received an 'Of Concern' rating in 2018 and 2019 or the course received an 'Of Concern' rating in two of the last three years, then a faculty response was required.

The Chair of TLC noted that TLC is considering that:

- faculties undertake external reviews of courses that are 'of concern' consecutively for over two years

- format and content of the report will be reviewed for next year to provide a succinct report, as per feedback from Executive Committee of Academic Board.

3.4 Teaching and learning strategy

RESOLVED AB/20-5/82

Academic Board resolved to remove starring of the Teaching and learning strategy presentation, noting that the presentation will be provided under agenda item 4.5 – *Teaching and Learning Committee Report*.

3.4.1 learning.futures annual report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/83

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in *Document 3.4.1 – learning.futures annual report* and its attachments.

4 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

*4.1 Courses Accreditation Committee Report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/84 – Courses Accreditation Committee Report

Academic Board to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.1 – *Courses Accreditation Committee Report* and its attachments;

New courses/course arrangements

Accreditation

.2   approve the accreditation of the following new courses, new online courses and online versions of existing UTS courses (offered via Online

Program Management (OPM)) as detailed, for recommendations .2.1 to .2.3 as detailed:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Online Program Management (OPM))

.2.1 C04427 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership)
C11336 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership)
(OPM versions of existing UTS courses)
from Session 2, 2021 – 31 December 2025.

(file: UR15/315) [1634]

Noting:
UTS versions C04307 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership) and C11255 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership) will be phased out under Recommendation 3.1.

.2.2 C11337 Graduate Certificate in Professional and Organisational Learning
(New OPM course)
from Session 3, 2021 – 31 December 2025.

(file: UR15/315) [1634]

Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

.2.3 C10408 Bachelor of Engineering Studies (New Course)
(Additions to existing set)

From Autumn Session 2021

(file: UR11/1392) [1572]

Phasing out and discontinuation

.3 approve the phasing out and discontinuation of the following courses at .3.1 as detailed:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

.3.1 C04307 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership)
C11255 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership)

from Autumn session 2021

(file: UR15/315) [OCAP #1634]

Noting:

C04307 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership) and C11255 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership) are being replaced by online versions of these courses (C04427 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership) and C11336 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership) offered with the OPM partner Keypath Education Australia) details found under Recommendation 2.1.

Other matters for approval

.4   approve the correction of phasing out and discontinuation for one (1) course as outlined below (changes in bold and underline):

University Academic Programs Office on behalf of the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building

.4.1   C10265 Bachelor of Design in Photography
C10266 Bachelor of Design in Photography Bachelor of Arts in International Studies
~~**C09052 Bachelor of Design (Honours) in Photography**~~

from Autumn session 2021

C09052 Bachelor of Design (Honours) in Photography)

from Spring session 2023.

(file: UR08/778) [1481]

Other matters for noting

.5   note the following new external articulation arrangements:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

.5.1   **TAFE, NSW**

C10276 Bachelor of Music and Sound Design
C10277 Bachelor of Music and Sound Design Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

(files: TBC) [OCAP #1603]

University Academic Programs Office on behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science and UTS Business School

.6   note the clarification and update on Proposal 1599.

Note for the record

Professor Sara Denize, Chair of Courses Accreditation Committee (CAC) provided an overview of the recommendations and recommended the course accreditation approval of the two (2) Online Program Management (OPM) versions of existing courses (offered via OPM) (C04427 Master of Education (Learning and Leadership) and C11336 Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning and Leadership)) and the new OPM course on C11337 Graduate Certificate in Professional and Organisational Learning, all from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The Chair noted that the CAC has an enormous workload and commended the committee, the Chair and Deputy Chair of CAC, and Manager of University Academic Programs Office for their commitment and valuable contribution, in particular for their swift response and support on the OPM and Higher Education Certificate courses.

*4.2   Executive Committee of Academic Board Report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/85 – Executive Committee of Academic Board Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.2 – *Executive Committee of Academic Board Report* and its attachments;

.2   approve the changes to the Academic Standards Framework, as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 4.2;

.3   approve the new Procedures for review of the Academic Standards Framework, as detailed in **Attachment 3** of Document 4.2;

.4   note the document – *Compliance with the UTS Academic Standards,* as detailed in **Attachment 4** of Document 4.2;

.5   close action items (detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 2.1) on *Faculty Self-Assessments* (Meeting 12/3, 20 June 2012, Item 9.2) and *Review of Academic Standards and self-assessments* (19 November 2014 Item 9.3 Faculty Self- Assessment) as detailed in this report;

.6   approve the establishment of a Faculty Research Degrees Committee as the new governance structure for the graduate research program offerings of the Connected Intelligence Centre, with

the Terms of Reference as detailed in **Attachment 6** of Document 4.2;

.7   upon approval of recommendation .6, approve the disestablishment of the Board of Studies of the Connected Intelligence Centre effective from 31 December 2020; and

.8   note the Policy Simplification Project update as detailed in **Attachment 7** of Document 4.2.

Note for the record

The Chair noted the changes to the Academic Standards Framework and proposed the new Procedures for review of the ASF for approval of the Board. The Chair thanked the Executive Officer (Governance Support) Ms Komal Jagad for preparing these documents.

The Chair provided an overview of the work being undertaken by Executive Committee of Academic Board in developing an options paper that outlines concepts that promote and maintain quality in UTS coursework courses. A report will be presented on this project in 2021.

4.3   Graduate Research School Board Report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/86 – Graduate Research School Board Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.3 – *Graduate Research School Board Report* and its attachments;

.2   recommend Council to approve revisions to Student Rule 11.20 as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 4.3;

.3   approve the revised Research Training Program Scholarship Policy as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 4.3;

.4   approve the revised Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program: Framework and Conditions as detailed in **Attachment 3** of Document 4.3;

.5   approve the new UTS Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program Candidate Guide as detailed in **Attachment 4** of Document 4.3;

.6   rescind the existing UTS Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program – Candidate Guide as detailed in **Attachment 5** of Document 4.3.

.7   authorise Graduate Research School Board as the approval authority for the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program: Framework and Conditions and Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program Candidate Guide.

*4.4   Research Committee Report *(Presentation)*

RESOLVED AB/20-5/87 – Research Committee Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.4 – *Research Committee Report*;

.2   note the top research risks as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 4.4;

.3   approve the revised Research Policy as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 4.4, and rescind the 2017 Research Management Policy and the Research Ethics and Integrity Policy;

.4   recommend Council to rescind the 2015 Defence Trade Controls Compliance Policy, which will be replaced with the Defence Trade Controls Compliance Procedures as outlined in this report and **Attachment 3** of Document 4.4*;*

.5   note the envisioned connected research governance structure as detailed in **Attachment 4** of Document 4.4;

.6   approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for Research Committee as detailed in **Attachment 5** of Document 4.4, and note the Terms of Reference for Research Operations and Strategy Committee as detailed in **Attachment 6**; and

.7   approve the Faculty Research Committee and Faculty Research Degree Committee Terms of Reference as detailed in **Attachments 7, 7a and 7b** of Document 4.4, and recommend these to faculty boards for consideration and implementation.

Note for the record

In the absence of the Chair of Research Committee (RC) Professor Kate McGrath, the Deputy Chair of RC Professor Alaina Ammit presented the recommendations of the RC Report along with the Director of Risk Mr Nick Glover (on Top Research Risks), and the Manager, Research Integrity and Research Programs Ms Louise Wheeler (on Research Policy).

The Deputy Chair of RC commended the Chair of RC for leading these significant projects and thanked the members of the RC and its working groups for their contribution, and also thanked the stakeholders for their feedback.

Academic Board noted the presentation summarising the recommendations in the report. The following matters were highlighted in the presentation:

- *Top research risks:* The comparison of the traditional vs new approach to risk, the consultation process and the top 12 research risks and next steps

- *Research Governance:* Overview of the:
  - Principles underpinning good research governance
  - phase 1 of the review (establishment of the Research Operations and Strategy Committee (ROS) and revised terms of reference (TOR) for Research Committee (RC))
  - phase 2 of the review (developed terms of reference for faculty level committees and clarified TOR for ROS and RC following 12 months of operation at pan-UTS level)
  - proposed connected research governance structure
  - implementation and next steps

- *Research Policy:* Overview of the approach to reviewing the current suite of research policies, consultation process undertaken, proposed key changes, implementation and next steps.

The Chair thanked the Research Committee in the excellent leadership undertaken in reviewing these key areas. The Chair thanked the presenters for presenting these recommendations to the Board noting the significant importance of research within UTS's strategy and how these initiatives are key to ensuring relevant governance systems and processes are in place to ensure that the strategy is supported.

*4.5 Teaching and Learning Committee Report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/88 – Teaching and Learning Committee Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.5 – *Teaching and Learning Committee Report* and its attachments;

.2 recommend Council to approve amendments to the UTS Student Rules as outlined in the report and detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 4.5;

.3 recommend the Provost to approve amendments to the Coursework Assessment Procedures as outlined in the report and detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 4.5;

.4 note the progress that has been made by the Student Complaints Resolution Office since its inception in May 2019 and minor amendments to the UTS Student Complaints Policy and Procedures as detailed in **Attachment 4** of Document 4.5; and

.5 note the post-implementation review of academic policies as detailed in the report.

Note for the record

The Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) Professor Shirley Alexander presented on the work undertaken by TLC in 2020, which focused on the following projects/areas:

- Academic progression – 3 stage process (in progress)
- New Intellectual Property Policy (completed – for implementation)
- Graduate attributes project (completed – for implementation)
- Large Collaborative Classes Working Group (on hold – to recommence in 2021)
- U@Uni Academy assessment framework
- LX Transformation
- Academic Integrity project (final report completed – for further work on implementation)
- Monitor online assessments for 2020
- 2019 Course and Subject Performance Report.

The focus for 2021 was outlined:

- Future of teaching and learning (and assessments) in a post-COVID environment
- Implementation of 2020 projects (cultural, system and process change)
- Preparation for Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) audit in 2022.

The Chair of TLC provided a snapshot of the proposed student learning experience for 2021 and onwards, covering an overview of the three stages – orientation, learning and reflection.

The Chair thanked the Chair and members of TLC for their contribution to these critical teaching and learning initiatives, especially this year, with all the challenges imposed by COVID-19.

*4.5.1 Academic Integrity Working Group Final Report

RESOLVED AB/20-5/89 – Academic Integrity Working Group Final Report

Academic Board resolved to:

.1   receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.5.1 – *Academic Integrity Working Group Final Report* and its attachment; and

.2   note the recommendations and implementation plan as outlined in **Attachment 1** of Document 4.5.1.

Note for the record

The Chair of TLC noted that TLC established a Working Group in 2018 on Academic Integrity (AI) to develop a comprehensive response to the Academic Integrity: Internal Audit Report (October 2017). Several steps have been undertaken at UTS to improve AI including:

- a guide for academics to prevent plagiarism

- a video for students called 'carnival of consequences', which has been promulgated widely, in particular for subjects with high rates of cheating

- AI Board Game developed by Dr Amanda White, which has been adopted by five other universities.

The Chair of the Academic Integrity Working Group (AIWG) Professor Maryanne Dever:

- thanked the members of the AIWG and Ms Andrea Thompson (Senior Advisor, Governance Support Unit) for their contribution and feedback into this project

- acknowledged the recent passing of Dr Tracey Bretag, a professor at the University of South Australia, who was a driving force for research in the AI field.

Noting recent developments in the AI field, the Chair of AIWG advised that Federal Government, TEQSA, the Higher Education Standards Panel, and Universities Australia have all intensified their focus on questions of academic integrity and contract cheating, and that the recommendations in the final report were timely.

The presentation highlighted the Academic Integrity Best Practice Principles issued by Universities Australia and the proposed new framework for managing AI at UTS, under which various recommendations of the report sit.

The proposed new framework intends to:

- build a culture of integrity and make academic integrity visible
- provide appropriate training, guidance, support and resources to staff and students
- rethink assessment
- use breach data for quality assurance
- better mitigate risk.

The Chair thanked the Chair of AIWG and the working group for the incredible work undertaken in produce this report and its recommendations. The Chair reiterated that UTS Council and Chancellor have highlighted the importance of integrity in the current scenario, and the need for universities to maintain integrity and uphold the confidence that the public has in universities.

The Chair advised members that the final report and its recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee of Academic Board to develop an implementation plan, which will be presented to the Board in early 2021, following which it will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

The Provost added that in presenting the final report and recommendations to ARC, observations will be made around:

- the actions undertaken or proposed actions for the recommendations, and
- if these sufficiently elevate the attention given to AI as a culture underpinning all of UTS's academic activities.

5   FACULTY/BOARD MATTERS

No reports.

6   PRESENTATIONS

No presentations.

7   GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1   Preliminary report on 2021 Student Applications as at End of October 2020

RESOLVED AB/20-5/90

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.1 – *Preliminary report on 2021 Student Applications as at End of October 2020*.

7.2 Report on Late Conferrals, Corrections to Awards and Rescission of Awards

RESOLVED AB/20-5/90

Academic Board resolved to:

1. receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.2 – *Report on Late Conferrals, Corrections to Awards and Rescission of Awards – Spring 2020* in accordance with Delegations 4.10.3, 4.10.4 and 4.10.8; and

2. recommend Council to note the Report on Late Conferrals, Corrections to Awards and Rescission of Awards – Spring 2020.

8   OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CLOSURE

The Chair thanked all members for their attendance and participation.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11am.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

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CHAIR

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DATE