

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING 22/1 OF  
ACADEMIC BOARD – 30 MARCH 2022**

Meeting 22/1 of the Academic Board of the University of Technology Sydney was held at 9am on Wednesday 30 March 2022 in the HR Training Rooms 1 and 2, level 22, Building 1, City campus (CB01.22.10 and CB01.22.18).

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**PRESENT:** Professor Anthony Dooley (Chair), Dr Jesse Adams Stein, Professor Shirley Alexander, Professor Debra Anderson, Dr Vitali Alexeev, Professor Kathleen Baird, Mr Kurt Cheng, Professor Sara Denize, Professor Helene de Burgh-Woodman, Professor Behzad Fatahi, Ms Erika Frey, Professor Anne Gardner, Professor Lesley Hitchens, Dr Rosalie Goldsmith, Professor James Goodman, Mr Michael Gonzolez, Dr Nick Hopwood, Mr Ricky Kirby, Ms Christina Lee, Professor Kate McGrath, Professor Michael McDaniel, Professor Elizabeth Mossap, Dr Diep Nguyen, Dr Christina Nikitopoulos, Mr William Paterson (University Secretary), Mr Andrew Parfitt (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Lisa Pont, Mr Hussein Oubani, Professor Carl Rhodes, Dr Bernadette Saunders, Dr Tim Schork, Ms Lynn Sinclair (Deputy-Chair), Professor Anita Stuhmcke, Ms Jemma Swaak, Ms Anna Thieben, Dr Ramona Vijeyaisa, Ms Jacqui Wise

**VIA ZOOM:** Professor Alan Davison, Professor Beata Bajorek, Ms Elbreg Zwaan (Governance Support Unit), Mr Glenn Wightwick,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Catherine Livingstone (Chancellor) for item 1.1; Professor Debra Anderson; Dr Jacqueline Rule (Executive Officer to Academic Board)

**OBSERVERS:** Mr Alexander Litvinov

**APOLOGIES:** Professor James Brown, Professor Ian Burnett, Associate Professor Christina Ho, Professor Joanne Gray, Mr Samuel Otton, Professor Joanne Tipper, Professor James Wallman, Mr Ian Watt, Ms Mariana Zafeirakopolous

## 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1.1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/1 – 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 handed over to the Chancellor, Ms Catherine Livingstone AO, who addressed Academic Board members. The Chancellor welcomed new staff and student members of Academic Board. She remarked on the critical role of Academic Board in providing academic leadership and quality assurance, particularly as the University undergoes its TEQSA re-accreditation process this year. The Chancellor noted that the last few years had been particularly challenging, due to the impacts of Covid and she thanked staff members for their ongoing effort and commitment.

The Chancellor noted that the disruptive effects of Covid would continue to impact and have compressed 'cycle times' and changed expectations about how quickly an institution can evolve to meet new challenges. She noted that technology had played a key role in managing learning during Covid, reiterating that the technology component was an innate and distinctive feature in UTS's identity.

The Chancellor spoke to the critical role of the UTS 2027 Strategy in shaping the future direction of the institution and explained that Council would be taking a more 'hands on' role in monitoring any challenges/risks encountered during the execution of initiatives to deliver the Strategy. Members noted that UTS already has a very robust risk management framework and a good understanding of its own risk appetite in respective areas.

The Chancellor remarked that it was important to understand the external environment in which UTS was operating and noted the recent budget announcement and the upcoming Federal election. She thanked UTS staff members for helping to make UTS such a supportive environment which is distinctive among the higher education sector. The Chair thanked the Chancellor for attending Academic Board. The Chancellor left the meeting at 9:30am.

The Chair formally welcomed all members to the meeting (including observers and attendees) and thanked members for attending via Zoom. Student members present introduced themselves.

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 21/5 held Wednesday 10 November 2021**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/2**

Academic Board resolved to confirm the minutes of meeting 21/5 of Academic Board held on Wednesday 10 November 2021, as detailed in Document 1.2.

## **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/22-1/3 – Starring of items**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 star items 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 4.1a, 4.1b, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2.
- .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, 3.5, 4.1a, 4.1b, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2.

Members were invited to star further items for discussion. Item 4.3 was starred for discussion.

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

### **\*2.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/4 – Report from the Chair/Deputy Chair**

Academic Board resolved to:

1. receive and note the Report from the Chair/Deputy Chair of Academic Board;
2. note the list of appointments to Academic Board and its committees made by the Chair of Academic Board via Executive Action (attachment 1).
3. approve the draft Academic Board Forward Plan for 2022 (attachment 2);
4. note the executive action taken by the Chair of Academic Board on 8 February 2022 to approve the grading of awards for graduands in February 2022 as listed in the following schedules presented by the faculties:

- Schedule 1 – Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
- Schedule 2 – UTS Business School
- Schedule 3 – Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building<sup>2</sup>
- Schedule 4 – Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
- Schedule 5 – Faculty of Health
- Schedule 6 – Faculty of Law
- Schedule 7 – Faculty of Science
- Schedule 8 – Graduate Research School
- Schedule 9 – Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation
- Schedule 10 – Connected Intelligence Centre
- Schedule 11 – Graduate School of Health

4.1 that graduands in their respective courses of the nine faculties indicated in recommendation 1. above, as listed in Schedules 1-11 be admitted to the appropriate degrees or awarded the appropriate diplomas and graduate certificates as designated; and

4.2 that graduands, as designated, be awarded the University Medals.

## **\*2.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/5 – 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**

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

**Results from National Student Safety Survey:** The Vice-Chancellor noted that UTS was in line with the sector average and had shown improvements in relation to facilitating reporting and support available. The Vice-Chancellor

explained that the University was committed to the Respect, Now, Always Program but acknowledged that there was still work to be done in this space. The initial working group has been re-convened to make further recommendations for improvement.

**Financial Plan update:** The Vice-Chancellor explained that Council sets the institutional strategy, based on our risk appetite, while management is responsible for executing the agreed strategy. He noted that Council has approved UTS's medium term financial plan and budget, which continues to be impacted by financial losses resulting from the Covid years. Nonetheless, he expressed confidence that the financial plan and budget set by Council was workable and would allow investment in the UTS 2027 Strategy while still enabling outcomes which the institution aspires to in relation to teaching and learning.

### **3 PRIORITY ISSUES**

#### **\*3.1 TEQSA: External Review of Governance (Deane Report)**

##### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/6 – TEQSA: External Review of Governance**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the Provost's presentation on TEQSA: External Review of Governance.

##### **Note for the record**

Academic Board received a presentation from the Provost on TEQSA: External Review of Governance. As part of her powerpoint presentation, the Provost highlighted the importance of the Academic Standards Framework, explaining how they tied to the Higher Education Standards Framework. The Provost emphasised the role of Academic Board and faculty boards is overseeing academic governance and quality.

The Provost provided an outline of the TEQSA registration renewal process. She noted that while the Deane Report provided reassurance that UTS was on track to meet its obligations under the HESF, it still made recommendations for further improvement in some areas to ensure best practice.

The Provost explained that academic integrity and benchmarking were key priorities for the institution and reported that Professor Joanne Gray was working on a project to determine a clearer and more systematic approach to how we benchmark.

#### **\*3.2 Institute for Sustainable Futures: Governance Restructure**

##### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/7**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 3.2 – Institute for Sustainable Futures Governance Restructure and its attachments;
- .2 approve the change of name from the Institute for Sustainable Futures Board of Studies to the Institute for Sustainable Futures Institute Board;
- .3 approve the change to the terms of reference for the ISF Institute Board as detailed in Attachment 1 of Document 3.2 – Institute for Sustainable Futures Governance Restructure.
- .4 approve the membership of the ISF Institute Board as detailed in Attachment 1 of Document 3.2 – Institute for Sustainable Futures Governance Restructure (noting that for unique reasons, this varies from the composition requirements prescribed in the Faculty Board Standing Orders) and subject to the below amendments to the wording:
  - TOR, point 4: ~~Two~~ **One** staff representative is separately elected by and from staff for a term of two years commencing from the date of the first meeting of the Board after the staff representative is declared elected. The staff representative is elected by and from all continuing and fixed-term staff.*
  - TOR, point 5. ~~Two~~ **One** student representative is elected from the HDR student body for a term of one calendar year as per the election process administered by the UTS Governance Support Unit.*
5. note that the new Institute Board will commence operation on 9th June 2022.

### **\*3.3 Academic Board Policy Priorities 2022**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/8**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 3.3 – *2022 Academic Board Owned Policies: Review Schedules* and its attachments.

#### **Note for the record**

Professor Shirley Alexander spoke to this item, reiterating how critical it was that Academic Board was involved from the early stages of the policy review process.

### **3.4 Review of Academic Standards Framework**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/9**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the current Academic Standards Framework, ahead of the upcoming annual review of the Framework at the 25 May meeting.

### **\*3.5 Indigenous Education and Research Strategy: 2021 Annual Report**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/10**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the Indigenous Education and Research Strategy: 2021 Annual Report.

**Note for the record:**

Professor Michael McDaniel, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) provided a welcome to country and spoke to this item. He reported that Indigenous Research performance had been excellent and HDR participation has mostly held steady in 2021. He also noted that Indigenous Student Retention at UTS was strong.

He explained, however that total Indigenous participation remains a concern, having moved very little in 2021, to remain at 1.1%. He noted that student success rates for Indigenous undergraduates slightly improved (by 0.7%) but remains 8.9% below their non-Indigenous counterparts. He reported that while postgraduate commencements have increased from 26 to 37 (42.3%) in 2021, success rates declined by 9.5%.

Professor McDaniel also noted strong momentum and progress on the Indigenous Graduate Attribute following the commencement of the Associate Dean (Indigenous Teaching and Learning).

Professor McDaniel also noted that there was strong support for the development of an Indigenous residential college.

## **4 COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **\*4.1a Courses Accreditation Committee Report**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/11**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.1a – *Courses Accreditation Committee Report* and its attachments;
- .2 approve the accreditation of four (4) new courses;
- .3 approve the phasing out and discontinuation of 13 courses
- .4 approve seven (7) course extension of accreditations, as detailed:

## **COURSE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Accreditations**

2. approve the accreditation of the following new courses for recommendation .2.1 to 2.2, as detailed:

***Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (and other faculties)***

- .2.1 C09158 Bachelor of Nursing Bachelor of International Studies  
from Autumn session 2023 until 31 December 2026  
(file: 97/1192) [OCAP #1754]

***UTS Business School***

- .2.2 C04444 Master of Business Administration (OPM)  
C11353 Graduate Certificate in Business Administration (OPM)  
C07149 Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (OPM) (exit only)  
from Session 4 (July) 2022 until 31 December 2026  
(file: TBC) [OCAP #1830]

**Phasing Out and Discontinuation**

- 3 approve course accreditation for the phasing out and discontinuation for the following course for recommendations .3.1 to .3.3, as detailed:

***Faculty of Health***

- .3.1 C11194 Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing  
C11195 Graduate Certificate in Clinical Teaching  
C11196 Graduate Certificate in Neonatal Nursing  
C11201 Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing  
C11259 Graduate Certificate in Human Fertility and Assisted  
Reproduction  
C11116 Graduate Certificate in Perioperative Nursing  
C11117 Graduate Certificate in Anaesthetics and Recovery Room  
Nursing  
C11118 Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing

from Spring session 2022.

(file: UR05/288, UR89/158, UR00/538, UR05/655, UR05/653, UR05/654,  
UR05/307, UR05/799, UR98/973, UR99/557, UR01/893 [OCAP #1536])

- .3.2 C11200 Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health Nursing  
from Spring session 2022

(file: UR05/307) [OCAP #1801]

***Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology***

- .3.3 C04224 Master of Science in Internetworking (Extension)  
C04160 Master of Science in Internetworking  
C07080 Graduate Diploma in Internetworking  
C11145 Graduate Certificate in Internetworking

from Autumn session 2023

(file/s: 97/466, UR05/282) [OCAP #1708]

**Extension of Accreditation**

- .4 approve course accreditation for the extension of course accreditation of the following courses, as detailed, for recommendations .4.1:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

- .4.1 C04321 Master of Advanced Journalism  
C04397 Master of Advanced Journalism (Extension)  
C06104 Graduate Diploma in Advanced Journalism  
C06119 Graduate Diploma in Sports Media  
C04109 Master of Arts in Creative Writing  
C06041 Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing  
C11071 Graduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing

from 31 December 2022 until 31 December 2023

(files: UR16/559, UR20/1010, 01/293 ) [OCAP #1908]

**OTHER MATTERS NOTED:**

- .5 note the following course changes:

***UTS College***

- .5.1 C30027 UTS Foundation Studies

(file: TBC) [OCAP #1811]

***UTS Business School***

- .5.2 C04381 Master of Financial Planning  
C07142 Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning  
C11281 Graduate Certificate in Financial Planning

(file: UR18/505) [OCAP #1807]

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

.5.3 C11222 Graduate Certificate in Learning Design

(file: UR10/461) [OCAP #1824]

**\*4.1b Award Course Approval Decisions**

**RESOLVED AB/22-1/12**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.1b – *Award Course Approval Decisions* and its attachments.

**4.2 Executive Committee of Academic Board Report**

**RESOLVED AB/22-1/13**

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

**\*4.3 Higher Degree Research Board Report**

**RESOLVED AB/22-1/14**

Academic Board resolved to:

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

.2 note the recipients of the Chancellor’s Award and Chancellor’s List 2021 as detailed in Attachment 1 of Document 4.3;

.3 note the Higher Degree Research Board Annual Report 2021 as detailed in Attachment 2 of Document 4.3; and

.4 note the Higher Degree Research Board Forward Plan 2022 as detailed in Attachment 3 of Document 4.3.

**Note for the Record:**

A member queried how the HDR Board plans to allocate the \$4.6 million of unspent RTP funds and highlighted the need for equity among HDR students.

The Chair, HDR Board confirmed that the RTP funds had not been allocated yet, noting that the University had received an extension into 2023 to allocate this additional funding. The HDR Board will further consider this matter later in 2022, to ensure the impact of the funding is optimised.

The Chair, HDR Board reiterated that the funds would be allocated in a transparent and equitable manner, in consultation with HDR student representatives.

#### **\*4.4 Research Committee Report**

##### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/15**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.4 – Research Committee Report and its attachments;
- .2 approve the Research Committee Terms of Reference changes as detailed in Attachment 1 of Document 4.4;
- .3 note the Research Committee 2021 Annual Report as detailed in Attachment 2 of Document 4.4;
- .4 note the Research Committee 2022 Forward Plan as detailed in Attachment 3 of Document 4.4; and
- .5 note the update on the Federal Government’s University Research Commercialisation Action Plan.

##### **Note for the record**

Professor Kate McGrath, Chair of the Research Committee spoke to this item. She explained that the Research Committee was seeking changes to their membership composition and terms of reference.

Professor McGrath acknowledged the enormous volume of work undertaken by the Research Committee and the Indigenous Research Committee over the last year and thanked committee members for their efforts. She also drew members’ attention to the update on the Federal Government’s University Research Commercialisation Action Plan contained in the report.

#### **\*4.5 Teaching and Learning Committee Report**

##### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/16 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 approve the Indigenous Graduate Attribute (IGA) Curriculum Framework and Guidelines as detailed in Attachment 1 of Document 4.5;
- .3 approve the proposed changes to the Admissions and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy as detailed in Attachment 3 of Document 4.5;

.4 recommend Council to approve the changes to the Delegations 4.4.2 as detailed in Document 4.5;

.5 approve the proposed changes to the English Language Policy as detailed in Attachment 4 of Document 4.5;

.6 note the Learner Experience Transformation Program Evaluation Report as detailed in Attachment 5 of Document 4.5;

.7 note the TLC 2021 Annual Report as detailed in Attachment 6 of Document 4.5;

.8 note the Teaching and Learning Committee 2022 Forward Plan as detailed in Attachment 7 of Document 4.5; and

.9 note the appointment of Associate Professor Anne Gardner to the position of TLC Deputy Chair for 2022.

#### **Note for the record**

The Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Professor Shirley Alexander, spoke to this report, highlighting the Learner Experience Transformation Program Evaluation Report. She noted that the University had made a substantial investment in Learning and Teaching infrastructure over the last few years to improve the online student experience, in part through the shift from Blackboard to Canvas. She acknowledged the extraordinary work of the LXT team, who had to partially shift their focus during the Covid years, to support academics to deliver core teaching requirements remotely.

A member commented that the fantastic online student learning experience was a major drawcard, being a key factor in prospective students choosing UTS over other tertiary institutions.

Professor Alexander also explained that the T&L Committee's Academic Integrity Working Group was examining different ways to improve academic integrity, noting that their work also crossed over with T&L working group reviewing the future of assessment. A member queried how the data collected would feed into this assessment review and Professor Alexander noted that this was yet to be determined. She remarked that the working group was looking at the viability of providing automated feedback to students (for more straightforward elements, like the grammar or structure of an essay), as this could assist in freeing up academics' time to focus on the more substantive elements of the assessment.

#### **4.6 Appeals Committee of Academic Board RESOLVED AB/22-1/17**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.6 – *Appeals Committee of Academic Board report*.

## **5 FACULTY/BOARD MATTERS**

### **\*5.1 Composition of Faculty Board in Faculty of Engineering and IT**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/18**

Academic Board resolved to approve the changes to the composition of the Faculty Board in the Faculty of Engineering and IT.

### **\*5.2 Update from Health Faculty Board**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/19**

Academic Board resolved to note the verbal report on the Health faculty board provided by Professor Debra Anderson. Professor Anderson provided members with a structural overview of the Faculty of Health and its Faculty Board. She drew members' attention to key priority areas for Health including a focus on: excellence in teaching and learning (particularly online through through OPEM), world class research, continuing to be impactful with a strong research presence, strengthening Indigenous student participation and people and culture.

She explained that areas where the Faculty Board were looking to improve further included: English language requirements in a culturally diverse faculty, increasing engagement and partnerships with community and industry, the international student cohort and managing health and safety risks in clinical setting.

The Chair thanked Professor Anderson for attending Academic Board and providing this overview to members.

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Update from 2022 Student Orientation Week**

#### **RESOLVED AB/22-1/20**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the update from the 2022 Student Orientation Week.

**\*7.2 UTS Corporate Plan 2021 - End of Year Performance Report & UTS 2022 Corporate Plan****RESOLVED AB/22-1/21**

Academic Board resolved:

1. to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.2 – UTS Corporate Plan 2021 - End of Year Performance Report & UTS 2022 Corporate Plan.
2. that the UTS Corporate Plan 2021 - End of Year Performance Report & UTS 2022 Corporate Plan should return to the 25 May Academic Board meeting for further discussion.

**Note for the record**

The Provost spoke briefly to this item, noting that the 2021 End of Year Performance Report is testimony to how much UTS has achieved over the last year, especially in light of the difficult Covid-related impacts. She remarked that this End of Year Report correlates with the end of the initial three years in the implementation of the UTS 2027 Strategy.

The Provost noted that the 2022 Corporate Plan was more focused on delivery and on facilitating processes that enable/support the implementation work for the next three years, to deliver the 2027 Strategy.

To enable a more substantial discussion than time permitted, the Chair of Academic Board requested that this item return to the 25 May 2022 for further discussion.

**7.3 Responsible Academic Officers – annual updates****RESOLVED AB/22-1/22**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the Responsible Academic Officers – annual updates report.

**7.4 Annual Report on Academic Board members attendance at 2021 meetings****RESOLVED AB/22-1/23**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the Annual Report on Academic Board members attendance at 2021 meetings.

**7.5 Elections Report****RESOLVED AB/22-1/24**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the Elections Report.

**8 OTHER BUSINESS****\*8.1 Feedback on Papers and Presentations**

Due to time constraints, no feedback on this item was received.

**\*8.2 Feedback on 'Workshop and Discussion' at 15 March Academic Board Induction event****RESOLVED AB/22-1/25**

Academic Board resolved to note the Chair's verbal update on the workshop and discussion held at the Academic Board Induction.

**CLOSURE**

The Chair thanked all members for their attendance and participation.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:10am.

**SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD**

A. H. Dooley  
CHAIR

25 May 2022  
DATE