

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING 19/4 OF
ACADEMIC BOARD – 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Meeting 19/4 of the Academic Board of the University of Technology Sydney held at 9am on Wednesday 18 September 2019 in the Aerial Function Centre, Level 7, Building 10, Broadway.

PRESENT: Professor Joanne Gray (Chair), Professor Shirley Alexander, Associate Professor Adel Al-Jumaily, Professor James Ball, Mr Priyanshu Bhardwaj, Dr Martin Bliemel, Associate Professor Tracey Booth, Professor Attila Brungs, Professor Ian Burnett, Professor Suzanne Chambers AO, Professor Thomas Clarke, Associate Professor Mary Coupland, Professor Alan Davison, Professor Maryanne Dever, Associate Professor Behzad Fatahi, Ms Rabiya Fathima, Mr William Feuerman, Dr Rick Flowers, Ms Katrina Gardner (alternate student member for Monique Boys), Ms Samara Garrett-Rickman, Associate Professor Beth Goldblatt, Mr Michael Gonzalez, Associate Professor James Goodman, Ms Sophie Aroha Hawkins, Professor Lesley Hitchens, Professor Dianne Jolley, Associate Professor David Leary, Professor Lori Lockyer, Dr Helen Lu, Mr Lachlan MacLeod, Professor Kate McGrath, Ms Jan McLean, Professor Louise McWhinnie, Associate Professor Peter Meier, Professor Elizabeth Mossop, Mr Mehmet Musa, Dr Bhuva Narayan, ChiChi Nwosu, Professor Andrew Parfitt, , Professor Peter Scott, Mr Iain Watt, Professor Stuart White, Professor Glenn Wightwick, Ms Jacqui Wise and Dr Stephen Woodcock.

Mr Bill Paterson (University Secretary), and Ms Lucille Paterson (Executive Officer).

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Sita Chopra (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – for item 3.3), Ms Anne-Lise Daniel (University Academic Programs Office – for items 4.1 and 4.2), Ms Fiona Henry (Faculty of Science) and Mr David O'Connor (Information Technology Division).

APOLOGIES: Associate Professor Alison Beavis, Ms Monique Boys, Dr Deborah Cotton, Professor Sara Denize, Professor Chris Earley, Mr Martin Lloyd, Professor Michael McDaniel, Dr Peter McLean, Professor Christopher Poulton, Ms Lynn Sinclair and Mr Robert Stephenson.

ABSENT: Nil.

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS**1.1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES****RESOLVED AB/19-4/62 – 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 reflected on the power of higher education to transform the lives of individuals and communities, citing the example of Cherisse Buzzacott, who delivered a keynote address at the Australian College of Midwives National Conference 2019, and her work to promote culturally safe care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The Chair gave special acknowledgement to Lucille Paterson, noting this was her last meeting as Acting Executive Officer, and thanked her for her invaluable work for the Board.

1.2 MINUTES**Confirmation of the minutes of meeting 19/3 held Wednesday 31 July 2019****RESOLVED AB/19-4/63**

Academic Board resolved to confirm the minutes of meeting 19/3 of Academic Board held on Wednesday 31 July 2019, 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/19-4/64 – Starring of items**

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 pre-star items 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 6.1 and 6.2; and
- .2 adopt the remaining unstarred items as approved.

Note for the record

The following items have been pre-starred: items 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 6.1 and 6.2.

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/19-4/65 – 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 19 August 2019 to approve the grading of awards for graduands in August 2019 as listed in the following schedules presented by the faculties and schools:
 - Schedule 1 – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
 - Schedule 2 – UTS Business School
 - Schedule 3 – Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building
 - 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 – Graduate School of Health
- .1 that graduands in their respective courses of the nine faculties and the Graduate Research School indicated in recommendation .2 above, as listed in Schedules 1-10 be admitted to the appropriate degrees or awarded the appropriate diplomas and graduate certificates as designated; and
 - .2 that graduands, as designated, be awarded the University Medals;

- .3 note the Academic Board Actions List as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 2.1; and
- .4 note the 2019 Forward Plan as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 2.1.

Note for the record

The Chair informed the Board that the upcoming Academic Board forum would explore the workforce skills required by the next generation of students and how to meet their expectations.

The Chair encouraged members to attend the Student Voice Australian Symposium. The symposium presents the findings of the Student Voice Australia pilot, which builds UTS Professor Sally Varnham's work promoting student engagement in university decision-making and governance.

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

RESOLVED AB/19-4/66 – 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:

- *Eureka Awards*: UTS had its largest ever cohort of finalists and Professor Longbing Cao collected the award for Excellence in Data Science.
- *Bequest*: Former Chancellor, Emertius Professor Vicki Sara AO and her partner Dr Jacqueline Martin have provided for a substantial gift to UTS in their will, which will be used to fund PhD and postdoctoral scholarships in perpetuity.
- *New buildings*: the Vice-Chancellor acknowledged Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) and his team for the successful launch of new UTS buildings, highlighting the outstanding health and safety record on the construction of UTS Central (and other buildings), which was delivered ahead of time and under budget.
- *Federal Government*: recent speeches by the Minister for Education and the Shadow Minister for Education have emphasised the important role of universities in driving productivity and jobs growth, which complements the ambitions of UTS' Lifetime of Learning initiative. The Minister for Education has also spoken recently about improving access to higher education for all disadvantaged groups, expanding on the Government's focus on regional participation.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the following developments since his report was submitted:

- *State Government*: Central Precinct around UTS has been confirmed as a State Significant Precinct.
- *Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellowship*: Distinguished Professor Jie Lu has been awarded a prestigious fellowship to tackle cutting edge problems in data-driven decision-making. The Australian Laureate Fellowship scheme recognises outstanding researchers and leaders of an international calibre, in groundbreaking research areas. This is the first time a UTS researcher has received the accolade.

The Board discussed the upcoming Climate Strike and UTS' program of activities around the strike. UTS' commitment to action on climate change centres on three elements: a carbon neutral campus, sustainability research drawing upon academic expertise, and developing the leadership capabilities of our graduates. The University is preparing a public statement about climate change in consultation with UTS academics.

3 PRIORITY ISSUES

***3.1 UTS 2027 Strategy**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/67 – UTS 2027 Strategy

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the verbal report on *UTS 2027 Strategy*.

Note for the record

Professor Andrew Parfitt, Provost explained how the UTS 2027 strategy, UTS 2027 initiatives roadmaps, annual corporate plan and budget processes align to advance the University's strategic objectives. The University is in the process of setting priorities for 2020 and finalising the roadmaps. The Provost will present on the roadmaps at the Board's next meeting.

The Board discussed faculty budgets and expenditure on staff in relation to the implementation of the UTS 2027 strategy. The Provost clarified the University's investment profile and growth strategy over the past three years to 2020.

***3.2 LX Transformation**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/68 – LX Transformation

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the presentation on *LX Transformation*.

Note for the record

Professor Maryanne Dever, Executive Director, LX Transformation presented on the LX Transformation providing an overview of the program aims, implementation progress, and its connection to UTS 2027.

The LX Transformation is a multi-year program to move to a single learning management system, Canvas. With LX Transformation, there is an opportunity to transform UTS' digital learning and teaching experience by enhancing digital capability for teaching delivery, increasing connection across subjects in a course, reducing complexity and improving student engagement.

Consultation and co-design with faculties has been central to implementation of LX Transformation, and will continue over the life of the program.

Progress to date includes whole of course processes developed in consultation with faculties, Canvas orientation and training, the creation of Canvas subject shells ready for subject design, and agreed principles and guidelines for creating subject sites.

Professor Dever acknowledged the large team contributing to LX Transformation and thanked Jan McLean and Jacqui McManus (Institute for Interactive Media and Learning), Dean MacDonald and Alisa Chadfield (Digital Transformation Program), and Lucy Arthur and Anna Stack (LX Lab).

3.3 Future of Postgraduate Study*RESOLVED AB/19-4/69 – Future of Postgraduate Study**

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the presentation on *Future of Postgraduate Study*.

Note for the record

Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) (Education and Students) and Professor Peter Scott, Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) (Education) presented on UTS postgraduate initiatives.

DVC (Education and Students) spoke about trends affecting the postgraduate education market, noting the demand for workforce reskilling and upskilling to adapt to a changing economic environment and new technology, and evolving learner needs and preferences in the postgraduate education space. Notably, there is increasing demand for hybrid modes of study, and a greater emphasis on developing job specific skills over gaining a formal qualification.

One of the ways that UTS is responding to these trends is by expanding its short course offerings, with the option to complete an assessment to gain a

micro-credential. Micro-credentials may be recognised for the purpose of admission and/or for credit to non-award or award qualifications.

UTS also offers online taster courses through UTS Open and will be adding longer courses, including some that may attract credit towards UTS degrees.

In addition, UTS has started offering stackable degrees, which enable students to curate a personalised and flexible credential suited to their specific needs. Examples include the new postgraduate Master of Technology degrees and Master of Professional Practice degrees and the Master of Creative Intelligence and Strategic Innovation.

Enterprise learning is another key UTS postgraduate initiative. Enterprise learning involves a contractual relationship with organisations to assess skills needs across an organisation and deliver learning outcomes for their employees. There is potential for UTS to collaborate with a wide range of organisations on enterprise learning including government departments, small and medium enterprises, non-government organisations and large corporations.

It was noted that UTS postgraduate initiatives are interconnected with other initiatives discussed at the meeting including LX Transformation and the Learning Calendar, which introduces a new calendar for online postgraduate courses.

The Board discussed domestic and international students and UTS postgraduate initiatives.

The Board also discussed the distinction between enrolled UTS students and people engaging with UTS offerings but not formally enrolled as a student of the University. Implications for the University include the use of UTS Library resources.

It was clarified that UTS will work with external partners to deliver some online learning so that UTS can take advantage of their expertise and that UTS will continue to accredit and manage curriculum content for all courses.

***3.4 UTS Learning Calendar**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/70 – UTS Learning Calendar

Academic Board resolved to

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 3.4 – *Learning Calendar Annual Report* and its attachments;
- .2 approve the *Statement of Principles for Setting the Learning Calendar*, with effect from 2021, as detailed in **Attachment 1** of Document 3.4;

- .3 approve the 2021 Learning Calendars as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 3.4; and
- .4 note the variations to the Statement of Principles for Setting the Learning Calendar approved by the Provost under delegation 4.17.2 as detailed in **Attachment 3** of Document 3.4.

Note for the record

The Provost spoke to the Report, noting that Academic Board receives an annual update on issues associated with the Learning Calendar, and variations to the Principles for Setting the Learning Calendar to make necessary adjustments for a small number of courses.

The Provost noted that the University had learned from the implementation of the Summer session, and had made adjustments to the Learning Calendar to address feedback from staff and students including the amount of time between sessions.

The Main Calendar continues to comprise of the compulsory Autumn and Spring sessions, and an optional Summer session. In 2021, the Summer session will be made up of a number of flexible shorter sessions, which reflects the current use of the Summer session primarily for intensive and studio subjects. The Main Calendar can also accommodate delivery of standard subjects over Summer.

The 2021 Learning Calendar introduces an Online Postgraduate Calendar comprising six seven-week periods to offer flexibility and multiple starting points for postgraduate students.

The Provost corrected an administrative error on page 9 of the Report relating to Graduate School of Health calendar Autumn session as follows (additions in **bold underline**):

...

Autumn

- Session starts on the fourth Monday of February
- Eighteen weeks of learning, including:
- Week 1 as a mandatory preparation week
 - **Fourteen weeks of classes**

...

The Board discussed scheduling of exams, census dates and regulatory requirements, and communication with students around Summer session

offerings. Members commented positively on the flexibility afforded by the 2021 Learning Calendar.

4 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

***4.1 Courses Accreditation Committee Report**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/71 – 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;
- .2 approve that the following courses be set to phasing out from Autumn session 2020 and discontinued as detailed in this Report:

Faculty of Science

- .2.1 C10186 Bachelor of Health Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine
C10164 Bachelor of Health Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine
Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

(file: UR98/777) [1414]

Note for the record

Dr Rick Flowers, Chair, Courses Accreditation Committee (CAC) informed members that CAC had met twice since the last Academic Board meeting and had considered a large number of reaccreditation proposals, which will be presented to Board's November meeting. For this meeting, CAC presents the phasing out and discontinuation of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) courses for approval.

In regards to the TCM courses, CAC deliberations focussed on how the progression of currently enrolled students would be managed. CAC is satisfied that the transition arrangements have been carefully considered by the Faculty, which has taken a risk-based approach to facilitate transition planning for students currently enrolled in TCM. CAC was also satisfied with the Faculty's response to CAC's queries regarding how long students will have to complete their course requirements.

Concerns were raised the University's communication with TCM students about how the UTS would meet their needs.

Professor Dianne Jolley, Dean, Faculty of Science explained that the University will work with students one on one to provide advice on study plans and facilitate students' desired outcomes. The Faculty has regularly updated a

frequently asked questions webpage and has emailed every enrolled TCM student. The Faculty will be able to provide further information to students about transition arrangements following approval of the phasing out and discontinuation.

In response to a query about the level of detail in the CAC Report to support the Board's decision-making, the Chair noted that Dean, Faculty of Science was present to answer members' questions about the TCM courses.

The Chair assured the Board that CAC receives comprehensive documentation and undertakes detailed analysis of course accreditation matters prior to making its recommendations to the Board. The Board is unable to undertake this detailed analysis itself due to its size and the number of items of business requiring its attention. The Board remains accountable for all decisions.

***4.2 Executive Committee of Academic Board Report**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/72 – Executive Committee of Academic Board Report

Academic Board to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.2 – *Executive Committee of Academic Board Report*; and
- .2 approve proposed amendments to the Academic Board Strategic Risk Assessment for Academic Board as detailed in **Attachment 3** of Document 4.2;
- .3 note the feedback from Academic Board committees as detailed in **Attachment 2** of Document 4.2.

Note for the record

The Chair thanked Academic Board committees for their feedback on the Academic Board Strategic Risk Assessment (SRA). Faculty boards will also be asked to review the SRA as part of the next annual review.

4.3 Graduate Research School Board Report

RESOLVED AB/19-4/73

Academic Board to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.3 – *Graduate Research School Board Report*.

4.4 Research Committee Report

RESOLVED AB/19-4/74

Academic Board to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.4 – Research Committee Report and its attachments;
- .2 note the proposed top ten research related risks as detailed in **Attachment 1** to Document 4.4; and
- .3 note the update on research policy instruments.

4.5 Teaching and Learning Committee Report

RESOLVED AB/19-4/75

Academic Board to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 4.5 – Teaching and Learning Committee Report and its attachments;
- .2 rescind the current 4-point scale grade point average calculation model and replace this with a 7-point scale grade point average calculation model as set out in the recommendations for implementation, with an effective date of 1 January 2020;
- .3 note that any consequential changes to UTS governance instruments will be presented at Academic Board for approval in November 2019;
- .4 recommend Council to approve amendments to Student Rule 5.6 Refusal of application, withdrawal of offer of admission and cancellation of admission or enrolment as detailed in [Attachment 1](#) of Document 4.5;
- .5 note the TLC Forward Plan for 2019 as detailed in [Attachment 2](#) of Document 4.5; and
- .6 note that Professor Maryanne Dever has been co-opted to the Committee.

5 FACULTY/BOARD MATTERS

5.1 Faculty Board in Engineering and IT – Award of Posthumous Degree

RESOLVED AB/19-4/76

Academic Board resolved to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 5.1 – Faculty Board in Engineering and IT – Posthumous Award of Degree; and

- .2 approve that the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechatronic Engineering (C09066) be conferred posthumously to Student ID 12778724.

6 PRESENTATIONS

***6.1 Student Voices**

RESOLVED AB/19-4/77 – Student Voices

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the presentation *Student Voices*.

Note for the record

Lachlan McLeod and Sophie Aroha Hawkins presented on behalf of student members of the Board on technology and the student experience at UTS. The presentation opened with a video featuring vox pops with UTS students about:

- awareness of technology tools available to UTS students for free;
- subjects that use technology really well;
- use of technology by UTS tutors and lecturers; and
- subjects that need to improve their use of technology.

The presentation summarised what UTS does well in relation to technology and what could be improved.

Student members developed recommendations for UTS, based on the goals of the UTS 2027 strategy. The recommendations centred on:

- improving the Blackboard sites while the move to Canvas is being developed;
- lecture recordings and note taking services;
- access to hardware and software;
- software licenses;
- raising awareness of channels for reporting issues and encouraging students to use IT support services;
- staff development and training, including technical skills and presentation skills; and
- sharing best practice amongst academic staff.

The Board thanked student members for their feedback and noted initiatives underway such as LX Transformation and the recent UTS Festival of Learning

Design, which will address student concerns. It was noted that collaboration with students to develop teaching and learning technology solutions has been successful to date, and UTS is keen to increase student involvement.

***6.2 UTS Library**

This item was postponed to the 19/5 meeting of Academic Board (13 November) due to time constraints.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Elections Report

RESOLVED AB/19-4/79

Academic Board to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.1 – *Elections Report*; and
- .2 encourage members to promote voting in the current and upcoming elections.

7.2 Respect. Now. Always

RESOLVED AB/19-4/80

Academic Board resolved to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.2 – *Update: Respect. Now. Always. Program* and its attachment.

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 11:00am.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE