

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor thanked staff and stakeholders who contributed to the development of the new UNSW Strategy: *Progress for All*, launched in February 2025.

Members received an update on the strategic priorities underpinning the University's future direction, including the development of a three-year strategy aligned to the ten-year framework. Discussion highlighted the importance of transnational education (TNE) and lifelong learning (LLL) in supporting both societal impact and financial sustainability.

The Vice-Chancellor outlined developments in government policy and higher education sector reform, including implementation of the Australian Universities Accord and the potential implications of the upcoming federal election. Members also discussed international student enrolment trends, visa processing impacts and UNSW's approach to maintaining sustainable international student numbers while preserving student diversity and community engagement.

Academic Board President's Business

The Academic Board noted the report of the Academic Board President.

Members discussed initiatives to strengthen engagement and participation in Academic Board meetings, including increased opportunities for discussion and feedback on key strategic matters.

The Academic Board noted:

- The Academic Board Annual Report 2024
- The Academic Board Annual Workplan 2025
- Progress on the review of academic governance arrangements and Academic Board Terms of Reference
- Responsibilities of Officership

Student representatives noted opportunities to contribute to strategic consultations, particularly regarding the Academic Calendar, and welcomed ongoing engagement through Academic Board Student Representative Group meetings.

Discussion Topics

2025 University Operational Plan

The Academic Board received a presentation on the 2025 University Operational Plan, developed as the foundational year of the University's ten-year *Progress for All* strategy.

Members discussed the nine strategic impact pathways, implementation priorities across faculties and divisions, and the role of University Leadership Team champions in delivering key initiatives. Discussion emphasised sustainability, alignment with strategic objectives and institution-wide coordination.

UNSW Research Plan (2025-2030)

The Academic Board received an update on the development of the UNSW Research Plan (2025-2030).

The presentation outlined seven strategic drivers, including research excellence, strategic partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration, research impact, infrastructure, talent development and process improvement. Members discussed strengthening links between the Research Plan and the University Strategy, appropriate measures of research success and balancing excellence with societal impact.

Support for Students Policy Update

The Academic Board received a report on the implementation of the Support for Students Policy.

Members discussed academic and non-academic support services available to students, including processes for identifying and assisting students at risk of not successfully completing their studies. Discussion highlighted the need for ongoing evaluation, improved coordination between central and faculty services, and the importance of responding to emerging student wellbeing and cost-of-living challenges.

Presentations and Reports

myExperience Annual Report 2024

The Academic Board received a presentation on the myExperience Annual Report 2024.

Members noted stable student satisfaction results despite increasing enrolments and discussed opportunities to use detailed survey data to support continuous improvement. Positive results relating to students feeling free to express their views and being free from discrimination were also noted.

Assessment Assurance Working Group Final Report and Program Review Principles

The Academic Board noted the Assessment Assurance Working Group Final Report and Program Review Principles.

Discussion focused on program-level approaches to assessment design, the alignment of assessment with learning outcomes and opportunities to address assessment redundancy while maintaining academic standards.

AI Action Plan Update

The Academic Board noted progress on implementation of the University's AI Action Plan and ongoing work to support teaching, learning and assessment in an evolving artificial intelligence environment.

UNSW College Annual Report 2024

The Academic Board noted the 2024 UNSW College Annual Report.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Standing Reports

The Academic Board noted reports from the DVC, Research & Enterprise; DVC, Education & Student Experience; and DVC, Academic Quality.

Research updates highlighted strong performance across competitive grants, publications, industry engagement, entrepreneurship and higher degree research. Members also discussed government consultations relating to national research and development priorities and proposed reforms to Australian Research Council funding programs.

Education updates included:

- Evaluation of the short extension process
- Assessment and feedback transformation initiatives
- Curriculum mapping and assessment design activities
- Priorities arising from the Nexus Program

The Academic Board also noted:

- UNSW being named Australia's most employable university for the sixth consecutive year
- Strong student outcomes in future leader recognition programs
- Planning for the 2025 UNSW QILT Symposium and related student experience activities
- Continued work to simplify academic offerings and improve student navigation of degree programs

Policies and Procedures

The Academic Board noted:

- UNSW Delegations Policy, Procedure and Schedules (effective 1 January 2025)
- Academic Promotions Policy (effective 28 January 2025)
- Information Governance Policy (effective 1 February 2025)

Academic Offerings – Faculties and Board of Studies

The Academic Board approved the following new and revised academic programs and specialisations across several faculties:

Arts, Design & Architecture

- 4071 Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours)
- 8224 Master of Combined Arts/Social Sciences
- 8963 Master of Educational Leadership

Business

- 3674 Bachelor of Actuarial Studies/Bachelor of Computer Science

Engineering

- 8543 Master of Information Technology
- 8621 Master of Engineering

Law & Justice

- 7301 Graduate Certificate in Business Law

Medicine & Health

- BIOPA1 Biophysics; BIOPAH Biophysics
- BIOPB1 Biophysics (Advanced Science)

- 3890 Bachelor of Applied Exercise Science
- 3897 Bachelor of Applied Exercise Science/Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology
- 2846 Master of Population Health (Research)
- 2715 Population Health MPhil
- 1837 Population Health PhD
- PHCMER Centre for Big Data Research in Health
- PHCMCR Population Health

Science

- 3962 Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours)
- 3970 Bachelor of Science
- 4500 Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- MATSP1 Materials Science (Advanced Science)

UNSW Canberra

Graduate Certificates in Cyber Security, Policy Leadership, War Studies, Strategy and Security, Security and Defence Management, and Special Operations and Irregular Warfare

The Academic Board also noted the disestablishment and suspension of selected Engineering and UNSW Canberra programs and specialisations.

Other Business

The Academic Board noted:

- Governance approval timelines for 2026 academic offerings
- University-level committee and board meeting schedules for 2025
- Planned engagement sessions with elected Academic Board faculty members
- Upcoming Academic Board Student Representative Group activities

Disclaimer

This report summarises the key themes and decisions of the meeting. It is not a complete record of proceedings and neither includes all matters discussed nor the full detail of decisions. Some matters may be omitted to protect confidentiality.

Further Information

Further information on UNSW governance, including Academic Board functions, membership and committees, is available through the University's Governance website:

[Governance](#)

[Academic Board | Governance – UNSW Sydney](#)

[Academic Board membership](#)