

# Academic Board (AB)

## Minutes of Meeting

**DATE:** Tuesday 16 August 2022  
**TIME:** 10am-12.30pm via Microsoft Teams

### PRESENT

1. Professor D Cohen, Science, AB President and Chair
2. Scientia Associate Professor LA Rollins, Science, Acting AB Deputy President
3. Associate Professor C Bond, Law & Justice, Acting AB Deputy President
4. Professor A Brungs, Vice-Chancellor (VC)
5. Scientia Professor S Rogge, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (PVC), Research
6. Scientia Professor G Williams AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), Planning & Assurance
7. Professor C Annesley, Dean of Arts, Design & Architecture (ADA)
8. Professor M Crossley, DVC, Academic & Student Life (DVCASL)
9. Professor C Doolan, Engineering
10. Professor S Foster, Dean of Engineering
11. Professor B Golder, Such other Person
12. Professor M Green, Medicine & Health
13. Professor S Kable, Dean of Science (Acting)
14. Professor N Klein, Such other Person
15. Professor L Lixinski, Law & Justice
16. Professor A Lynch, Dean of Law & Justice
17. Professor J Morris, PVC, Research Training & Entrepreneurship and Dean of Graduate Research
18. Professor A Ortmann, Business School
19. Professor V Perkovic, Dean of Medicine & Health
20. Professor L Ravelli, Arts, Design & Architecture
21. Professor S Scott, UNSW Canberra
22. Professor J Seidel, Science
23. Professor A Simmons AM, Provost
24. Professor E Sparks, Rector of UNSW Canberra
25. Professor M Tani Bertuol, UNSW Canberra
26. Professor R Wilkinson, PVC, Education & Student Experience (PVCESE)
27. Professor W Zhang, Engineering
28. Professor A Zwi, Arts, Design & Architecture
29. Associate Professor D Dong, UNSW Canberra
30. Associate Professor N Garg, Business School
31. Associate Professor A Heywood, Medicine & Health
32. Associate Professor M Michael, Arts, Design & Architecture
33. Associate Professor R McKetin, Medicine & Health
34. Dr N Castano Rodriguez, Such other Person, Representative of the Early Career Academic Network (ECAN) Executive Committee
35. Dr N Gardner, Such other Person
36. Dr A Khatamianfar, Engineering
37. Dr D Lackerstein, UNSW Canberra
38. Dr J Steele, Science
39. Ms E Egilmezer, Postgraduate Student
40. Mr J Karras, Postgraduate Council President and Higher Degree Research Student
41. Mr J Lowinger, Undergraduate Student
42. M McBurnie, Postgraduate Student
43. Mr C Pearce, Law & Justice
44. Mr O Pike, Chair of Arc @ UNSW Board and Undergraduate Student
45. Ms K Watson, Arts, Design & Architecture
46. Officer Cadet M Zlateff, UNSW Canberra Student

**APOLOGIES:** Professor E Baldry AO, DVC, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)  
Professor N Fisk AM, DVC, Research & Enterprise (DVCRE)

Professor F Johns, Law & Justice  
Professor A Steel, Such other Person  
Professor C Styles, Dean of Business School  
Professor M Uncles, Business School  
Associate Professor S Clark, Engineering  
Associate Professor T Wilcox, Such other Person  
Mr T Abdulsalam, Higher Degree Research Student  
Ms N Bhattacharya, President, Student Representative Council (SRC)  
Ms T McKee, Indigenous Student

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Professors R Buckland, L Lutze-Mann and L Piggott  
Associate Professor E Angstmann (for item 9)  
Dr J Strauss  
Mr M Borchert, Ms K George, Mr D Gleeson, Ms B Greene, Mr M Healy (for item 11.1), Ms S Hilton, Ms S Lightfoot, Mr N Morris and Ms M Pavelkova

**SECRETARY:** Ms F Velosa, Senior Governance Officer

**Quorum: 20**  
**RAMS: 2022/010483**

For convenience, items were taken out of agenda order.

## **A PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **1. Welcome, apologies and leave of absence**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Academic Board in 2022, extended his respects to Elders past and present, and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of all the lands from which members were joining the meeting.

AB noted the following AB membership updates:

- Professor Wilkinson (PVCESE) was attending his last AB meeting. Professor Lutze-Mann would be the Acting PVCESE after Professor Wilkinson's departure from UNSW. On behalf of AB, the Chair thanked Professor Wilkinson for his outstanding contributions to AB and the University, and wished him well in his new role.
- With Professor Rogge becoming Dean of Science from October 2022, Acting Dean Professor Kable was attending his last AB meeting. The Chair thanked Professor Kable for their contributions to AB, the Faculty and the University.
- The Chair welcomed Associate Professor McKitin who was filling a Medicine & Health vacancy until 16 January 2023 (see item 6a).
- The Chair welcomed Mr Pike as the incoming Chair of Arc (an *ex-officio* member of AB) who took over from Ms Montague recently, and he thanked Ms Montague for her participation on AB (see item 6b).

AB accepted the apologies received from AB members for the meeting, as listed above.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2022**

#### **RESOLVED**

The Academic Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 as an accurate record, and authorised the Chair to sign them digitally.

### **3. Matters arising and business carried forward, other than business covered on the agenda – Nil**

**4. Starring of items, adoption of unstarred items and rearrangement of the agenda**  
AB starred item 7 for discussion in addition to the other starred items, and received and carried a motion to adopt all the unstarred items.

**5. Confirmation of confidential items**

AB confirmed that items 10, 11.1 and 11.2 were marked confidential.

**B PRESIDENTS' BUSINESS**

**6. Report of the AB President**

AB noted the report of the AB President, which included the following:

• **Review of the Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures (P&P)**

The Chair sought feedback from AB on some of the key areas of the academic promotions P&P that the panel members were reviewing. AB discussed issues such as ensuring equity between combined track versus research or education focussed staff, flexibility, benchmarking with other universities, the 2-year rule and the redesign of the 'points system'.

AB members noted they would have the opportunity to continue to comment on the review and to debate the various recommendations or add others at the 11 October 2022 AB meeting and/or in a range of other forums. The Chair invited members to submit further comments/feedback to him at [acad.board@unsw.edu.au](mailto:acad.board@unsw.edu.au) with 'Academic Promotions' in the subject line of their emails.

• **AB membership updates**

AB noted the following membership updates:

- a) A/Professor McKitin for A/Professor Feng (Medicine & Health): 6 July 2022 to 16 January 2023
- b) New Arc Chair: Mr Pike from July 2022 to June 2023

AB noted discussions between the national Chairs of Academic Boards (OzCABS), Universities Australia, TEQSA and Professions Australia on the issue of external accreditation, including the boundaries between the roles of the external bodies and the roles of universities.

**6.1 Reappointment of 3 Such other Persons to the Academic Board – recommendation for Council to approve**

**RESOLVED**

The Academic Board recommended to Council the approval of the reappointment of the following identified positions to the Academic Board under the Such other Persons membership for two years from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 as the current terms would lapse on 31 December 2022:

- a) Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous
- b) Chair of the Postgraduate Re-enrolment Appeals Committee
- c) One representative of the Early Career Academic Network (ECAN) Executive Committee, nominated by the Academic Board President

**6.2 Academic Board Nomination to the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC) of Council – recommendation for Council to approve the reappointment of Richard Henry**

**RESOLVED**

The Academic Board recommended that Council accept its recommendation and resolve that Emeritus Professor Richard Henry AM be reappointed to the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC) from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

### **6.3 Academic Board (AB) and Faculty Boards (FB) Student Elections, 2022 Schedule**

AB noted the 2022 schedule for the AB and FB student elections.

## **7. Questions on Notice (QoN) – international student space**

AB noted the response from the DVCASL. In response to a question about the diversification of income sources, Professor Crossley confirmed the following:

- The issue of financial risk related to over-reliance on international student fees remained a priority for the sector.
- UNSW continued to welcome students from around 130 different countries but the economic and social conditions vary between countries and the University's student enrolment profiles reflect the differences.
- In 2021 UNSW introduced a new International Scholarship Scheme designed to support students from countries with lower per capita income. The award has been highly successful in providing a more diverse cohort of students.
- Diplomas taught via UNSW Global have provided opportunities for students whose home qualifications would not permit direct admission to UNSW. This continued to increase diversity.
- Targeted engagement activities, including consistent investment to the S25 India Growth strategy since 2016 also continued to reduce reliance on any one country.
- The underlying financial risk issue related not to institutional strategy but to long-standing national approaches to supporting universities in Australia.

## **8. Report of the Vice-Chancellor (VC)**

The VC discussed the following:

- Various constructive meetings and ongoing engagement opportunities with both Federal and State ministers as well as local Council members had led to progress on various issues concerning universities and recognition of the contributions UNSW could make and continues to make to society both locally and internationally. The universities have been greatly encouraged by the directions in which the new Federal Government appears to be heading.
- The relationship of the [Jobs and Skills Summit](#) to the University's commitment to [Knowledge Exchange](#) and [Entrepreneurship](#) as well as the potential for UNSW graduates to generate jobs rather than just seek employment.
- Leadership changes at UNSW for the next critical delivery phase of S25 as detailed in [Inside UNSW of 11 August 2022](#), including changes within the divisional structures at the University.
- The visit of [new US Ambassador \(HE Ms Kennedy\)](#) to UNSW on 15 August 2022 had included meetings with UNSW leaders, researchers and students as well as a friend's graduation ceremony on campus.

The Chair thanked the VC for his report.

## **C PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **9. Update on S25 Student Experience Working Groups**

Professor Simmons presented on the work of the 8 S25 Student Experience working groups, some overlapping themes between the working groups, the consultation processes under way and the progress so far.

AB discussed the following early recommendations of the working groups, aimed at improving student experience, all of which had been discussed at three Senior Leadership Team Away Days in recent months:

Optimising 3+

- Retaining the existing structure, but with attention to possibilities for better term dates and reduced intensity offered by changes to assessment practices
- Tackling progression blocking courses
- Identifying T&R academics teaching in three terms
- Refining & uplifting academic advising, including Equitable Learning Services and Experiential opportunities

Assessment and Feedback

- Reducing overassessment and making assessment more meaningful for students
- Identifying good practice in assessment and feedback around the University to roll out across other areas
- Providing structure and templates for optimal assessment
- Reducing the length of final exam periods to free up the calendar (in 2019, there were final exams across 38 days)
- Reducing the number of final exams across programs
- Smarter scheduling of exams

AB noted that other initiatives included:

- Defining the distinguishing characteristics of a UNSW education
- Defining the distinguishing qualities of a UNSW graduate
- Defining the opportunity that exists for postgraduate and lifelong learning in Australia and internationally
- Identifying the range of offerings that UNSW currently has
- Developing a broad roadmap to implement a future education model at UNSW that incorporates a portfolio of existing and future offerings

Professor Simmons explained that the next steps included the following:

- Developing an engagement and implementation roadmap and timeline to support the further development and implementation of the recommendations
- Developing project sequencing to manage impact on academic and professional staff and students

AB noted the following:

- A key principle of the design would be to utilise existing institutional expertise and structures to ensure that changes are embedded into business as usual where possible so that the appropriate leadership takes ownership.
- Broad consultation with the University community would be a priority over the coming months, which was proposed to take place in the form of:
  - Focus Groups
  - Roadshows/Town Halls
  - Consultation by Faculty

It was proposed that the students be consulted via the following:

- Focus groups/surveys of existing students
- Market research on the views of future students

AB members would receive a copy of the presentation after the meeting.

In relation to assessment, Professor Crossley invited Associate Professor Angstmann, First Year Physics Director, to present on the substitution of final formal exams with in-term hurdle assessments and the use of SY grading for 1st year physics courses as ways of making assessment manageable in 9 weeks. AB noted that eliminating final examination in this course would be beneficial for students and staff with a tight turnaround between terms.

The Chair thanked Professor Simmons and Associate Professor Angstmann for their presentations.

## D REPORTS

### 10. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise (DVCRE)

The Academic Board noted the report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise (DVCRE), Professor Fisk.

On behalf of Professor Fisk, Scientia Professor Rogge highlighted the ongoing research successes of the University and the pleasing results of the recently released 2022 ARWU Subject rankings. AB noted that the 2021 HERDC research income to UNSW was \$534.8M. UNSW retained its 2<sup>nd</sup> national rank in Australia in the Nature Index and maintained 1<sup>st</sup> place in the world in the ARWU number of subjects rankings.

The Chair thanked Professor Rogge for his summary of the DVCRE report.

### 11. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Student Life (DVCASL)

The Academic Board noted the report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Student Life (DVCASL), Professor Crossley.

Professor Crossley thanked Associate Professor Angstmann for her presentation on making assessment manageable in 9 weeks and encouraged all academic staff to consider options to reduce assessment workload for them and for the students.

Professor Crossley acknowledged the work involved in hybrid teaching and thanked staff for their sustained good teaching, evident from the student experience survey results.

Professor Crossley reported that the student load was on track and highlighted good international student enrolment data, noting that two thirds of the international students were on shore. He encouraged everyone to attend the [UNSW Open Day](#) on campus on 3 September 2022 and to wear UNSW merchandise.

The Chair thanked Professor Crossley for his report.

#### 11.1 Update to Academic Board on Student Mental Health Initiatives – Confidential

AB noted and discussed the confidential update on the suite of new student mental health initiatives being implemented to promote an all-of UNSW ownership of student mental health matters.

Professor Wilkinson invited the Director of Student Wellbeing, Mr Morris, to discuss the hard work of the team in developing excellent initiatives and thanked the University for its investment in this important area. Mr Morris thanked Professor Wilkinson, the University, academic staff and many in the community for their support of student mental health matters, including the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out the future framework to improve overall outcomes for student mental health.

Mr Morris introduced UNSW's Deputy Head of Student Psychology and Wellness, Mr Healy, to discuss how equipped the psychology and wellness team are in dealing with the increased student mental health presentations and associated risks. AB noted that they have more hours per week of counselling services available than at any other time in the past. For the 2022 academic year, this team had four new full-time staff members, including one Indigenous psychologist and one mandarin-speaking psychologist. AB members commended the vast improvements in this area at UNSW in recent years.

The Chair thanked Professor Wilkinson, Mr Morris, Mr Healy, staff and students for their contributions to the excellent work in improving mental health on campus.

**11.2 2021 Student Conduct and Complaints Annual Report – Confidential – Not to be distributed outside of UNSW**

AB noted and discussed the report, which provided insight into the incidence of plagiarism, breaches of the UNSW Student Code of Conduct and student complaints between 1 January and 31 December 2021. It was noted that ongoing issues of contract cheating continued to affect the entire education sector.

AB noted that the findings of the report were feeding into the work of the Assessment Working Group.

Ms Greene confirmed that the report should be treated as confidential until it appeared on the University website.

The Chair thanked Ms Greene for her report.

**11.3 Student Experience Update**

Professor Wilkinson presented the undergraduate and postgraduate results of the myExperience T2 2022 survey, noting that the overall results for T2 2022 were not substantially different from T1.

Professor Wilkinson congratulated everyone on the results and thanked the University community for their efforts in encouraging students to complete student surveys and advised that AB members would receive a copy of the presentation after the meeting.

AB noted that there was no date for the release of the 2021 QILT SES results and that the next QILT Student Experience Survey (SES) would be open from 6 September to 9 October 2022. Professor Wilkinson recommended that staff encourage students to complete the upcoming QILT SES and showed AB two videos featuring the VC and student leaders (including current and former student members of AB), which would be used to encourage students to complete the upcoming QILT SES survey.

Professor Wilkinson thanked everyone for an outstanding time at UNSW, which was the highlight of his career. He wished everyone well for the future and acknowledged the incoming Acting PVCESE, Professor Lutze-Mann, as an exceptional advocate of education and student experience.

The Chair thanked Professor Wilkinson for his presentation and exceptional support of the work undertaken in student experience at UNSW.

**11.4 External Referencing Discussion Paper**

AB noted the external referencing paper, the requirements and the challenges.

**11.5 Update from the TEQSA Program Board**

AB noted the update from the TEQSA Program Board, which included third-party arrangements and professional accreditation.

**E POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – Nil**

**12. Recruitment and Selection Policy (HR)**

AB noted the HR *Recruitment and Selection Policy*.

**F ACADEMIC OFFERINGS, FACULTIES AND BOARD OF STUDIES**

13. Academic Programs & Specialisations (new & revised), recommended at ABPC of 22 July 2022 (minutes, agenda item 16.2) and detailed in ECLIPS:

**RESOLVED**

The Academic Board approved the following academic proposals, as set out in ECLIPS:

<b>Business School</b>
Postgraduate Revisions
13.1 7456 Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics
13.2 8429 Master of Applied Economics
Postgraduate specialisations – Revisions
13.3 INFSKS Business Analytics
13.4 MNGTKS Social Impact
<b>Engineering</b>
Undergraduate New
13.5 3779 Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science (Honours)
Undergraduate Specialisations – New (for 3779)
13.6 COMPCH Computer Science
13.7 COMPYH Security Engineering
13.8 COMPIH Artificial Intelligence
Undergraduate Specialisations – Revisions
13.9 CVENAH Civil Engineering
13.10 CVENBH Environmental Engineering
<b>Law &amp; Justice</b>
Undergraduate New
13.11 3422 Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Science</b>
Undergraduate Revisions
13.12 4518 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)

14. Higher Doctorates – Nil

15. Academic Partnerships – Nil

**G MINUTES**

16. AB Committees, University Committees, Board of Studies (BoS) & Faculty Boards

The Academic Board received and noted the following minutes:

16.1	Program Review Committee (PRC) – Nil
16.2	Academic Board Programs Committee (ABPC)
	• 22 July 2022 (unconfirmed)
16.3	University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC)
	• 27 July 2022 (unconfirmed)
16.4	University Higher Degree Research Committee (UHDRC)
	• 9 June 2022 (confirmed)

16.5	University Research Committee (URC) – Nil
16.6	Arts, Design & Architecture
	• 9 May 2022 (signed)
16.7	Business School – Nil
16.8	Engineering
	• 24 June 2022 (unconfirmed)
16.9	Law & Justice
	• 4 May 2022 (signed)
16.10	Medicine & Health – Nil
16.11	Science
	• 16 June 2022 (confirmed)
16.12	University Board of Studies – Nil
16.13	UNSW Canberra – Nil

## H OTHER BUSINESS

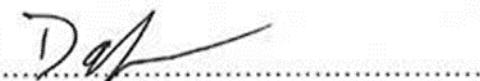
### 17. Business without notice

The Chair advised AB of the following:

- Everyone would receive more information in due course about the 22 November 2022 AB meeting scheduled to be held at UNSW Canberra.
- Online attendance would be available for anyone unable to attend the meeting at UNSW Canberra.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday 11 October 2022, 10am to 12.30pm



Professor David Cohen

Professor David Cohen

Chair

11 October 2022