

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor thanked members for their ongoing contribution to University governance and recognised the important role of student representatives in supporting effective academic governance. The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged his recent reappointment and congratulated the University community on UNSW's continued strong performance in global rankings.

Members received updates on developments in the higher education sector, including the Australian Government's continuing approach to managing student numbers and implementation of higher education reforms. Discussion highlighted the need to balance student access, academic quality and institutional sustainability.

The Vice-Chancellor also outlined strategic priorities relating to domestic and international student demand, lifelong learning and transnational education. Members noted recent international engagement activities with leading universities in the United Kingdom and Germany to support research partnerships, student mobility and global collaboration.

Academic Board President's Business

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

The Chair congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on his reappointment, Chancellor David Gonski AC on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award, members of the UNSW community recognised in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours, and the University's continued position among the world's top 20 universities in the QS World University Rankings.

Members also noted:

- The Academic Board Annual Workplan 2025
- The 2025 Academic Board and Faculty Board election schedule
- The significant contribution of Academic Board committees and faculty representatives in progressing academic governance matters and academic offerings approvals

Student representatives highlighted the establishment of the Arc @ UNSW College Board to support engagement and transition opportunities for UNSW College students and welcomed improvements to student study spaces following feedback raised through Academic Board discussions.

Discussion Topics

New Strategic Education Initiatives: Multi-campus Access to Education

The Academic Board received a joint presentation on the University's New Strategic Education Initiatives encompassing UNSW College, Lifelong Learning and Transnational Education.

Members discussed a coordinated multi-campus approach to expanding access to education, aligned with the University's *Progress for All* strategy. Discussion highlighted governance,

operational planning, risk management, systems integration and the development of a networked education model capable of supporting future growth and societal impact.

UNSW College, Lifelong Learning and Transnational Education

The Academic Board received updates on the growth and strategic development of UNSW College, including:

- Expansion of transnational education partnerships and delivery models
- New diploma and pre-masters offerings
- Development of new applied degree programs
- Opportunities to expand into new international markets

Members also discussed lifelong learning initiatives designed to support working professionals through online programs, stackable credentials and short courses. Discussion emphasised the importance of maintaining academic quality standards, improving agility in approvals processes and ensuring alignment with the University's strategic objectives.

The Academic Board further considered opportunities and challenges associated with transnational education, including student experience, academic quality assurance, risk management, financial sustainability and global reputation.

Indigenous Strategy, Education and Research Update

Members received an update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous portfolio on progress across Indigenous engagement, education and research initiatives.

The presentation included updates on:

- Development of the Indigenous Research Plan
- Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) framework and protocol
- Indigenous curriculum initiatives
- Indigenous Cultural Responsiveness professional learning modules
- Progress toward refreshing the UNSW Indigenous Strategy to align with *Progress for All*

Discussion highlighted the importance of embedding Indigenous knowledges throughout curriculum and research activities while ensuring appropriate cultural quality assurance mechanisms and meaningful engagement during program development.

Presentations and Reports

Academic Staff Administrative Burden Report

The Academic Board received a presentation on academic staff administrative burden based on extensive staff feedback across the University.

Members discussed the impact of administrative workload on:

- Teaching and research productivity
- Student experience
- Academic identity and morale
- Staff wellbeing
- Operational efficiency

The report considered centralised, compliance-driven processes, efficiency of systems and greater trust-based decision-making. Members discussed opportunities for both short-term

and long-term improvements, including process simplification, technology enhancements and stronger staff engagement.

The Academic Board recommended that the University Leadership Team consider the issues raised and provide a response to the Board.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Standing Reports

The Academic Board noted reports from the DVC, Education & Student Experience; the DVC, Academic Quality; and the DVC, Research & Enterprise (with confidential content).

Members received updates on:

- Domestic and international student recruitment
- Commonwealth Prac Payments (CPP) to support eligible students undertaking placements
- Launch of new Inclusive Teaching resources
- Development of NextGen Teaching Spaces across the Kensington campus
- Program-level approaches to assessment and curriculum transformation
- Student experience and Nexus Program initiatives
- Future academic models supporting implementation of the new academic calendar

The Academic Board also noted:

- Progress on the University's renewal of registration as an Australian university
- Preparation for CRICOS re-registration
- Planned discussion of admissions and entry standards at future meetings
- The upcoming QILT Symposium and NSW Higher Education Summit focusing on student voice, wellbeing and belonging

Policies and Procedures

The Academic Board noted the following policies and procedures:

- International Student Transfer between Registered Providers and PRISMS Reporting Procedure
- Support for Students Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy
- International Students Under the Age of 18 Years – Welfare, Support and Accommodation Arrangements Procedure
- Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure
- Complaints Management and Investigations Policy and Procedure
- Branded Media Policy
- Research Export Controls Procedure

Academic Offerings – Faculties and Board of Studies

The Academic Board approved a substantial suite of new and revised academic offerings across Arts, Design & Architecture; Business; Engineering; Law & Justice; Medicine & Health; Science; University Board of Studies; and UNSW Canberra.

Key approvals included:

- The new Diploma in Arts and Social Science
- The Graduate Certificate in Actuarial Analytics
- New AI-related and business-focused specialisations
- New Nuclear Engineering specialisations
- New Women's Health Medicine specialisations

- New Digital Engineering programs at UNSW Canberra
- The new Higher Degree Research specialisation in Engineering Entrepreneurship

The Academic Board also approved extensive revisions to undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degree research programs and specialisations across multiple faculties and noted the disestablishment of selected programs and specialisations:

Other Business

The Academic Board acknowledged the service and contributions of departing staff and student representatives and thanked them for their commitment to Academic Board activities and University governance.

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](#)