

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on key strategic, governance and sector developments affecting the University. In response to the Academic Staff Administrative Burden Report considered by the Academic Board at its June 2025 meeting, the Vice-Chancellor advised that the University Leadership Team had discussed it as part of implementation planning for the *Progress for All* strategy. Initiatives to simplify systems, reduce administrative workload and adopt more trust-based approaches would form part of future strategic delivery activities.

Members also received updates on developments in the higher education sector, including the work of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), student number management, international student settings and visa processing arrangements. Discussion highlighted the importance of maintaining institutional autonomy and ensuring that regulatory frameworks support universities in delivering high-quality education and societal impact.

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on student engagement in governance and welcomed continuing efforts to strengthen student participation across the University. Members also discussed developments relating to the Universities Australia definition of antisemitism, TEQSA guidance, and the University's broader anti-racism and anti-religious vilification initiatives. The Academic Board noted the work of the University's anti-racism taskforce and ongoing efforts to support inclusion, respect and belonging across the University community.

Academic Board President's Business

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

The Chair welcomed new Academic Board members and congratulated UNSW Law & Justice staff on their success at the 2025 Australian Legal Education Awards. Members also received an update on the establishment of a UNSW Rules Review Reference Group, which will support consideration of potential changes arising from the external review of academic governance.

The Academic Board noted:

- The Academic Board and Faculty Board election schedules for staff and students
- The election schedule for Academic Board President and Deputy Presidents
- The revised date for the final Academic Board meeting of 2025
- The August version of the Academic Board Annual Workplan 2025.

Student representatives reported on initiatives designed to support students during study periods, including expanded Arc services, establishment of the Arc College Board, and advocacy to extend transport concessions to international and part-time students in NSW.

Discussion Topics

UNSW People & Culture

The Academic Board received a presentation on the strategic priorities and transformation of the People & Culture portfolio. Members discussed initiatives designed to reduce administrative burden, improve staff experience and support delivery of the University's Progress for All strategy.

The presentation highlighted:

- Strategic workforce planning
- Cultural capability initiatives
- Learning and development programs
- Digital HR systems and process improvements
- MyCareer Digital and Manager Dashboard initiatives
- Human resources AI tools
- Ongoing pay compliance work including myTimesheet

Members noted the successful implementation of myTimesheet and discussed lessons learned, compliance requirements, support arrangements for supervisors and opportunities for ongoing process improvement. Discussion emphasised the importance of balancing compliance obligations with user experience and administrative efficiency.

Societal Transformation & Equity Strategy

The Academic Board received a presentation on the University's Societal Transformation & Equity (STE) strategy, initiatives and performance measures.

Members discussed progress across a range of equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, including:

- Widening participation activities
- Gender equity initiatives and Athena Swan accreditation
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency reporting
- Development of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Diversity Festival planning
- Student equity and access programs

Discussion highlighted strong progress toward the University's Gateway Equity Target, with participation rates from low socioeconomic status schools exceeding interim targets ahead of schedule. Members also emphasised the importance of monitoring student success and outcomes alongside access and participation measures.

Presentations and Reports

Student Conduct, Complaints and Regulatory Assurance

The Academic Board received reports relating to student conduct, complaints management and regulatory compliance activities. Members noted ongoing preparations for CRICOS renewal and associated self-assurance processes. Aspects of these reports remained confidential.

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:

- Student recruitment activities
- Student support initiatives
- Academic quality and assurance activities
- Program Simplification
- Assessment and feedback transformation
- Academic Calendar transition planning

The Academic Board discussed work underway to strengthen academic support pathways for students impacted by gender-based violence and noted preparations for implementation of the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence. Members also received updates on new inclusive teaching resources, Open Day preparations and continuing work to support curriculum transformation in preparation for the Flex-semester calendar.

Policies and Procedures

Policy Transformation Program (PTP)

The Academic Board received an update on the PTP and progress across the University's policy framework.

Policies and Procedures Report

Members noted recently approved policies and procedures, including:

- Disclosure Policy
- Student Fee Policy
- Anti-Racism and Anti-Religious Vilification Policy

Academic Offerings – Faculties and Board of Studies

The Academic Board approved new and revised academic programs and specialisations, including the following:

Business

- 3502 Bachelor of Commerce (Program Revision)
- ECONL1 Business Data Science (Specialisation Revision)
- 8356 Master of Business Administration (Executive) (Program Revision)
- 9225 Master of Law/Master of Business Administration (Part-time) (Double Degree Revision)

Engineering

- COMPQS Computational Data Science and Decisions (Specialisation Revision)

Law & Justice

- 4701 Bachelor of Law (Program Revision)
- 9150 Juris Doctor (Program Revision)
- 9201 Master of Law (Program Revision)

Science

- 7012 Diploma in Science and Technology (New Program)

UNSW Canberra

- 4400 Bachelor of Arts (Program Revision)
- 4461 Bachelor of Arts (Chief of Defence Force) (Program Revision)

Research Programs

- 1882 Aviation Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (New Program)
- 2273 Science Master of Philosophy (MPhil) (New Program)

The Academic Board also noted the disestablishment of selected Arts, Design & Architecture postgraduate programs.

Other Business

The Academic Board welcomed new members and acknowledged the ongoing engagement of staff and students in governance activities, elections and University-wide consultation processes.

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](#)