

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Acting Vice-Chancellor provided updates on UNSW's strategic priorities and key developments across the higher education sector. Members noted the Vice-Chancellor's ongoing engagement with the interim Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), government stakeholders and sector leaders to help inform higher education reform discussions and contribute to the development of policy settings for the sector.

Members also received updates on recent international engagement activities undertaken by the Vice-Chancellor and opportunities to learn from approaches adopted by leading global universities in areas such as industry engagement, government partnerships and strategic growth. The Acting Vice-Chancellor highlighted UNSW's continued research excellence and the University's significant research impact nationally and internationally.

Academic Board President's Business

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

Members received updates on:

- The NSW and Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (COCABS) meeting held in September 2025
- Activities of the Academic Board Student Representative Group
- The upcoming 2025 TEQSA Conference
- Progress on the review of the UNSW Rules and academic governance framework.

The Academic Board noted election outcomes for Academic Board and Faculty Board staff representatives commencing in 2026 and received updates on student elections and the forthcoming election of the Academic Board President and Deputy Presidents.

Members also noted the September version of the Academic Board Annual Workplan 2025.

Discussion Topics

UNSW Strategy: From Vision to Action

The Academic Board received an update on implementation of the University's strategy, *Progress for All*. Discussion focused on the transition from strategic planning to delivery, alignment of initiatives across the University and the implementation of priority activities supporting long-term institutional goals.

UNSW India Proposal

Members considered a proposal relating to UNSW's strategic engagement and academic activities in India. The discussion formed part of the University's broader international education and global engagement agenda. Aspects of this discussion remained confidential.

UNSW Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

The Academic Board received a presentation from the winner of the 2025 UNSW 3MT competition, Ms Wang from the Kirby Institute and UNSW Medicine & Health. Members heard about her research into new treatments for Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus (HTLV), a serious and under-recognised virus linked to several severe diseases.

The Academic Board congratulated Ms Wang on her achievement and wished her success in representing UNSW at national and international 3MT competitions.

Research and Enterprise Portfolio Update

The Academic Board received presentations from senior leaders across the Division of Research and Enterprise, including updates from the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Infrastructure and Pro Vice-Chancellor Industry and Innovation.

Members discussed:

- Research grants and contracts activity supporting almost 5,000 research projects
- Growth in research support capability and resourcing
- New digital tools to improve research administration and reporting
- Contract Lifecycle Management and FastPASS initiatives to streamline research agreement
- Research ethics, compliance and evolving regulatory requirements
- Research infrastructure investments and data management capabilities
- The Research Data Experience program and future researcher support systems
- Expanding GPU and AI research capability
- Industry engagement, research commercialisation and entrepreneurship activities

The Academic Board noted UNSW's strong performance in research commercialisation, industry collaboration, new patents and spinout company creation, as well as the launch of Barker Street Ventures to support investment opportunities for university-linked innovations.

Presentations and Reports

Research Integrity and Academic Risk

The Academic Board received reports on research integrity, English language proficiency and the role of Academic Board in managing academic risk. Aspects of these reports remained confidential.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Standing Reports

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

Student Experience and Graduate Outcomes

Members received updates on sector-wide student experience and graduate outcomes results. Discussion highlighted:

- UNSW postgraduate student experience results remaining the highest within the Group of Eight
- Continued improvement in undergraduate student experience outcomes
- Strong performance in student support, services and student belonging measures

- Outstanding graduate employment and salary outcomes across undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts

Assessment Security and Academic Quality

The Academic Board discussed emerging sector guidance on assessment security in response to online technologies, contract cheating and artificial intelligence. Members considered the implications of TEQSA guidance and noted ongoing work to incorporate assessment security requirements into the University's Assessment and Progression Policy framework while maintaining flexibility and appropriate academic judgement.

Education and Student Experience

The Academic Board also received updates on:

- Student recruitment and graduation activities
- The Education Focused Academic Retreat
- Student support initiatives
- The upcoming Universities Australia Student Governance Symposium to be hosted by UNSW
- Student Experience Program and Nexus Program initiatives

Policies and Procedures

Policy Transformation Program (PTP)

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

Policies and Procedures Report

Members noted the recent approval and publication of:

- Complaints Management and Investigations Policy and Procedure
- Health Clinics Procedure

Academic Offerings – Faculties and Board of Studies

The Academic Board approved a range of new and revised academic programs and specialisations across several faculties, including the following:

Arts, Design & Architecture

The Academic Board approved revisions to a broad range of postgraduate programs, including programs in design, education, journalism, international relations, public policy, property and development, and counselling social work.

Business

Approvals included:

- ACTLF1 Actuarial Studies Co-op (new specialisation)
- Revisions to Financial Technology and multiple postgraduate business programs including taxation, management, economics, accounting and international business

Engineering

Approvals included:

- 3775 Bachelor of Surveying (program revision)
- Revisions to Computer Engineering and Surveying specialisations
- Revisions to Graduate Certificate in Computing and Civil Engineering specialisations

Medicine & Health

Approvals of revisions to:

- Bachelor of Exercise Science/Master of Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiology
- Bachelor of Applied Exercise Science/Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology
- Master of Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiology
- Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology

Science

The Academic Board approved revisions to the Bachelor of Medical Science.

UNSW Canberra

The Academic Board approved:

- Graduate Certificate in Project Management
- Graduate Diploma in Project Management
- Master of Project Management
- Leadership specialisation

Higher Degree Research

The Academic Board approved revisions to a range of UNSW Business School Higher Degree Research specialisations covering accounting, actuarial studies, economics, finance, information systems, international business, marketing, organisational behaviour, strategy, entrepreneurship and related disciplines.

The Academic Board also noted the disestablishment and suspension of selected academic programs and specialisations across Arts, Design & Architecture, Business, Engineering, Law & Justice, Medicine & Health, Board of Studies and UNSW Canberra.

Other Business

The Academic Board noted the proposed 2026 meeting schedule and governance approval timelines for 2027 academic offerings.

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](#)