

Chancellor's Matters

The Chancellor addressed the Academic Board and reflected on the importance of collaboration between Council and the Academic Board to support the endeavours of the University and strong governance practices. Members were updated on developments arising from the Australian Universities Accord reforms, the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), increasing government oversight of the higher education sector, and ongoing regulatory engagement with TEQSA. The Academic Board also noted the University's response to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and the importance of maintaining a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for staff and students.

Vice-Chancellor's Matters

The Academic Board received an update on the external operating environment and strategic priorities of the University. Discussion focused on changes in international student demand, enrolment caps and increasing regulatory expectations. Members noted the University's continued focus on financial sustainability, diversification of revenue streams through lifelong learning and global initiatives as well as maintaining excellence in education and research.

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted progress on major strategic investments, including campus infrastructure projects supporting the transition to the flex-semester calendar, expansion of teaching and learning spaces, affordable student accommodation initiatives and digital transformation activities. Members discussed the evolving impact of artificial intelligence on teaching, assessment and University operations, and geopolitical developments affecting research collaboration.

The Academic Board President's Business

The Academic Board noted the report of the Academic Board President, the Academic Board 2026 Annual Workplan and the Academic Board Annual Report 2025. Members were invited to provide feedback on the Annual Report ahead of its submission to UNSW Council.

The Academic Board also received reports from student representatives outlining recent student initiatives and priorities. These included positive feedback regarding food security programs, strong engagement in Arc elections and preparations for the International Student Career Expo designed to strengthen employment opportunities for international students.

Presentations and Reports

Research and National Security

The Academic Board received a presentation on research and national security obligations in response to heightened government expectations regarding research collaboration with sanctioned countries. Members discussed the University's compliance framework, approval processes and support mechanisms designed to assist researchers in navigating increasingly complex regulatory requirements. The presentation emphasised the importance of seeking advice on international research collaborations and maintaining awareness of evolving national security obligations.

Faculty Presentation – Medicine & Health

The Academic Board received a presentation from the Faculty of Medicine & Health on its strategic direction, education and research performance, and future priorities. Members discussed the faculty's extensive teaching and research activities, curriculum redesign initiatives, accreditation requirements and contribution to health education across the University. The presentation highlighted the faculty's growing regional and metropolitan partnerships, the implementation of the Medicine & Health Faculty Strategy 2035, Indigenous health initiatives and efforts to address emerging challenges in health, medicine and research.

Student Cohort Monitoring, Re-enrolment Appeals 2025 Annual Report and Academic Quality

The Academic Board noted the 2025 Student Cohort Monitoring Report and received updates on academic quality matters across the University. Members also considered sector-side trends identified in the Re-enrolment Appeals 2025 Annual Report, including sustained volume of undergraduate appeals in recent years, increases in postgraduate appeals in 2025 and a consistently high prevalence of mental health related factors contributing to both undergraduate and postgraduate appeals. Discussion highlighted the importance of early intervention, academic support and student wellbeing initiatives.

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Standing Reports

The Academic Board noted reports from the Provost, DVC Academic Quality, DVC Education & Student Experience and DVC Research & Enterprise. These reports provided updates on key activities and developments across the University's research, education, academic quality and student experience portfolios.

Policies and Procedures

Assessment and Progression Policy

The Academic Board endorsed the new Assessment and Progression Policy for approval by the Vice-Chancellor. Members noted the policy was developed through extensive consultation and is intended to ensure assessments align with learning outcomes, contain the right mix and volume; maintain degree integrity through appropriate secure assessment; manage student workload and spread assessments across the term; and support equitable assessment, reasonable adjustments, and clear expectations and feedback for students.

The Academic Board noted a staged implementation approach between 2026 and 2028.

Policy Transformation Program

The Academic Board received an update on the Policy Transformation Program and noted progress in modernising and simplifying the University's policy framework. Members also noted reports on policies and procedures that had recently been published for consultation.

Academic Offerings – Faculties and Board of Studies

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

Arts, Design & Architecture

Postgraduate – New Programs

1. 5970 Graduate Diploma in Counselling
2. 7970 Graduate Certificate in Counselling
3. 8970 Master of Counselling

Postgraduate – Program Revision

4. 8281 Master of Public Relations and Advertising

Business

Postgraduate – New Programs

5. 7494 Graduate Certificate in AI Strategy
6. 8353 Master of Business Administration (Bengaluru)

Undergraduate – Program Revision

7. 3558 Bachelor of Commerce (International)

Undergraduate – Major Revisions

8. FINSA1 Finance
9. FINSD1 Finance Co-op
10. MARKD1 Marketing Analytics

Engineering

Postgraduate – Program Revisions

11. 5546 Graduate Diploma in Information Technology
12. 7546 Graduate Certificate in Information Technology
13. 8543 Master of Information Technology

Postgraduate – Double Degree Revision

14. 8544 Master of Information Technology/Master of Commerce

Postgraduate – New Specialisation

15. COMPAT Software Engineering

Postgraduate – Specialisation Revisions

16. COMPLS Artificial Intelligence
17. COMPNS Database Systems
18. COMPOS Internetworking
19. COMPXS Cyber Security Engineering

Law & Justice**Postgraduate – New Program**

20. 9151 Juris Doctor (Parramatta)

UNSW Canberra**Undergraduate – New Program**

21. 4418 Bachelor of War Studies

Undergraduate – New Majors

22. ZHSSX1 Military Philosophy
23. ZHSSW1 Military Studies

Other Business

The meeting acknowledged Professor Colin Grant's appointment as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of Aston University and recognised his contribution to UNSW. The Academic Board also paid tribute to former Chancellor Sir Anthony Mason and acknowledged his significant service to the University. Members noted recent Academic Board membership changes, including the appointment of Professor Andon as Dean of the UNSW Business School.

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 the Academic Board functions, membership and committees, is available through the University's governance resources.

[Governance](#)

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

[AB membership](#)