Academic Board (AB) – Frequently Asked Questions

What does the AB do?
The AB is the principal academic body of the University, responsible for furthering and coordinating the work of the Faculties, Board of Studies and other academic units, and encouraging teaching, scholarship and research. It advises the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and UNSW Council on matters relating to teaching, scholarship and research within the University, and considers and reports on matters referred to it by the Council or the Vice-Chancellor.

Who are the AB Members?
The Board's membership is set out in Section 2.4 of the University of New South Wales Rules. The names of the current President, Deputy Presidents and members of the AB can be found here. The membership includes the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors, members of the University's Senior Leadership Team, Deans and members elected from the academic staff and the student body. Membership also includes 'such other persons' approved by Council.

What does the AB President do?
The AB President is elected by and from the AB members. The term of office of a President is two years. The President can serve no more than three consecutive terms. Usually a senior academic staff member, the President is released from normal academic duties in their School on a full-time basis during the term of office. However, the President is expected to be research active and to continue to supervise postgraduate research students.

The President chairs the AB meetings and the Academic Board Advisory Committee. The President is an *ex-officio* member of the UNSW Council and has duties as set out in Schedule 2A of the *University of New South Wales Act 1989.*

Where can I locate AB Policies?
The AB may formulate and recommend policies to the Vice-Chancellor for approval and establishment. Policies and Procedures approved in accordance with the University's Policy Framework are published on the Policy Website.

How do I access the AB agenda?
The AB agenda and associated papers are sent via email to AB members approximately five days prior to AB meetings. The AB agendas and minutes of past meetings can be found here.

Do I have to be a member to attend an AB meeting?
Staff and students who are not AB members can seek permission to attend meetings as observers but cannot vote on issues discussed. Please contact the Governance office if you wish to attend as an observer. AB meetings are not open to the general public.

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How do I become an AB member?
If you are an academic staff member or a student, you may nominate for election to a position when nominations are called. Elected academic staff members and students hold office for a term of 2 years. Information on elections is available on the Elections tab on the Governance page.

How do I get an item on the agenda for an AB meeting?
If you have an issue you would like the AB to consider, please contact the Governance office.

How do I contact the AB?
Governance contact information can be found here.