

Academic Board Bulletin May 2026

The Academic Board held its third meeting for 2026 on Tuesday 26 May 2026, chaired by Professor Alexander Kist. The Board welcomed newly appointed postgraduate student representative Pemaw Wangchuk and observers, including members participating in the University's corporate governance review.

Reports to Academic Board

The following reports were received at the 26 May 2026 Academic Board meeting.

Academic Board Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on matters relating to academic governance, quality assurance, and the work of Academic Board and its committees. The Chair highlighted the importance of constructive feedback and challenge in supporting academic quality improvement and regulatory compliance and noted ongoing work to strengthen academic governance arrangements following the University's organisational restructure.

Council Report to Academic Board

The Chair reported on matters discussed at the 20 April 2026 Council meeting, including workforce and wellbeing initiatives, financial sustainability, and Council's consideration of the Expert Council on University Governance Principles

Vice-Chancellor and President's Report

Acting Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Glen Coleman presented an update on significant sector and institutional developments. Academic Board noted:

- UniSQ's positive recognition in the Antisemitism University Report Card Sectoral Assessment for actions already undertaken to strengthen policy frameworks.
- Progress in responding to the Racism@Uni report and initiatives aimed at strengthening confidence in complaints processes.
- The University's response to a TEQSA information request as part of the re-registration process.
- Sector-wide responses to the National Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.
- Developments relating to the proposed Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) and tertiary education reform agenda.
- Semester 2 enrolment trends and strategies to support student re-enrolment and commencement numbers.

Students and Education Portfolio Report

The Board received an update on key education initiatives across the University, including:

- Development of the proposed medical program in partnership with West Moreton Health.
- Ongoing partnerships with schools, TAFE Queensland and international institutions.
- Recognition of UniSQ Residential Colleges through the Asia-Pacific Student Accommodation Association Excellence in Customer Service Award.
- Achievement of enrolment targets for the Inala Suburban University Study Hub.
- Progress on the Master of Business Administration major program change proposal, including further work to clarify Australian Qualifications Framework compliance and the operation of stackable award models.
- Development of future tertiary pathways through collaboration with TAFE Queensland.

Academic and Research Portfolio Report

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor John Bell provided an update on priorities within the Academic and Research portfolio, including:

- Growth opportunities through transnational education partnerships.
- Strengthened due diligence and governance arrangements for international collaborations in response to increased scrutiny relating to foreign interference.
- Progress on strategic projects arising from the Academic and Research Portfolio Executive Retreat.
- Initiatives to build research capability, industry engagement and entrepreneurial activity.

Research Committee Report

Deputy Chair of Research Committee Professor Polly Burey provided an overview of matters considered by Research Committee at its meeting of 6 May 2026. The Board noted:

- Establishment of the Institute for Health as a flagship University initiative.
- Outcomes of the 2026 Research Survey.
- Positive outcomes from the Early Career Researcher Program.
- Ongoing work to address research workload and supervision capacity challenges.

Education Committee Report

Deputy Chair of Education Committee Professor Noeleen McNamara presented key matters arising from the Education Committee meeting of 7 May 2026. Academic Board noted:

- Progress in implementing revised approaches to assessment and the responsible use of artificial intelligence.
- The 2025 Academic Integrity Annual Report and new academic integrity dashboards.
- Continued focus on staff training, prevention strategies and assessment design to support academic integrity.

- The recommendation to establish an Education Partnerships Subcommittee to strengthen oversight of educational partnerships.

Academic Quality and Governance

Education Partnerships Subcommittee

Academic Board approved the establishment of an Education Partnerships Subcommittee to strengthen oversight of partnership quality, compliance, risk management and academic governance. Development of the Subcommittee's Terms of Reference will be considered at a future meeting.

Student Academic Appeals Committee

Academic Board approved revisions to the Student Academic Appeals Committee Terms of Reference. The changes reflect organisational updates, alignment with current sector practice, and the Committee's role in considering appeals under the Student Appeals Procedure.

The Board also discussed broader work underway to review academic complaints, appeals and related grievance processes, with further recommendations to be considered later in the year.

Strategic Discussion

TEQSA Sector Update: Cyber Security and Academic Integrity

Academic Board received a presentation on emerging cyber security risks associated with illegal academic cheating services. Discussion focused on:

- Sector-wide concerns regarding contract cheating and associated cyber threats.
- The University's approaches to academic integrity detection and prevention.
- Student awareness of cyber security risks, including password sharing and phishing.
- The impact of artificial intelligence on assessment integrity and assurance of learning.
- The importance of staff training and ongoing education regarding academic integrity obligations.

Other Matters

Academic Board noted progress against the Action Plan Update – 2024 External Review of Academic Governance and received updates on actions currently underway to strengthen academic governance and oversight arrangements across the University.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held on **Tuesday 28 July 2026** in the Council Chamber, Toowoomba Campus

2026 Academic Board Meetings

Academic Board meetings for 2026 are scheduled as follows:

- Meeting 5 – 22 September 2026
- Meeting 6 – 24 November 2026

If you wish to attend Academic Board as an observer, please forward your request to attend to Academic.Board@unisq.edu.au a least three business day prior to the meeting.