

Minutes

Academic Board

Meeting No: 3/25

Date and Time: Tuesday, 27 May 2025, 1:00pm

Location: Council Chamber, Toowoomba Campus

Board Secretary: Tracey Tyers, Governance Officer (Academic Board) | 07 4631 1912

Members Present:

Professor Alexander Kist (Chair)	Associate Professor Eric Ng (Deputy Chair)
Professor Karen Nelson	Associate Professor Jessica Marrington
Professor Lorelle Burton	Professor Noeleen McNamara
Professor Glen Coleman	Professor Mark Toleman
Professor John Bell	Professor Thiru Aravinthan
Professor Ren Yi (Zoom)	Dr Anita Wheeldon (Zoom)
Professor Charlotte Brownlow	Professor Polly Burey
Professor Jo-Anne Ferreira	Dr Rohan Genrich
Professor Geoff Slaughter	Associate Professor Andrew Hemming
Peter Giess	Associate Professor Rhiannan Johnson (Zoom)
Jade-Bianca Thomas (Zoom)	Associate Professor Mia O'Brien (Zoom)
Brintha Karunarathna	Dr Ahmad Sharifian-Barforoush
Dr Lindsay Helwig	Shane Simmons
Dr Douglas Eacersall	Associate Professor Daniel Terry
	Associate Professor Alison McCarthy

By Invitation: Rachel Hennessy – UniSQ Council member

Rights of Audience & Observers:

- Julie Shinnars – University Secretary and Director (Governance)
- Professor Andrea Lamont-Mills – Associate Dean (Research) (Zoom)
- Associate Professor Peter Cook – Head of School (Education) (Zoom)
- Associate Professor John Dearnaley – Head of School (Agriculture and Environmental Science)
- Professor Linda Deravin - Head of School (Nursing and Midwifery) (Zoom)
- Professor Elizabeth Cardell – Head of School (Health and Medical Sciences) (Zoom)
- Emma Phillips – Governance Officer

Apologies: Professor Odette Best, Dr Julie Lindsay, Associate Professor Lisa Beccaria, Dr Emerson Zerafa-Payne, Dr Sarah McKibbin, Charmaine Davis, Zachary Vellacott.

Absent: Nil

The meeting opened at 1:00pm. A quorum was present.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair, Professor Alexander Kist provided an Acknowledgement of Country and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Professor Kist highlighted that National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May to 3 June, the theme for 2025, *Bridging Now to Next*, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members at the UniSQ Council Chamber and via Zoom and noted the apologies. UniSQ Council member Rachel Hennessy was welcomed as an observer.

Professor Kist advised members of the recent departure from the University of the Dean (Academic Transformation) Professor Lyn Alderman and on behalf of Academic Board offered thanks for Professor Alderman's significant contributions to the University and Academic Board.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Statement of Confidentiality

The Chair invited members of Academic Board to declare any potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest with the matters listed. Members indicated their involvement with submissions for the following proposals:

- Associate Professor Rhiannan Johnson – Item 9.3

The Chair advised members that generally Academic Board matters are not confidential. Confidential items will be identified and no discussion of confidential items outside of the meeting is permitted. Members were reminded that the discussion should be contained to the topic, rather than identifying particular individuals.

Starring of Items

Having provided members with an opportunity to star any additional agenda items, it was **resolved** that Academic Board approve or note *en bloc* all remaining items which were not starred.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes

Received: Unconfirmed minutes Academic Board meeting (2/25) 8 April 2025

Resolved:

*Academic Board **confirmed** the minutes of the Academic Board meeting (2/25) held on 8 April 2025, having been circulated and read, as a true and accurate record.*

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

Received: Post meeting actions arising from the previous meeting.

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair Professor Alexander Kist addressed members and discussed the UniSQ Change Proposal which was presented to the University on 3 April 2025. Professor Kist encouraged members to raise with him any concerns or questions regarding the Change Proposal and any potential impact on academic quality and governance, for communication with the Vice-Chancellor as appropriate.

Members had a brief discussion around the Change Proposal, highlighting the challenging time for all staff. The discussion focussed on the need for Academic Board to maintain oversight and ensure that the quality of the University's programs is maintained during change.

3.1. Council Report to Academic Board

Received: Council Report to Academic Board following the 14 April 2025 Council meeting.

The Chair took the report as read and provided a brief overview of matters of interest to Academic Board arising from the April 2025 meeting of the UniSQ Council including the Vice-Chancellor's presentation around the UniSQ Change Proposal, and the risk workshop attended by Council and Vice-Chancellor's Executive members.

4. Vice-Chancellor's Report

Received: Vice-Chancellor's Report to Academic Board.

The report was taken as read. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson introduced the item and provided an update on matters arising since submission of the report:

- **The Federal election outcome:** The Vice-Chancellor advised that the Education Minister, the Honourable Jason Clare MP, has indicated he will be prioritising legislation to give effect to the Government's election promises. These priorities include:
 - Legislation to reduce student debt by 20%.
 - Introduction of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) Bill.
 - Reintroduction of legislation to establish the national code to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
 - Legislation to give effect to Managed Growth Funding and Needs-based Funding systems.
 - Finalising the National Planning Level for 2026 and institutional allocations.
 - Retaining Ministerial Direction (MD) 111 in lieu of legislation, noting that MD111 has been effective in implementing what the Government sought to achieve through the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Bill.
 - Rolling integrity measures included in the ESOS Bill into new legislation.
- **UniSQ Change Proposal:** The Vice-Chancellor noted that the thematic analysis of feedback on the UniSQ Change Proposal was released to staff on 15 May and is available from the [UniSQ Staff Communications SharePoint site](#). The Shaping our Future VCE Committee continues to deliberate on the feedback and is aiming to release a revised proposed structure following the 12 June All-Staff Forum.
- **Student load:** The Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of student enrolment numbers, highlighting that the Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) for Trimester 2 is currently 90% of the Trimester 2 target, and that overall load for 2025 is currently tracking at 82% of the total annual target. Professor Nelson highlighted the positive load outcomes, noting a continual upward trend since 2023.

5. Education Report

Received: Education Report to Academic Board.

The report was taken as read. The Associate Provost Professor Lorelle Burton and the Dean (Learning and Teaching Futures) Professor Jo-Anne Ferreira introduced this item which provided a high-level update on key sector and University-wide education matters, and updates on the priorities and initiatives set out in the Education Plan 2022-2025.

Professor Burton provided an overview of items in the report relevant to student experience and noted the following updates:

- **Trimester 2 Orientation Week:** Professor Burton noted the recent success of Orientation Week held between 19-23 May, with approximately 640 students participating online and across the University's Toowoomba, Springfield, and Ipswich campuses. The week featured a mix of events including welcomes, workshops, cultural connections, and social activities. Professor Burton highlighted strong engagement in the Student Buddy Connect and Thrive sessions, where students began forming meaningful and supportive peer relationships.

Professor Ferreira provided an overview of items in the report relating to the innovative learning and teaching environment and noted the following updates:

- **Enabling Strategies:** Professor Ferreira advised that the Academic Division Academic Workload Model Project team would now focus on finalising the Academic Workload Model Initiative Consultation Document which is anticipated to be released to staff at the start of June 2025.
- **Embrace Innovative Learning and Teaching Practices:** Professor Ferreira advised that Assessment Transformation Workshops facilitated by the Curriculum Design Team have now been held in 11 of the Schools and the UniSQ College.
- **Education Technologies to Enhance Learning and Teaching:** Professor Ferreira highlighted that a number of innovative ways of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and assessment continue to be trialled as part of the AI Pedagogy Project.

Members raised the following matters:

- The importance of curriculum and assessment design, particularly competency assessment, for maintaining the quality of the University's courses and programs was highlighted.
- A member requested an update on Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) applications, noting only 38 applications out of approximately 6,000 potentially eligible UniSQ students. Professor Burton noted a lot of student interest in the scheme and advised that work is underway around educating students about CPPs, to proactively manage and minimise unsuccessful applications. Updates will be provided at future meetings.

6. Research Report

Received: Research Report to Academic Board

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor John Bell took the report as read and provided an overview of some of the matters included in the paper.

Professor Bell highlighted that since the report was written, UniSQ PhD student Chundu Tamang from the Centre for Future Materials was named the winner of the Cooperative Research Australia 2025 Early Career Researchers (ECR) Competition for their project exploring the recyclability of composite sucker rod guides used in oil and gas exploration. Professor Bell noted that this award demonstrates the quality of research at UniSQ.

- **Engagement Activities** – since the report was written, Professor Bell attended the following events:
 - **Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) 2025** Gold Medal Ceremony and Networking Dinner, and the Annual General Meeting as a member of the AINSE Board.
 - **National Science and Research Priorities** workshop – Professor Bell attended a workshop on Australia's new National Science and Research Priorities which were released in August 2024. Professor Bell highlighted that existing research activities at

UniSQ align well with the new national priorities, and that these priorities are a key factor in development of the University's new Research Strategy and Research Plan.

Members requested more information around the new National Science and Research Priorities. Professor Polly Burey provided an overview, noting that the document is available from the industry.gov.au website:

Australia's National Science and Research Priorities (August 2024)

Priority 1: Transitioning to a net zero future

Priority 2: Supporting healthy and thriving communities

Priority 3: Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems

Priority 4: Protecting and restoring Australia's environment

Priority 5: Building a secure and resilient nation.

- **Southeast Asia visit** – Professor Bell highlighted his recent visit to Southeast Asia to visit key university partners and funding agencies. Professor Bell noted the positive view of UniSQ and Australian universities, highlighting that UniSQ is the leading Australian university for international collaboration in publications.
- **UniSQ Research Plan 2021-2025** – Professor Bell noted that the current UniSQ Research Plan 2021-2025 is nearing its end, and that discussions will commence at the upcoming Research Committee meeting.
- **UniSQ Change Proposal** - Professor Bell noted that the UniSQ Change Proposal had been considered at the last meeting of Research Committee, resulting in a group feedback submission from the Committee. The Committee's discussion is included in the Research Committee report at Item 8.2 in the agenda.

7. Student Representatives Report

This item will be considered at a future meeting.

8. Standing Committee Reports

8.1. Academic Board Executive Committee

Received: Academic Board Executive Committee Unconfirmed Minutes – 13 May 2025

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Board Executive Committee meeting held 13 May 2025 were taken as read.

Resolved:

*Academic Board resolved to **note** the unconfirmed minutes from the Academic Board Executive Committee meeting of 13 May 2025.*

8.2. Research Committee

Received: Research Committee Report to Academic Board – 23 April 2025

The Research Committee Report, which provided an overview of the discussions and resolutions of the Research Committee meeting held 23 April 2025 was taken as read. The Deputy Chair of Research Committee, Professor Polly Burey introduced the report and provided an overview of the recommendations being put forward later in the agenda.

Professor Burey highlighted that Research Committee had a focussed discussion around the UniSQ Shaping our Future Change Proposal. The discussion highlighted the steady and significant

improvement in the quality of the University's research and research training since establishment of the current research structure in 2018. The Committee agreed that the proposal to integrate research and teaching needs further consideration to ensure that the quality of both research and learning and teaching is maintained through the change.

Professor Burey noted that the Committee prepared a group feedback submission in response to the UniSQ Change Proposal, which is attached to the Research Committee meeting minutes included within this report. Members were encouraged to read the submission.

Members raised the following matters regarding the Research Committee Report:

- Human Research Ethics application process: A member queried the reason for the backlog of human research ethics applications. Professor Burey advised that existing processes and a high volume of poor-quality applications had contributed to the backlog. It was noted that a review had been undertaken, which resulted in recommendations for improved processes to clear the backlog and ensure timely outcomes in the future. Implementation of the new processes is underway.

The Chair of Research Committee Professor Bell noted that instability of the current system is also contributing to inefficiencies and advised that this issue is being addressed.

- Early Career Researcher (ECR) Program: A member highlighted the ECR Program's excellent return on investment and stressed the importance of increasing awareness and visibility of the Program.

Resolved:

*Academic Board **notes** the unconfirmed minutes from the Research Committee meeting of 23 April 2025 which includes the Research Committee's UniSQ Change Proposal Consultation Document, and:*

- a. **notes** the Graduate Research School Report*
- b. **notes** the UniSQ Human Research Ethics Committee Report*
- c. **notes** the UniSQ Animal Ethics Committee Report*
- d. **notes** the Research Training Subcommittee Report from the 24 March 2025 meeting.*

8.3. Education Committee

Received: Education Committee Report to Academic Board – 1 May 2025.

The Education Committee Report was taken as read and the Deputy Chair of the Committee, Professor Noeleen McNamara provided an overview of discussions from the meeting held 1 May 2025. Professor McNamara noted that items considered by Education Committee and recommended to the Board would be discussed separately in the agenda.

Professor McNamara noted that the Committee had discussed the distinct processes and areas of focus for members reviewing major program change proposals and comprehensive program reviews. Professor McNamara also highlighted the insightful reviewer feedback received from Education Committee's student representatives, noting that the Committee looks forward to their continued contribution.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery was commended on the quality of their Bachelor of Nursing Comprehensive Program Review proposal. Professor Kist asked whether high quality curriculum proposals are used as exemplars. The Dean (Academic) Professor Geoff Slaughter advised that exemplars are held as Program Resources on the [Learning and Teaching Support Hub SharePoint site](#).

Resolved:

*Academic Board **notes** the unconfirmed minutes from the Education Committee meeting of 1 May 2025, and **considers** the curriculum proposal recommendations for approval (refer Academic Board agenda item 9).*

9. Curriculum Items

9.1. Comprehensive Program Review - Bachelor of Nursing (BNSG)

Received: Documentation via CourseLoop Proposal 29976.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Professor Glen Coleman introduced this item and provided members with a brief overview, highlighting that the proposals had been scrutinised in depth at Education Committee and details were captured in the minutes of the meeting attached at Item 8.3. The Head of School and Dean (Nursing and Midwifery) Professor Linda Deravin was in attendance to address feedback from members.

The Chair proposed a formal commendation to the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Course and Program Management team to acknowledge the excellent quality of the Bachelor of Nursing Comprehensive Program Review submission.

No concerns were raised.

Resolved:

*Academic Board **approves** the comprehensive program review of the Bachelor of Nursing (BNSG).*

Resolved:

*Academic Board **commends** the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Course and Program Management team on the excellent quality of the Bachelor of Nursing Comprehensive Program Review submission.*

9.2. Comprehensive Program Review - Bachelor of Film and Screen Production (BFSP) | Bachelor of Television and Radio Production (BTVR)

Received: Documentation via CourseLoop proposal 28265.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Professor Glen Coleman introduced this item and provided members with a brief overview, highlighting that the proposal had been considered in depth at the Education Committee meeting and details were captured in the minutes of the meeting attached at Item 8.3. The Head of School and Dean (Creative Arts) Associate Professor Kyle Jenkins was in attendance to address questions from members.

Members raised the following matters:

- **Online offer:** Members discussed how the practice component will be incorporated into the online mode. Associate Professor Jenkins advised that the University's visual arts program is offered entirely online, noting that these methods will be adopted for the Bachelor of Film and Screen Production. Associate Professor Jenkins noted some restrictions and highlighted that the focus will be to rejuvenate the Study Desk making it more interactive for students.
- **Online Media:** Members discussed potential study options for students in online media production, for example, podcasting. Associate Professor Jenkins advised that podcasting is offered as an existing course, and that this is being expanded upon within the film production area. Associate Professor Jenkins noted that the School of Creative Arts external advisory

committee has recommended establishing a second major around screen and audio to incorporate discipline areas such as podcasting and sound design.

Resolved:

*Academic Board **approves** the comprehensive program review of the Bachelor of Film and Screen Production (BFSP) and Bachelor of Television and Radio Production (BTVR), noting the forthcoming proposal for discontinuation of the Bachelor of Television and Radio Production).*

9.3. Comprehensive Program Review - Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours) (BCAH)

Received: Documentation via CourseLoop proposal 30470.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Professor Glen Coleman introduced this item and provided members with a brief overview, highlighting that the proposal had been considered in depth at the Education Committee meeting and details were captured in the minutes of the meeting attached at Item 8.3. The Head of School and Dean (Creative Arts) Associate Professor Kyle Jenkins was in attendance to address questions from members.

Professor Coleman highlighted that the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours) program has the heaviest focus on practice led research in Australia and is a thriving pathway for students into the University's HDR program.

Members raised the following matters:

- Student experience: Members queried whether low student load impacts negatively on the student experience. Associate Professor Jenkins advised that because the program is mainly supervisory with students focussing on individual research projects, noting that shared workshop/studio spaces contributed significantly to a positive student experience.
- Number of Offers vs EFTSL: A member sought justification for the number of available offers in relation to the low student load. It was reiterated that the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours) is a program with no coursework, which supports multiple offers and entry points and enables smooth transition for undergraduate students wanting to move into postgraduate study.

Resolved:

*Academic Board **approves** the comprehensive program review of the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours) (BCAH).*

9.4. Comprehensive Program Review - Master of Information Technology (MCTN) | Graduate Diploma of Information Technology (GDTI)

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

9.5. Comprehensive Program Review - Master of Data Science (MADS) | Graduate Diploma of Data Science (GDDA) | Graduate Certificate of Data Science (GCDA)

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

9.6. Comprehensive Program Review - Master of Cyber Security (MCYS) | Graduate Diploma of Cyber Security (GDYS) | Graduate Certificate of Cyber Security (GCYS)

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

9.7. Major Program Change – Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) (SPYH)

Received: Documentation via CourseLoop proposal 31169.

The Major Program Change proposal for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) was approved at the 1 May 2025 meeting of Education Committee and was received by Academic Board for noting.

ACTION: Governance Officer (Academic Board)
Circulate resolutions for curriculum proposals to stakeholders

10. Annual Summary Report on Program Outcomes

Received: Annual Program Accreditation Activity Report 2024

The Annual Program Accreditation Activity Report 2024 was submitted to Academic Board for noting and forwarding to Council as per the UniSQ Council Business Schedule. The Dean (Academic) Professor Geoff Slaughter introduced this item, advising that the report provides a whole-of-university summary of curriculum and quality assurance related activities, including all program changes, suspensions, and discontinuations completed in 2024.

ACTION: Governance Officer (Academic Board)
Progress report to UniSQ Council for noting

Professor Slaughter discussed the pipeline for the upcoming year, highlighting the aim to spread scheduled work across 2026 and 2027, to ensure a manageable workload for the Course and Program Management team, schools, and committees.

Professor Slaughter acknowledged the significant improvement in the quality of program reviews and change proposals. He commended the Curriculum Design and Course and Program Management teams for their dedication and for supporting the schools in improving their processes.

The Chair requested an update on the pipeline for the remainder of 2025. Professor Slaughter advised that the work scheduled for the remainder of 2025 is light, and that the priority had been completion of comprehensive program reviews and the consequential program changes to ensure clarity for students when Handbook is published in October. The [2025 Program Review Schedule](#) is included in Program Resources in the Learning and Teaching Support Hub SharePoint site.

11. Policy and Procedure

11.1. Academic Quality Policy and Procedure Report

Received: Academic Quality Policy and Procedure Report

The Academic Quality Policy and Procedure Report was received and noted by the Board.

11.2. Class of Honours Schedule Update

Received: Class of Honours Schedule Update

The Associate Provost Professor Lorelle Burton introduced this item advising that the Class of Honours Schedule was endorsed by Academic Board on 12 November 2024 and subsequently approved by the Vice-Chancellor for implementation no earlier than January 2025. The University's systems did not allow for implementation of the Schedule by the approved date, and this item was returned to the February meeting of Academic Board where an implementation plan was requested.

Professor Burton advised that an implementation schedule was developed in collaboration with the Dean (Academic), Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), and the Deputy Academic Registrar and Director (Student Administration) which describes the activities, responsibilities, and timelines for

implementation of the Class of Honours Schedule. The schedule was considered by Education Committee at its meeting of 1 May 2025 for noting and forwarding to Academic Board.

Professor Burton noted that the nomination of courses to be included in the honours calculation for each honours program has been received, and that work is continuing to ensure publication in the Handbook. Professor Burton confirmed that all activities are on track for implementation of the Class of Honours Schedule in August 2025.

No questions or concerns were raised.

11.3. Academic Medals and Awards Schedule Implementation Update

Received: Academic Medals and Awards Schedule Implementation Update

The Academic Medals and Awards Schedule Implementation Update was received and noted by the Board.

12. Academic Quality Reports

There were no items received for consideration.

13. Academic Board Working Group Updates

The Chair introduced this item, reminding members that the Academic Board working groups were affected by University's redundancy process held in late 2024, which resulted in a turnover of Academic Board members. A call for Expressions of Interest for membership on both the Academic Board Terms of Reference Working Group and the Academic Risk Register Working Group was circulated after the February 2025 meeting of the Board. Nominations were received, and the Terms of Reference Working Group has continued to meet.

Professor Kist highlighted the University Change Process, noting that the current redundancy rounds will further impact Academic Board membership. Another call for expressions of interest for the Academic Risk Register Working Group will be circulated once membership of Academic Board is finalised.

13.1. Academic Board Terms of Reference Review Working Group

The Chair of the Academic Board Terms of Reference Working Group Dr Rohan Genrich provided a verbal update on the work of the group. Dr Genrich noted that group was focusing on incorporating feedback received around the Board's functions, and that consideration of Board membership was on hold until changes to the University's structures are finalised. An updated draft of the Terms of Reference is expected to be presented to the next meeting of Academic Board.

13.2. Academic Risk Register Working Group

Professor Kist provided a verbal update on behalf of the Chair of the Academic Risk Register Working Group Associate Professor Andrew Hemming. Professor Kist advised that the working group had paused due to an insufficient number of members and will recommence once membership is finalised.

Professor Kist advised that the working group would focus on ensuring that the Academic Risk Register is incorporated within the University's Risk Register and establishing a process to manage and operationalise the Board's oversight of the Academic Risk Register.

14. Flexible Academic Calendar Project Post Implementation Review

Received: Flexible Academic Calendar Project Post Implementation Review

The Associate Provost Professor Lorelle Burton introduced this item and gave an overview of the report, highlighting that the project has now concluded with a complete transition of programs to the Flexible Academic Calendar within the planned timeline and project scope. Post implementation recommendations are included in the review and will be used to refine and ensure continuous improvement of processes which will be managed through the Office of the Associate Provost.

Professor Burton noted some key activities which will support the continuous improvement process and inform the next stage of refinement for the Academic Calendar:

- Regular consultation with the Student Senate Executive
- Development of a student survey for administration after Trimester 2 2025 to inform future curriculum and assessment design and calendar
- Regular consultation with Heads of Schools, Deans and Associate Deans to ensure disciplinary nuances regarding delivery are considered.

Members discussed the following matters:

- **Assessment design:** It was highlighted that assessment design has not caught up with the new Academic Calendar yet. A member noted that the prescriptiveness of the current Assessment Procedure may be limiting the redesign of assessment, for example the minimum number of assessment items, and maximum weighting of an assessment item. Professor Coleman agreed to consult with the Associate Provost and the Dean (Learning and Teaching Futures) to review the Assessment Procedure.

ACTION: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs),
Associate Provost, Dean (Learning and Teaching Futures)

- **Staff wellbeing:** The importance of monitoring staff wellbeing which may be affected by the short time between Trimesters was discussed. Professor Burton noted that the student survey is being adapted for staff for completion after Trimester 2 2025, and that feedback from staff and students will help inform improvements. Professor Burton reiterated that the reimagining of assessments will contribute significantly towards improving and refining processes.
- **Informal feedback:** The Chair asked whether a mechanism for recording feedback received via informal means, for example conversations with the Student Senate Executive. Professor Burton advised that issues and concerns received via informal means are being recorded and feedback provided to the relevant schools. Professor Kist suggested that informal feedback be included in future reports to Academic Board to ensure visibility.
- **Impact of calendar transition on research outputs:** A member asked whether any impact on the volume of research outputs during the transition period has been noted. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor John Bell advised that there has been an increase in the volume of publications. A potential drop in the quality of publications is indicated, although the cause of these issues is not clear. Professor Burton undertook to include research matters in the staff survey.

The Chair proposed a formal commendation for all staff who contributed to the Flexible Academic Calendar Project since its commencement in 2021.

Resolved:

*Academic Board **commends** the staff involved in the Flexible Academic Calendar Project since its commencement in 2021.*

15. Strategic Discussion | International Strategy

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Ren Yi presented the **attached** UniSQ International Strategy Update, which provided an update on progress against the University's International Strategy, highlighting the key focus areas: recruitment and market diversification; research partnerships; global partnerships; transnational education and sponsored students; and non-award, pathway, and Study Abroad programs.

The following topics were discussed:

- UniSQ International rankings – Discussion focussed on the University's plans for utilising the excellent international research rankings to strengthen partnerships and attract more international academic students.
- UniSQ International Toolkit – Members were encouraged to visit the [UniSQ International Toolkit SharePoint site](#) if planning international travel for university business. The toolkit contains information such as the University's partnerships, international event calendars, UniSQ marketing materials for use by staff.

16. Other Business

The Chair noted the staff redundancy round currently in progress and took the opportunity to thank any departing members for their valuable contributions to the University and Academic Board. The Vice-Chancellor advised members that a formal farewell function would be held at each campus for staff departing the University, providing an important opportunity to all to extend their thanks.

17. Next Meeting

The next Academic Board meeting will be held at 1.00pm, Tuesday 15 July 2025, Council Chamber, Toowoomba Campus.

18. Close

The meeting closed at 3:54pm.