

Academic Board Bulletin

Academic Board Meeting – April 2021

TEQSA Re-registration Condition Update

The University's re-registration has one Condition related to "Governance and accountability reporting obligations" as detailed on the TEQSA public website, and by 30 September 2019, 2020 and 2021 USQ must provide TEQSA with approved minutes for the previous 12 months from the Council and Academic Board meetings demonstrating that the requirements of the Condition have been met. The 2021 Academic Board Business Schedule details the reports and presentations that are scheduled for the 2021 calendar year. These reports assist Academic Board to effectively monitor the quality of teaching, learning, research and research training and provide assurance and competent advice to Council on academic outcomes, policies and practices. A table detailing how these are evidenced throughout the year within the minutes of Academic Board, in order to meet the requirements of the re-registration condition, was noted.

Academic Board also noted the following TEQSA related matters:

- The [TEQSA Compliance Report 2020](#) was released on 31 March 2021, outlining compliance activities and the range of responses that TEQSA has taken to address issues within the higher education sector.
- *Malicious Code* - TEQSA alerted providers to possible insertion of malicious code in some higher education provider websites, directing students to contract cheating sites. A review of the University's systems indicated no evidence of any impact to USQ.
- The *draft 2020 TEQSA Provider Risk Assessment*, which uses information on student load, experience and outcomes, academic staff profile, student to staff ratios, financial viability and sustainability and regulatory history and standing to make an overall evaluation on Risk to Students and Risk to Financial Position was discussed. USQ's risk rating for 2020 indicates moderate risk to students, and low risk to financial position, both of which remain unchanged from 2019.

Academic Board Elections

Nominations for the following categories of elected staff members to fill vacancies on Academic Board for a term of office commencing 27 July 2021 and continuing up until, but not including the Academic Board meeting in July 2024, **close at 9am on Monday 10 May 2021**:

- **Chair** (Academic Board)
- **3.1.9.** Four Professors, two male and two female, elected by and from the academic staff;
- **3.1.10.** One female and one male academic staff member from pathway organisational units, elected by and from the academic staff of the pathway organisational units;
- **3.1.11.** One female and one male academic staff member from non-faculty organisational units, elected by and from the academic staff of the non-faculty organisational units;
- **3.1.14.** One academic staff member from the Research and Innovation Division, elected by and from the academic staff of the Research and Innovation Division;
- **3.1.15.** One Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander academic staff member elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic staff of the University.

Please note that elections for Faculty Academic Staff representative positions are being conducted directly through the Faculty.

Further information and nomination forms can be found on the [Academic Board Elections Webpage](#).

Academic Quality Framework Report

An update was provided to Academic Board regarding the implementation of the Academic Quality Framework. The establishment of the *Recognition of Prior Learning Centre*, the *USQ Program Renewal Transition Plan 2021-2023*, and the ongoing development of a suite of standardised *curriculum quality reports* were discussed, and the *prototype Sentinel Indicators* and *prototype USQ Consolidated Program Quality Report* were endorsed by the Board.

Academic Program Committee / Program Accreditation

Academic Board made the following recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor, which were subsequently approved:

- That the *Indigenous Higher Education Pathways Program (IHPP)* be reaccredited from Semester 2, 2021 for 5 years.
- That the *Master of Project Management and Master of Business Administration (MPMB)* be discontinued from Semester 1, 2021.

Research Committee

The report from the meeting of Research Committee, which included the *University of Southern Queensland Animal Ethics Committee (USQ AEC) 2020 Annual Report to Council for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020*, plus regular reports from the *Research Training Sub-Committee, Graduate Research School* (including the *Semester 2 2020 HDR Student Report*), *Human Research Ethics Committee, Animal Ethics Committee*, plus the *Research Integrity Report* was noted by the Board.

Academic Appeals Committee

The report from the Academic Appeals Committee for the period 1 November 2020 to 28 February 2021 was considered by the Board. A high number of appeals in relation to academic misconduct determinations was highlighted, and members were advised that these submissions presented significant procedural challenges for the Committee. The Board was advised that an independent review on the circumstances of the students, the processes that were conducted, and the Academic Integrity Procedure was subsequently undertaken, and a report was provided to the Executive Deans with recommendations for rectifying the issues that were identified.

Academic Integrity Project Working Group Update

At the Academic Board meeting of 19 November 2019, the Academic Integrity Project was approved for establishing a coordinated and systematic approach to promoting academic integrity and preventing, detecting, and managing academic misconduct at USQ. The Board also approved establishment of an Academic Integrity Working Party to lead this work. An update on the implementation of the Academic Integrity Framework was noted by the Board.

Academic Quality Policy and Procedure

Academic Board considered and endorsed the *Credit and Exemption Procedure* for progression to the Vice-Chancellor for approval, subject to minor amendments. This procedure was subsequently approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

Academic Board Self-Assessment 2020 Action Plan Update

The Board considered an update on progress towards actions within the *Academic Board Self-Assessment 2020 Action Plan*.

Academic Quality Assurance of Third Party Arrangements Report

Academic Board considered the *Academic Quality Assurance of Third Party Arrangements Report* received from the Chair, Markets and Partners Strategy and Management Committee. This report was subsequently recommended to Council for noting.

Academic Board Minutes, Agendas and Bulletins

Academic Board confirmed minutes, agendas and bulletins can be accessed on the Academic Board website at www.usq.edu.au/about-usq/governance-leadership/governance/academic-board.

Next meeting of Academic Board

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held on 8 June 2021 at 1pm. The 2021 USQ meeting schedule can be accessed on the [Governance Website](#) 'Meeting dates'. If you wish to attend Academic Board as an observer, please forward your request to attend to the [Secretary \(Academic Board\)](#) a minimum of one business day prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the activities of Academic Board or its Standing Committees, feel free to contact academic.board@usq.edu.au.

