

Academic Board Bulletin

Academic Board Meetings – September and November 2021

Academic Board Standing Committee Restructure

In response to concerns highlighted by the previous members of Academic Board through the 2020 Academic Board Self-Assessment Survey, a proposed new Academic Board Standing Committee structure was presented to the Board for consideration. A proposal was put forward to coalesce the Education Quality Committee and Academic Program Committee into an Education Committee, which will have a broader and more balanced remit. It is intended that the new structure will align more closely with the School and Faculty Committee structures and improve the flow of information through to Academic Board. The recommendations were approved by the Board at the September 2021 meeting.

Nomination and election processes for the new Education Committee are currently underway and the Committee will meet as soon as practicable to consider its own sub-committee structure. The first meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for 27 January 2022.

TEQSA Re-registration Condition Final Update

The University's re-registration had one Condition related to "Governance and accountability reporting obligations" as detailed on the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) public website, and by 30 September 2019, 2020 and 2021 USQ must have provided TEQSA with approved minutes for the previous 12 months from the Council and Academic Board meetings demonstrating that the requirements of the Condition had been met. The final set of evidence in response to the Condition was provided to TEQSA by USQ on 30 September 2021. The evidence comprised a cover letter and 15 sets of minutes of the University Council and Academic Board for the period 1 September 2020 to 30 September 2021. This submission completes the requirements in relation to the re-registration condition and the University will be notified in due course of the outcome.

Academic Quality Framework Project Final Report

On 30 July 2019, Academic Board approved a staged approach for the implementation over three years of the Academic Quality Framework, in order to satisfy the requirement for comprehensive diagnostic analysis of student performance data. A final report on the status of the 10 recommendations for implementation of the USQ Academic Quality Framework was presented to the Board at its November 2021 meeting. All Academic Quality reports and dashboards are available on the [USQ SharePoint Site](#) with the intention to migrate these to the USQ Information Centre (USQIC) as part of the transition of the project into business as usual activities. The Consolidated Academic Quality Reports will be a standing annual item for Faculty committees, Education Committee, Academic Board and Council.

Academic Program Committee / Program Accreditation

The reports of the Academic Program Committee meetings of 21 September 2021 and 14 October 2021 were noted by the Board.

The Academic Program Committee's endorsement of the proposed AHEGS Guidelines was noted.

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

- that the Bachelor of Environmental Science (BENV) be accredited from Semester 1, 2022 for 5 years;
- that the Bachelor of Agricultural Technology and Management (BATM) be accredited from Semester 1, 2022 for 5 years;
- that the Bachelor of Paramedicine (BPSC) be reaccruited from Semester 1, 2022 for 5 years;
- that the Master of Strength and Conditioning (MASC), Graduate Diploma of Strength and Conditioning (GSCD), and Graduate Certificate of Strength and Conditioning (GSCC) be accredited from Semester 2, 2022 for 5 years;
- that the Master of Research (MRES) be accredited from Semester 1, 2022 for 5 years;
- that University Exit only Diplomas and Undergraduate Certificates be accredited from Semester 3, 2021 for 5 years;
- that the Bachelor of Creative Arts (BCAR) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2022;
- that subject to minor amendments, the Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH) and the Graduate Certificate of Early Childhood Education and Care (GCCH) be accredited from Semester 1, 2022 for 5 years;
- that the Master of Laws (Research) (LLMR) and Graduate Certificate of Laws (Research) (GCLR) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2022; and

- that the Master of Business Research (MBSR), Graduate Diploma of Business Research (GDBR), and Graduate Certificate of Business Research (GCBR) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2022.

Research Committee

The reports from the 18 September 2021 and 13 October 2021 meetings of Research Committee, which included the regular reports from the *Research Training Sub-Committee*, *Graduate Research School*, *Human Research Ethics Committee*, and *Animal Ethics Committee* were noted by the Board.

Academic Board noted the progress update on the development of the new USQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy.

Academic Appeals Committee

The Academic Appeals Committee report for the period of 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021 was noted by the Board. Academic Board approved the establishment of the Student Academic Appeals Committee Terms of Reference Working Party to consider the Terms of Reference for the new Student Academic Appeals Committee.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Participation and Success Report 2020

The University is committed to proactively providing accessible and equitable higher education opportunities to the diverse University student constituency including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Specific initiatives for supporting access to educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were outlined in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Participation and Success Report for 2020. This report was considered and noted by the Board at the September 2021 meeting.

Annual Academic Integrity Report 2020

At the September 2021 meeting, Academic Board considered and noted the Annual Academic Integrity Report for 2020 and forwarded to USQ Council for noting.

Academic Integrity Project Working Group Update

The Academic Integrity Project was approved by Academic Board in 2019 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. The final update on the implementation of the Academic Integrity Framework, including the transition of academic integrity activities to business-as-usual to be led by the Academic Integrity Unit, was noted by the Board at the November 2021 meeting.

Academic Quality Policy and Procedure

Academic Board considered and noted the *Annual Update: Academic Quality Policies (and related University Procedures) – Review Status as at 12 October 2021*, presented by the Director (Planning and Performance Support Services).

Academic Board considered and approved the following policy proposals:

- The *Higher Degree by Research Student Policy*
- The *Research Policy*, including the repeal of the *Research and Scholarship Policy and Procedure*, to take immediate effect.
- The repeal of the *Higher Doctorates Policy* to be replaced with the new *Higher Doctorates Procedure*.

Academic Board considered and endorsed the following procedures and schedules for progression to the Vice-Chancellor for approval:

- The *Assessment Procedure* implementation proposals for Semester 1, 2022.
- The *Higher Doctorates Procedure* to take immediate effect.
- The *Research Data Management and Indigenous Data Governance Schedule* to take immediate effect.

The revised proposal to implement a threshold definition for *Research Activity* was endorsed by the Board.

Elected Academic Staff and Student Representatives 2021-2024

Elected members for the 2021-2024 term of Academic Board are:

- 3.1.10 - Four professors, two male and two female elected by and from the academic staff: Professor Jeffrey Soar; Professor Alexander Kist; Professor Jill Lawrence; Professor Jane Summers.
- 3.1.11 - One female and one male academic staff member from pathway organisational units elected by and from the academic staff of the pathway organisational units: Dr Naomi Ryan; Associate Professor Fernando Padro.
- 3.1.12 - 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: Dr Renee Desmarchelier; Dr Anbarasu 'Eddie' Thangavelu.

- 3.1.13 - Three male and three female academic staff members from each faculty, elected by and from the academic staff of the Faculty; Associate Professor Eric Ng; Associate Professor Stewart Riddle; Associate Professor Luke van der Laan; Associate Professor Melissa Johnson Morgan; Ms Bernadette Lynch; Associate Professor Petrea Redmond; Associate Professor Gavin Beccaria; Mr Shane Simmons; Associate Professor David Thorpe; Associate Professor Marita Basson; Dr Polly Burey; Associate Professor Eliza Whiteside.
- 3.1.14 - One academic staff member from the Research and Innovation Division elected by and from the academic staff of Research and Innovation Division: Professor Shahbaz Mushtaq.
- 3.1.15 - One Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander academic staff member elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic staff members of the University: Ms Tonia Chalk.
- 3.1.17 - One undergraduate student: Mr Grant Vickery.
- 3.1.18 - One postgraduate coursework student: Mr Adam Schmidt.
- 3.1.19 - One HDR student: Ms Lolita Aranas.

Current Academic Board membership can be found on the [Academic Board Website](#).

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 22 February 2022 at 1pm. The 2022 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.

