

# Academic Board Bulletin

## Academic Board Meeting – February 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 Quality Report

An update was provided to Academic Board regarding the ongoing implementation of the *Academic Quality Framework* and it was noted that the third phase of implementation, 'sustainable practices', has now commenced. Members were reminded that the Survey Reports and dashboards, Semester Course Level Reports and dashboards, and Annual Program Level Reports and dashboards have been completed, and an initial prototype for the Annual University Level Report has been created. It was noted that the focus is now on the Five-year Curriculum Accreditation Cycle. Academic Board endorsed the USQ Program Review Framework 2021-2023 and a proposed schedule of reports to Academic Board, Vice-Chancellor's Executive and Council.

### Academic Plan Update

An update was provided to Academic Board on the implementation of strategies and initiatives articulated in the *Academic Plan*. The Board was advised that several recent

appointments for Academic Plan Support Officers and Project Officers have been made. Members were also advised that a SharePoint site has been created which will act as a portal for the Academic Plan and provide an access point to all associated resources.

### **Program Accreditation**

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

- that the Master of Computing (MCOP), Graduate Diploma of Advanced Computing (GDAC), and the Graduate Certificate of Advanced Computing (GCAC) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2021;
- that the Graduate Certificate of Professional Computing (GCPC) and Graduate Diploma of Professional Computing (GDPC) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2021; and
- that the Master of Arts (MARA), Graduate Diploma of Arts (GDAT), and Graduate Certificate of Arts (GCAR) be discontinued from Semester 1, 2021.

### **Academic Quality Policy and Procedure**

Academic Board considered and endorsed the *Assessment of Special Circumstances Procedure* for progression to the Vice-Chancellor for approval. This procedure was subsequently approved by the Vice-Chancellor. The report on minor and editorial changes to Academic Quality policies and procedures published during Q4 2020 was also noted.

### **Change to Academic Withdrawal Date**

Academic Board considered and endorsed a proposal to extend the Academic Withdrawal Date to the last day of the last teaching week in all University teaching periods from Semester 1, 2021 onwards.

### **Education Quality Committee**

Academic Board considered the report from the meeting of Education Quality Committee, which included the following resolutions:

- The *Assessment Guidelines* were endorsed, and the *Final Report of the Assessment Policy and Procedure Working Group* was noted; and
- the Education Quality Committee's endorsement of the *Assessment of Special Circumstances Procedure* was noted.

## **Research Committee**

The report from the meeting of Research Committee, which included the *Research Performance Report* and *Research Integrity Report* for Q4 2020, plus regular reports from the *Graduate Research School*, *Human Research Ethics Committee*, *Animal Ethics Committee*, and *Institutional Biosafety Committee* were noted by the Board. Discussion was held regarding the University's draft *Research Plan 2021-2025* and the *Graduate Research School External Review Final Report*.

## **Return of International Students**

Discussion was held regarding the return of international students. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that there had been no change in relation to the return of international students into Australia at this time, therefore study for students that are not already onshore can be offered in online mode only.

## **Academic Board Minutes, Agendas and Bulletins**

Academic Board minutes, agendas and bulletins can be accessed on the Academic Board website at [www.usq.edu.au/about-usq/governance-leadership/governance/academic-board](http://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 20 April 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](mailto:academic.board@usq.edu.au).

