

**Academic Senate Meeting – 3 November 2023  
Report to 4 December 2023 University Council Meeting**

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The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 3 November 2023 meeting.

**Strategic Session – Setting Sessional Staff up for Success**

The Chair guided Senate through this session, which began with a presentation of data showing the breakdown of casual academic staff by headcount and full-time-equivalent (FTE) by school and further broken down by activity (i.e. lecturing, marking, tutoring etc). Senate was then split into breakout groups to identify areas of academic risk in relation to the domains of the Higher Education Standards. After reforming to discuss the identified academic risks, the Chair suggested that it was clear that a coordinated and strategic approach was required to set sessional staff up for success, noting the diverse cohorts that would need to be considered. The Vice-Chancellor advised Senate that the University had the lowest rates of casualisation in the sector and, although he understood the need for casuals, he preferred to make employment secure, which he believed would enhance teaching quality. The Vice-Chancellor informed Senate that the University should set a bolder ambition to get to the next stage, and that progress would not be made in incremental steps. The Chair advised Senate that this discussion would be re-visited in the new year, noting that Senate had heard from the Vice-Chancellor and that the data was readily available for further analysis.

**Report from Student Representatives**

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) Student President, Mr Liam McLaren, informed Senate that the ongoing challenges around the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) by students was a continually moving space in relation to what constituted an academic breach, and that what was considered an intermediate breach a few months ago was now considered low level. Mr McLaren requested a retrospective fix for those students who had received an intermediate breach earlier in the year as there were long-term effects of these breaches on students and some students had left the University because they had received a breach. Mr McLaren also noted that information around what constitutes a breach on the Student Portal was hard to understand. Prof Mitch Parsell (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education) advised that the Academic Integrity Framework was in place to protect students who were doing the right thing, noting that the wording on the Student Portal could be improved and that new wording was being developed, and further that each assessment piece would have its own individualised wording around the use of AI. Prof Parsell advised that, although the overall position of the University had not changed, he would be happy to look at specific examples, but could not guarantee that past breaches would be removed from students' records.

Mr McLaren advised Senate that students welcome the announcement by Professor Ian Anderson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic) of a Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH) Audit by Lyn Walker AM and requested that students be placed front and centre in that process. Prof Martin Grimmer (Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Equity and Success) advised that Mr McLaren and other students would be interviewed as part of the audit.

**Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement (SPAЕ) – 2023 Implementation Performance Report**

Prof Greg Lehman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal Leadership presented the 2023 Implementation Report and advised Senate that this report had previously been discussed at University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC). Prof Lehman informed Senate that his office was supporting a survey and analysis of activity and aspiration in Indigenous learning and teaching in August - November 2023 to inform strategic planning and resource allocation, including Indigenous workforce development across the University. Senate were advised that the University's overall outcomes were higher than the national average, but that the University was trending down in success rates, and that the impact of COVID was greater here

which raised questions about the robustness of practices. Prof Lehman informed Senate that dispersed working groups needed to be formed to develop action plans to progress implementation of the current SPAE and that those groups would need to identify priorities and focus resources. Prof Lehman encouraged Senate to think about the next SPAE, to consider a new model and to think creatively about learnings over the last six years to shift the dial going forward. Prof Anderson advised Senate that the way forward was not incremental steps. He further advised that he would be proposing that the University host an Indigenous Commission to transform this institution, and that the proposal would be submitted to an upcoming Council meeting.

**Next Meeting of Academic Senate**

The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be the annual Planning Day held on Thursday 7 December 2023.

**Appendix 1:**

Decisions by Senate at the 3 November 2023 Academic Senate meeting.

## Appendix 1 - Academic Senate Decisions at the 3 November 2023 Academic Senate Meeting

College	Title	Resolution or Outcome
All	Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement (SPAЕ) – 2023 Implementation Performance Report	Academic Senate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the 2023 Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement Performance Report.</li> <li>• Endorsed recommendations from the 2023 Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement Performance Report.</li> <li>• Endorsed the 2024 Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement College Reporting Template.</li> </ul>
All	Central Unit Review – Report on Outcomes and Process Improvements	Academic Senate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the analysis and key findings obtained from the current central unit review process.</li> <li>• Endorsed the recommendations for process improvements to the central unit review process.</li> </ul>
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	Significant Amendments – C7E Master of Health Information Management and C7U Master of Health Services Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to the following courses:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C7E Master of Health Information Management</li> <li>○ C7U Master of Health Services Management.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CoBE	New Course - Undergraduate Certificate in Marketing Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Undergraduate Certificate in Marketing Analytics.</li> </ul>
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	Significant Amendments – Arts Course Nest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to the following courses:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A3A Bachelor of Arts</li> <li>○ R2B Associate Degree in Arts</li> <li>○ A1A Diploma of Arts, and</li> <li>○ All associated double degrees and vertical double degrees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CoBE	Significant Amendment – 37O2 Master of Business Administration (Executive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to 37O2 Master of Business Administration (Executive).</li> </ul>
CALE	Significant Amendment – L3C Bachelor of Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate approved Significant Amendment – L3C Bachelor of Laws.</li> </ul>
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	Component Amendment – HEAMJR10 <i>Ageing Studies And Services</i> Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Senate noted amendments to HEAMJR10 <i>Ageing Studies And Services</i> major that were approved by UCUPC on 20 September 2023.</li> </ul>

CALE	9x Course Discontinuations from CALE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of courses E4D, E7R, F2U, L0C, L0Y, L1C, L6D, R2E and R7Y, due to these being old administrative codes. No students were impacted by the discontinuation of these courses.</li> </ul>
College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Course Discontinuation – S4R Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course S4R Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours. An alternative option exists for students.</li> </ul>
CoHM	Course Discontinuation – M4Z Bachelor Of Health And Human Services (Leadership) Professional Honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M4Z Bachelor of Health and Human Services (Leadership) Professional Honours. Students currently admitted to M4Z still have the opportunity to complete this course or transfer to M5S, M6S or M7S (including those on a leave of absence).</li> </ul>
CoHM	Course Discontinuation – M6Q Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M6Q Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health. Teach-out is available for current students.</li> </ul>
CALE	Component Discontinuations – EDUMJR10 <i>Education</i> and MUSMJR11 <i>Music and Context</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of components EDUMJR10 Education and MUSMJR11 Music and Context. Teach-out is available for current students.</li> </ul>
CoBE	Course Discontinuation – 33A Bachelor of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 33A Bachelor of Business. Teach-out is available for current students.</li> </ul>
CoBE	Course Discontinuation – 33G Bachelor of Business Administration (Hospitality Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 33G Bachelor of Business Administration (Hospitality Management). Teach-out is available for current students.</li> </ul>
CoHM	Course Discontinuation – M4P Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M4P Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Honours. An alternative option exists for future students.</li> </ul>
CoSE	Course Discontinuation – 70E Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Sensing and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 70E Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Sensing and Data. This course has never been offered to students.</li> </ul>