

**Academic Senate Meeting – 1 September 2023
Report to 17 October 2023 University Council Meeting**

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 1 September 2023 meeting.

Report from the Chair

The Chair informed Senate of a number of significant reviews that would impact on Senate and the University in 2024. Firstly, that Senate was due for an external review and that the intention was that the review would take place in the first quarter of 2024. Senate were further informed that University Council would also be undergoing an external review in 2024. Additionally, the Chair noted that plans were underway for an external review against the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) national code and renewal of the University's Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) registration application. Senate were advised that all of these reviews would assist in progressing the University's re-registration application with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA), which was due in March 2026.

Strategic Session – Embedding Sustainability in our Academic Endeavours

The Strategic Session addressed student expectations (current and future), the University's approach to sustainability, and curricular offerings and engagement for sustainability. Senate were advised that the greatest impact could be made in offering sustainability-focussed degrees, such as the Certificate in Sustainable Living, the Diploma in Sustainable Living, and the Major in Sustainability. Senate were advised of the current sustainability initiatives in the College of Business and Economics (CoBE), including carbon literacy training, the embedding of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into the curriculum, social impact partnerships and the Undergraduate Certificate in Climate Accounting, to name a few. Senate discussed how sustainability initiatives were emerging across colleges and campuses, but noted that the breadth of these initiatives was not clear to all staff and that an educative piece was needed. Mr Corey Peterson (Chief Sustainability Officer) advised that he was available to talk to leadership teams as required and tailor the discussion as needed.

Report from Student Representatives

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) Student President, Mr Liam McLaren, asked Senate members to keep the national conversations around universities and sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) in the forefront of their minds, noting that universities need to improve in this space and that the TUSA submission to the Accord included a proposal for a national student charter on the welfare, safety and well-being of students. Prof Martin Grimmer, the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Equity and Success) reiterated to Senate that this was an important and sensitive issue and that there were practices in place to handle these matters. Prof Grimmer added that there was still more that could be done in this area and that the Change the Course recommendations were being implemented. Prof Anderson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic) advised that he would be proposing an independent audit on University processes, investigations, the response of Social Services, and governance in this space, and that the audit outcomes would be submitted to Senate for consideration.

Monitoring and Assurance Committee (MAC) Report

Senate members were advised that MAC had recently considered the Universal College of Higher Education's 2021 Course Quality Assurance Report and 2022 Annual Review Report. MAC members were concerned that the reports did not address the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL) and its implications for UTAS and the continuation of the program, noting that the NSL had fundamentally changed Hong Kong's public life and had far-reaching implications for the Hong Kong university sector and for external partners

such as UTAS. MAC members also discussed their concerns around academic freedom with a need for full compliance with the NSL and suggested it would be worth consideration by Academic Senate. It was suggested to Senate that the formation of a working group to ascertain if University structures around the agreement in Hong Kong were fit for purpose would be an appropriate response. Senate agreed that a committee should be established to gain clarity on strategic choices, noting that UTAS' academic freedom was paramount, and that while there was risk, there needed to be appropriate judgement about how the institution was progressing in this space, as being able to engage and collaborate with international partners was a positive position for the institution.

Proposed Third Party Managed Campus (TPMC) in Sydney

Senate were advised that the Markets and Revenue Working Group had provided endorsement to progress a paper to Council to seek approval to establish a second TPMC with the Education Centre of Australia (ECA) in Sydney, commencing in Semester 2, 2024. A question was raised as to why UTAS was not leveraging off their existing campus at Rozelle in Sydney, and a further concern that the reputational risks were under-represented in the paperwork. Senate were advised that the brand name of the third party gets more market traction than UTAS with the target student cohort, and that the partnership in Rozelle was with NSW Health which made the campus arrangement complex, so whilst this was a pertinent concern, it was not possible to leverage the existing Sydney campus in this case. Senate were advised that the TPMC risk matrix had been endorsed by Audit and Risk Committee in 2022 and that the Melbourne campus had gone through a full risk assessment process. It was noted that the Joint Management Committee that governs the partnership in Melbourne will be expanded to include Sydney. It was suggested that nomenclature around the two campuses in Sydney needed to be considered, as one can't be referred to as Sydney when there would be two UTAS campuses in Sydney.

Next Meeting of Academic Senate

The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Friday 3 November 2023.

Appendix 1:

Decisions by Senate at the 1 September 2023 Academic Senate meeting.

Appendix 1 - Academic Senate Decisions at the 1 September 2023 Academic Senate Meeting

College/Division	Title	Resolution or Outcome
All	Report from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate were advised that a number of upcoming institutional reviews acted as a timely reminder that all staff should understand decision making at the University and should also encourage their colleagues to upskill and refresh in the governance space. One way to do this would be to attend the upcoming Governance Roadshows that the Chair will be facilitating, along with other colleagues, in the coming months. These roadshows will be run across different campuses and will include interactive and interesting discussions covering all aspects of governance at the University. • The Chair reiterated to Senate the importance of compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF) and other relevant legislation, particularly reminding members that changing course delivery from on-campus to online must be approved by Senate due to minimum requirements for international students to study on-campus. The importance of not inadvertently causing problems for students by breaching compliance requirements was noted as the main reason for the existence of the Table of Approvals.
All	Monitoring and Assurance Committee (MAC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC will progress the formation of a steering committee to gain clarity on strategic choices around the ongoing international partnerships that are impacted by the Chinese Government's National Security Law.
All	Student Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate endorsed the proposed areas of focus for retention initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students admitted across all AQF course levels studying on a part-time basis; ○ Students admitted across all AQF course levels, studying in distance mode; and, ○ Low SES status students admitted to Pre-degree and Bachelor level courses. • Academic Senate endorsed the next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colleges and Divisions to engage in a series of co-designed sessions coordinated by the Academic Division on high-impact attrition interventions; and, ○ Colleges and Divisions to present existing and proposed attrition interventions at a future Academic Senate.
All	Teaching Expectations for On-Campus Offerings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate agreed that for on-campus units there must be as much on-campus teaching as possible, that teaching must start in week one, and that the timetable should accurately reflect what was being delivered. • As an absolute minimum, there should be 2 hours of on-campus face-to-face content in Week 1. This content does not have to be teaching, it can be relationship building, but it must occur.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must be clear to students how their teaching will happen at the course level. Academics should seek advice from their Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching Performance (ADLTP), and Heads of School will be held accountable for any discrepancies. • The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education (DVCE) will attend schools to discuss logistics if required.
Academic Senate	Academic Senate Ordinance – Proposed Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate endorsed proposed changes to the Academic Senate Ordinance and recommended the changes to University Council for approval.
All	Guidelines for the Responsible and Ethical Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate agreed that the Guidelines are a dynamic document due to the fast moving space and will be updated monthly.
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	New Course - Undergraduate Certificate in Climate Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Undergraduate Certificate in Climate Accounting.
College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Significant Amendment - P1A Diploma of Engineering Infrastructure (Specialisation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course P1A Diploma of Engineering Infrastructure (Specialisation).
CoSE	Significant Amendment - P4D Bachelor of Engineering (Specialisation) with Honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course P4D Bachelor of Engineering (Specialisation) with Honours. • Academic Senate approved creation of the following new specialisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NCVSPC10 <i>Civil</i> ○ NEPSPC08 <i>Electrical Power</i> ○ NECSPC08 <i>Electronics and Communications</i> ○ NMLSPC10 <i>Mechanical</i>.
CoSE	Significant Amendment - P4K Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering (Specialisation) with Honours in Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course P4K Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering (Specialisation) with Honours in Engineering.
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	Course Discontinuation - 13Q Bachelor of Justice Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 13Q Bachelor of Justice Studies. Arrangements are in place to teach-out the course.
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	Course Discontinuation - 53G Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 53G Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine.

		<p>The new Bachelor of Biomedicine (M3X) has replaced (53G) Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine from the semester 1, 2024 intake. Current students will not be affected by this change but have been informed of this change at course information sessions and via email.</p>
CoHM	Course Discontinuation - M5E Graduate Certificate in Counselling for Education Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M5E Graduate Certificate in Counselling for Education Professionals. The last availability for this course was Semester 1 2023 and there will be no further intakes with immediate effect. The Degree Coordinator will contact all students currently enrolled in the program to advise that their degree is unaffected, however it will not be offered to future cohorts.
CoHM	Course Discontinuation - M5F Graduate Certificate in Counselling for Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M5F Graduate Certificate in Counselling for Health Professionals. The last availability for this course was Semester 1 2023 and there will be no further intakes with immediate effect. The Degree Coordinator will contact all students currently enrolled in the program to advise that their degree is unaffected, however it will not be offered to future cohorts.
CoHM	Course Discontinuation - M7U Master of Laboratory Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M7U Master of Laboratory Medicine. The new Master of Laboratory Medicine (H7L) has replaced the Master of Laboratory Medicine (M7U) from the semester 2, 2023 intake.
CoSE	Component Discontinuation - NEESPC01 <i>Electrical and Electronics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of component NEESPC01 Electrical and Electronics. Students in the current curriculum doing this specialisation will be able to complete it. The plan is that students entering 2nd year in 2024 will not be given the option to take this specialisation. If any students have selected it already they will be counselled into taking either electrical power or electronics and communications.
CoHM	New Course Suite - Advanced Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Senate approved creation of the following new courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Advanced Practice (Specialisation) Graduate Diploma of Advanced Practice (Specialisation) Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice. Academic Senate approved creation of the following new components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dementia</i> <i>Governance</i> <i>Health Service Improvement</i> <i>Healthcare Education</i> <i>Organisational Performance</i> <i>Strategic Communication</i> <i>Supply Chain and Logistics</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Workplace Psychology.</i>
CALE	Significant Amendment - A3E Bachelor of Adult and Applied Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course A3E Bachelor of Adult and Applied Learning.
CoHM	Significant Amendment - M3S Bachelor of Dementia Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course M3S Bachelor of Dementia Care.
CALE	Course Discontinuation - 43F Bachelor of Education (Applied Learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 43F Bachelor of Education (Applied Learning). Of the students currently enrolled in 43F, 40-60 students remain on the pathway to complete 43F, with all other remaining students having elected to complete A3E. These students will be transferred to A3E Bachelor of Adult and Applied Learning (BAAL), which is currently an exit only award from the Bachelor of Education (Applied Learning), as their chosen exit point.
CoSE	Component Amendment – ESTMJR01 Sustainability Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Senate noted the amendments to component ESTMJR01 <i>Sustainability</i> that were approved by UCUPC on 16 August 2023.