

Academic Senate Meetings – 3 May & 12 May 2023 Report to 28 June 2023 University Council Meeting

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 3 May and 12 May 2023 meetings:

Special Meeting of Academic Senate – 3 May 2023

This special meeting of Academic Senate was convened to consider the University's response to the forthcoming referendum that seeks a change to the Australian Constitution to recognise Australian Aboriginals as the first Australians and the establishment of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. A listening session was facilitated by the Vice-Chancellor where a panel of Indigenous colleagues were asked to share their thoughts around the two possible outcomes of the referendum. After discussing the University's draft Statement, Senate noted the University's approach to the Referendum and endorsed the Statement specifically in respect of the leadership position of Academic Senate.

Academic Senate – 12 May 2023

Strategic Session – University Initiatives, Programs and Experiences

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) Student President introduced the first Strategic Session on University Initiatives, Programs and Experiences. Seven additional students joined Senate student representatives to lead a total of nine breakout groups with each group discussing some or all of the following topics:

- The incoming student experience – first contact until end of first semester
- High impact student experiences – learning and extra-curricular
- Key influences – why do students study at UTAS?
- Student Life experience – accommodation/housing, appeals, extensions etc
- Barriers to study – real and perceived.

At the conclusion of the session the acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Success and Equity) agreed to triage the issues to the responsible staff members and report back to Senate at a subsequent meeting.

Strategic Session – Professional Development and Support for Academic Staff

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) (DVCE) introduced the second Strategic Session on professional development and support for academic staff, particularly those new to teaching at UTAS, stating that learning and teaching was core to everything we do and it was important that everyone was engaged in building a high-quality, consistent, systematic approach. This session started with questions around what new teaching staff at UTAS needed to know and what Senate thought were the best ways for that information to be conveyed effectively. Senate members were then split into breakout groups to consider the following additional questions:

- How do we support all staff to engage in a culture of continuous quality improvement in learning and teaching? When they start teaching at UTAS and ongoing.
- What is a reasonable volume of learning?
- How can the colleges and the centre work together to assess expected engagement?

At the conclusion of the session, the DVCE advised Senate that outcomes from the discussions would be considered and fed into how professional development for academic staff at UTAS would progress going forward.

Report from Student Representatives

The TUSA Student President advised Senate of current student concerns, including safety and security on the Newnham Campus, details around assessment weighting and recorded content not being communicated effectively, short-term housing issues, increases to HECS indexation, and TUSA's opposition to how students

had been consulted with in relation to the southern campus move. The DVCA responded to the issue of student safety, noting that a better governance model was needed for student safety in Launceston, and that an oversight mechanism for areas of risk and improving the student experience would be submitted to the University Executive Team (UET) and to student representatives for consultation. In relation to the Southern Campus move, the DVCA stated that stronger mechanisms for student engagement would be developed and not just for campus transformation, but for a range of issues that impact on the student experience.

Monitoring and Assurance Committee (MAC) Report

Academic Senate received their first report from the inaugural meeting of MAC. The MAC agenda is compiled of reports that have been previously submitted to other committees of Senate, or to Senate itself, that have been identified as needing further interrogation. MAC can also request that reports are developed especially for their consideration. The role of this newly established committee of Senate is to deeply consider and interrogate the reports presented, identify gaps in the information provided, and advise Academic Senate of any identified risks to the University.

Next Meeting of Academic Senate

The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Friday 30 June 2023.

Appendix 1:

Decisions by Senate at the 12 May 2023 Academic Senate meeting.

Appendix 1 – Academic Senate Decisions at the 12 May 2023 Academic Senate Meeting

College	Title	Resolution
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	Units with Ungraded Pass Grading Scheme	Academic Senate approved the use of an ungraded pass grading scheme for the following units: LCA601, LCA602, LCA603, LCA604, LCA605, LCA606 and LCA607.
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	New Course - Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Organisational Capability	Academic Senate approved creation of the new course Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Organisational Capability.
CoBE	Course Discontinuation - X1G1 Diploma of General Studies (Toolkits)	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course X1G1 Diploma of General Studies (Toolkits). [Administrative version of course was created for cohort management and is no longer required – X1G is still open to enrolments]
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	Significant Amendment - M7Q Master of Professional Psychology	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course M7Q Master of Professional Psychology.
CoHM	Significant Amendment - M7G Master of Speech Pathology	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course M7G Master of Speech Pathology.
CoHM	Significant Amendment - H5C Graduate Certificate in Midwifery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course H5C Graduate Certificate in Midwifery. 2. Academic Senate approved the creation of new component <i>Neonatal Intensive and Special Care</i>. 3. Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of components <i>Neonatal Intensive Care</i> (CNSSPC01 and CNSSPC02) and <i>Special Care of the Newborn</i> (COSSPC01 and COSSPC02). [These two units are now combined into one new component titled Neonatal Intensive and Special Care]
CoHM	Course Discontinuation - M5V Graduate Certificate (Clinical Redesign)	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M5V Graduate Certificate (Clinical Redesign). [The terminology “Clinical Redesign” no longer represents the course prompting a change in course title to “Healthcare Redesign”]
CoHM	Course Discontinuation - 53E Bachelor of Medical Research	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 53E Bachelor of Medical Research. [New Bachelor of Biomedicine course offering will replace the current 53E Bachelor of Medical Research]
CoHM	Component Discontinuation - CNTSPC03 Paediatric Care	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of component CNTSPC03 <i>Paediatric Care</i> . [The specialisation has never been offered in the Graduate Certificate in Midwifery, and midwives who are not nurses are unable to work in paediatrics. No students are impacted]

CoHM	Units with Ungraded Pass Grading Scheme	Academic Senate approved the use of an ungraded pass grading scheme for the following units: CAA321 and CXA745.
College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Significant Amendment - P3T Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course P3T. 2. Academic Senate approved the creation of the following new components: <i>Application and Web Development</i>, and <i>Networks and Cyber Security</i>.
CoSE	Significant Amendment - K7I Master of Information Technology and Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course K7I. 2. Academic Senate approved the creation of the following new components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence</i> ○ <i>ICT Professional Experience</i> ○ <i>Software Development</i>, and ○ <i>Systems Analysis</i>.
CoSE	New Course - Undergraduate Certificate in Climate Awareness and Action	Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Undergraduate Certificate in Climate Awareness and Action.
CoSE	New Course - Graduate Certificate in Agribusiness (Exit Only Award)	Academic Senate approved the creation of the Graduate Certificate in Agribusiness as an exit-only award.
Division of Student Services and Operations	Education Centre Australia (ECA) use of the Program “EL SIS” for English Language Packages	Academic Senate approved ECA to use the English Language Program “EL SIS” for packages with degree programs for students on the Melbourne campus that do not meet the English Language requirements for direct entry, and agreed to add EL SIS to the list of acceptable ELICOS programs for all UTAS students to use to demonstrate English language proficiency for direct entry.
Division of Student Services and Operations	Assessing International Pathway College Students for Admission	<p>Academic Senate approved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University adopts a generic admission criterion of ‘successful completion of Foundation Studies Program’ – subject to any additional course-specific entry requirements • A course Weighted Average Mark (WAM) is calculated for IPC Foundation graduates • The WAM is used to provide additional information for the purpose of admission to courses requiring a higher level of academic achievement, and for the assessment of scholarship eligibility.
Division of Student Services and Operations	Adjustment to English Requirements for International First Year Diploma at International Pathway College	Academic Senate approved the adjustments to English language requirements for International First Year Diploma at International Pathway College.
Division of the Vice-Chancellor	Monitoring and Assurance Committee Terms of Reference	Academic Senate approved changes to the Monitoring and Assurance Committee’s Terms of Reference.

Division of the Vice-Chancellor	Minor Amendments to the Academic Senate Ordinance	Academic Senate endorsed amendments to the Academic Senate Ordinance and recommended the amendments to University Council for approval.
Division of the Vice-Chancellor	Minor Amendments to the Academic Senate Membership Procedure	Academic Senate endorsed amendments to the Academic Senate Membership Procedure subject to the replacement of the current wording in Section 7.6(c) with the following wording: <i>Nominees should advise their School or Institute Head (or equivalent) of their nomination so that the impact of their proposed participation may be accommodated within work plans</i> and recommended the amendments to the Director, Governance and Compliance for approval.