Academic Senate Meetings – 30 June 203
Report to 30 August 2023 University Council Meeting

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 30 June 2023 meeting:

Opening Address
Dr Helen Gniel, Director of Higher Education Integrity at the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) addressed Senate on academic integrity. Dr Gniel advised Senate that for the first ten years of TEQSA's establishment, it focussed on single provider risk, but had now moved to focus on problem centric risk. This change in focus had led to the establishment of the integrity unit where the current three focus areas were contract cheating, cyber security, and generative artificial intelligence (AI). Dr Gniel advised that AI was transformational and here to stay and that it was only going to get more powerful, therefore all academics should be experimenting with the technology so they know what it can do.

Strategic Session – Generative AI in Research
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research (DVCR) advised Senate that a person-centric approach would be the focus in relation to the use of generative AI in research and that the University Executive Team (UET) was not separating out staff and student use, but rather thinking of generative AI as a tool for teaching and research and treating its use in the same way for both. Senate was warned of the dangers of entering data into generative AI platforms, advising that the worst case scenario was the complete loss of the value of that data. Senate members suggested that the principles around the use of generative AI needed to be the focal point and that this issue presented an opportunity for everyone to learn together and to bring all the resources together in one place. Senate was informed that the benefits of generative AI far outweighed the risks, and that formal channels of communication and policy were needed to ensure consistency of messages across the colleges. The Chair summarised the discussion by stating that generative AI provided a genuine paradigm shift and a transformation around systems and governance that would fundamentally change how everyone worked, and that this provided exciting opportunities for new ways of working together.

In relation to AI in learning and teaching, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education (DVCE) noted the main challenge was to ensure students were achieving learning outcomes. Senate was informed that AI was having a substantial impact on academic integrity breaches and that forums would be run over the coming weeks for both students and staff to ensure a greater understanding of how best to use generative AI without compromising academic integrity.

Report from Student Representatives
The TUSA Student President advised Senate that qualitative student feedback from Semester 1 was overall positive, particularly in relation to increased student presence on campus and student satisfaction with classes. Senate was informed that there had been a notable increase in positive feedback from students around staff engagement with students, which was speaking to the beginnings of improvements through the students as partners initiative. In relation to the cost of living increase and the effect it was having on students, Senate was advised that TUSA had seen an over 150% increase in financial related appointments with student advisors in the last eighteen months, noting that students in financial stress were TUSA's biggest priority at the moment and TUSA was increasing their support through initiatives such as the food hub, which would include a free food pantry and food education programs.

The UTAS Principles for Teaching Practice
Senate members were informed that the UTAS Principles were institutional principles for teaching that were intended to provide an evidence base to document and improve teaching quality and not

performance expectations. Senate was informed that the principles would be reviewed after a year to support the continuous improvement cycle.

Programmatic Model for Academic Quality Improvement
Senate was advised that the Programmatic Model for Academic Quality Improvement was the first draft of the plan for Academic Division going forward, and was intended to be a coherent and programmatic way of progressing multiple initiatives whilst supporting colleagues and empowering colleges through a co-design approach, noting that the model was intended to be supported through the Students as Partners initiative. Senate was informed that the Teaching Improvement Program would be accelerating the quality agenda and work on this program was progressing robustly, noting that feedback was welcomed and that a more fulsome paper on that program would be brought back to a subsequent meeting of Senate.

Next Meeting of Academic Senate
The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be held on Friday 1 September 2023.

Appendix 1:
Decisions by Senate at the 30 June 2023 Academic Senate meeting.

Appendix 1 - Academic Senate Decisions at the 30 June 2023 Academic Senate Meeting

College/Division	Title	Resolution or Outcome
All	Use of Generative AI in Learning and Teaching	• All staff, including sessional staff, should attend a session on the use of generative AI and the support available through the Academic Integrity Advisors network.
All	Report from Student representatives	• The DVCE advised that the University was committed to a high quality on-campus experience for students which meant a bare minimum of two hours on campus per unit per week, and this needed to start in week one.
Academic Division	The UTAS Principles for Teaching Practice	• Academic Senate endorsed the UTAS Principles for Teaching Practice.
All	Course and Cohort monitoring	• Associate Deans Learning and Teaching Performance to report back to Senate on the current course and cohort monitoring approach used in each College.
Academic Division	Programmatic Model for Academic Quality Improvement	• Academic Senate endorsed the approach outlined in the Programmatic Model for Academic Quality Improvement discussion paper.

College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	New Course Proposal - Bachelor of Geospatial Science	• Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Bachelor of Geospatial Science.
		• Academic Senate approved creation of the following new components:
		  ○ Surveying,
		  ○ Landscape Systems, and
		  ○ Data Analytics.

College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	New Course - Undergraduate Certificate in Auditing and Assurance	• Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Undergraduate Certificate in Auditing and Assurance.
CoBE	New Course - Undergraduate Certificate in Taxation	• Academic Senate approved the creation of new course Undergraduate Certificate in Taxation.
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	Course Discontinuation - A7U Master of Tourism, Environmental & Cultural Heritage	• Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course A7U Master of Tourism, Environmental & Cultural Heritage as it is no longer viable. Current students will be able to continue with their studies and achieve completion of course.
CoSE	Course Discontinuation - P3M Bachelor of Natural Environment and Wilderness	• Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course P3M Bachelor of Natural Environment and Wilderness, as it has been replaced by P3J Bachelor of Natural Environments and Conservation from July 2023. All students in this degree have already been directly contacted about the new P3J

		degree, and we are additionally having online and face-to-face information sessions relating to the advantages and disadvantages of remaining in this degree or transferring to the new one. Students can choose to stay in the same degree if they want to, if so they will be unaffected by the availability of the new degree or the units in their current offering.
CoSE	Course Discontinuation - 73G Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences	• Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 73G Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences which is proposed to be replaced by the new Bachelor of Geospatial Science. Students will be contacted by the course coordinator and course advisors to advise of when the new course is available and offer advice on how to transition to the new course if they choose. For those who wish to stay in this course, their enrolment is unaffected and they will be advised as such.
CoSE	Course Discontinuation - 70G Undergraduate Certificate in Engineering Fundamentals	• Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 70G Undergraduate Certificate in Engineering Fundamentals. This course has no enrolled students.
Vice-Chancellor's Division	University Learning and Teaching Committee Terms of Reference	• Academic Senate approved proposed changes to the University Learning and Teaching Committee Terms of Reference.