

ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING – 3 April 2018

Membership Elections and Chair Appointment

The next term of Academic Board commences on 31 July 2018, accordingly the process of membership elections and the appointment of the Chair (Academic Board) are underway. Information on both of these processes is available on the [Academic Board website](#). The deadline for nominations is **9.00am, Tuesday 8 May 2018**.

Academic Governance

Academic Board members were provided with a professional development presentation on the topic of Academic Governance. The Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) describes Academic Governance as “the framework of policies, structures, relationships, systems and processes that collectively provide leadership to and oversight of a higher education provider’s academic activities”. ‘Academic activities’ include teaching, learning, scholarship, research and research training for higher degrees by research. The TEQSA guidance note on [Academic Governance](#) can provide further information on this topic. Academic Governance is a core function of Academic Board.

Security of Exam Papers

A comprehensive report was made to Academic Board regarding the concern that an exam paper had potentially been accessed inappropriately. While no inappropriate access was identified, this incident is a good reminder that the security of exam papers is vital.

Graduate Attributes Statement

A Working Group has been undertaking a consultative process to develop a Graduate Attributes Statement. The Statement reflects values and articulates the qualities that USQ graduates should attain. It is recognised that it will require commitment to produce graduates with these attributes. The Statement has been developed as a part of the Qualities of a Graduate Policy review process.

Program Re/Accreditations

Academic Board recommended that the Vice-Chancellor approve the reaccreditation of the Master of Philosophy, with Research Training Scheme status, from 1 May 2018.

Access to Academic Board

Academic Board has agreed that its agendas and minutes should be available to the University community and they are now available on the [Academic Board website](#). Agendas are published approximately one week prior to each meeting. If you wish to be an observer to an Academic Board meeting please contact the [Secretary \(Academic Board\)](#) a minimum of one working day prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Academic Board is scheduled for 5 June 2018.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE and RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Education Committee met on 8 March and considered a number of issues including:

- Graduate Attributes Statement
- Master of Philosophy (MPHL), and
- Bachelor of General Studies (BGEN).

There was significant discussion around the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of General Studies and whether the program, as proposed, met the requirements of the [Higher Education Standards](#). Changes to the program were proposed and the desire to improve systems to ensure all programs are developed in accordance with the Standard was recognised.

Research Committee met on 13 March 2018. The main discussion focused on the provision of updates from, and agreeing the next steps for, the three working groups:

- Quality of HDR students
- Quality of research programs and supervision
- Quality of HDR student experience

The Quality of Research Programs and Supervision working group identified the Research Supervision Toolkit which had been developed in conjunction with USQ Professors Erwee and Cater-Steel. It is available in the [Research Supervisor's Portal](#).

If you have any questions regarding the activities of Academic Board or its Standing Committees, please do not hesitate to contact academic.board@usq.edu.au.