

ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING – 19 November 2019

TEQSA Re-registration Condition

Members were updated in relation to the Board's progress towards addressing the TEQSA re-registration condition, highlighting that all required submissions were made to TEQSA by the due date of 30 September 2019, including minutes of Council and Academic Board for the previous 12 months. The University will continue to work towards embedding and, where required, refining the various initiatives and strategies that have been put in place. The next submission to TEQSA is due on 30 September 2020.

Updates were provided on action plans arising from the 2017 Academic Board Internal Audit Progress Review, the PwC Academic Restructure Enablement Report, and the 2019 Academic Board Self-Assessment Survey. Members were advised that actions are progressing well.

Academic Quality Framework

A review of academic quality systems was endorsed by Academic Board earlier this year, and the Board was advised that work is on track for the three recommendations currently underway.

- The building of a standardised suite of reports is progressing, with sample reports being produced and refined.
- The establishment of a schedule of formal curriculum conversations at a survey, course, program, faculty, and University reporting level, for reporting through Academic Board to Council is expected to be completed by 30 November 2019.
- A proposal for the establishment of the Academic Quality Team will be progressed to the Vice-Chancellor for approval in the near future.

Academic Integrity Framework

Members were advised that a comprehensive review of all aspects of Academic Integrity is currently underway. Academic Board approved the Academic Integrity Project to establish a coordinated and systematic approach to promoting academic integrity and preventing, detecting and managing academic misconduct at USQ, and the establishment of an Academic Integrity Working Party to lead this work.

Working Group Updates

Academic Freedom Working Group

At an earlier meeting this year, a working group was established to review the University's existing approach to Academic Freedom, with a view to developing a standalone USQ policy. An update of the work of this group was provided, and a draft 'Statement of Principles Guiding an Overarching Policy on Academic Freedom at USQ' was tabled. These principles will be considered at the 18 February 2020 meeting of Academic Board, for forwarding to Council.

Academic Board Terms of Reference Review Working Group

At an earlier meeting this year, a working group was established to review the Academic Board Terms of Reference in response to the results of the 2019 Academic Board Self-Assessment Survey. The draft Terms of Reference were considered but members agreed that further amendments were required before forwarding to Council for approval.

Program Re/accreditation

Academic Board made the following recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor, which were subsequently approved:

- that the Master of Business Administration (MBAD) be **reaccredited** with new program code (MBAL) from 1 January 2020 for 5 years, and that the Graduate Certificate of Business Administration (GCBA) and the Graduate Diploma of Business Administration (GDBA) be **accredited** from 1 January 2020 for 5 years;
- that the proposed **major changes** to the Master of Information Systems (MISP) be approved from Semester 1 2020;

- that the Master of Adaptive Leadership (MALP) and the Graduate Diploma of Adaptive Leadership (GDAL) (exit point only) be **accredited** from 1 January 2020 for 5 years; and
- that the new Statistics Major within the Bachelor of Science (BSCI) be **accredited** from 1 July 2020.

In 2019, Academic Board has recommended fifteen (15) new programs for accreditation and ten (10) existing programs for reaccreditation.

Items of Interest from the Chair

The 2019 [Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework](#) (AQF) has been released, which focuses on a re-invigoration of the connection between the VET and university sectors, micro-credentialing, and creating a less complex AQF structure.

The final report of the [Review of the Higher Education Provider Category Standards](#) has also been released, which focuses on the simplification of provider categories from six down to four, and the link between research and the definition of a university.

Academic Board Minutes, Agendas and Bulletins

Academic Board minutes, agendas and bulletins can be accessed on the Academic Board website at www.usq.edu.au/about-usq/governance-leadership/governance/academic-board

Next meeting of Academic Board

The next meeting of Academic Board will be held on 18 February 2020 at 1pm. The 2020 USQ meeting schedule can be accessed on the [Governance Website](#) 'Meeting dates'. If you wish to attend Academic Board as an observer, please forward your request to attend to the [Secretary \(Academic Board\)](#) a minimum of one business day prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the activities of Academic Board or its Standing Committees, feel free to contact academic.board@usq.edu.au