

ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING – 20 November 2018

TEQSA Re-registration Condition

The TEQSA Implementation Group (TIG) has continued to meet, and a report will be provided to the December 2018 meeting of Council, which includes a number of items relating to Academic Board and the University's TEQSA re-registration condition. The Chair provided an update on the progress of the data dashboard, which is intended to provide comprehensive diagnostic updates on data and cohort tracking and is a critical component of addressing the TEQSA re-registration requirement. Mr Robert Wood (Acting Director, Strategic Information Services) provided a demonstration of the dashboard using the live draft version, and showed members how to navigate and use the dashboard.

Chairs of Academic Boards, Senates and Secretaries Conference

The Chair and the Secretary of Academic Board recently attended the 2018 Australian Chairs of Academic Boards, Senates and Secretaries (CABSS) Conference in Adelaide. A number of issues of interest were discussed including Academic Board engagement with emerging business models, the current review of the Australian Qualification Framework, the announcement of a review of Provider Standards, and the development of a National Admissions Transparency Information web site. The following topics of relevance to USQ were discussed in detail at the Academic Board meeting:

Academic Freedom

Academic Freedom, and how this is recognised and addressed at the institutional level was a topic of discussion at the CABSS Conference. At USQ, Academic Freedom is currently embedded in two policies, USQ Code of Conduct Policy and USQ Media Engagement Policy. The Chair agreed to prepare a paper for discussion at the February 2019 Academic Board meeting to address any shortcomings of the University's current policy, and identify whether updates are required.

Academic Integrity

A presentation on Academic Integrity, with a focus on contract cheating, was provided by Associate Professor Tracey Bretag at the CABSS conference. Three main factors noted as contributing to contract cheating were; English as a second language, perceptions that there are lots of opportunities to cheat, and dissatisfaction with the teaching and learning environment.

Working Groups of Academic Board

A number of Academic Board working groups were established at the Academic Board meeting of 25 September 2018 - the Governance of Academic Quality Framework Working Group, Academic Board Self-assessment Survey Working Group, Academic Delegations Schedule Working Group, and the Draft Academic Risk Register Working Group. Each of the working groups have met on two occasions since the September 2018 Academic Board meeting and it was noted that significant progress has been made.

USQ Academic Calendar

Following a recommendation from Education Committee, Academic Board held a discussion regarding the USQ Academic Calendar, and whether a trimester approach should be considered in place of the current semester approach. The Academic Calendar is set five (5) years in advance, and is currently set to 2020. It was decided that further research

should be undertaken and a working group from Academic Board was created to gather information and provide recommendations back to the Board for consideration.

Review of USQ Policy and Procedure

A number of issues have been identified by the Division of Students and Communities as part of Academic Appeals processing, and the Board agreed that areas of USQ Policy and Procedure need review. The Chair, Academic Board and the Head (Students and Communities) agreed to work collaboratively to facilitate a review and prepare a paper to present to Academic Board in the New Year.

Program Accreditations

The following programs were recommended to the Vice-Chancellor for approval, and were subsequently approved:

- the Graduate Diploma of Editing and Publishing (GDPU) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;
- the Graduate Certificate of Public Relations (GCPR) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;
- the Graduate Diploma of Public Relations (GDPR) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;
- the Graduate Certificate of Professional Communication (GCMM) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;
- the Associate Degree of Creative Arts (ADCA) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;
- the Graduate Certificate of Leadership and Coaching (GCLC) be accredited from 1 January for 5 years; and
- the Graduate Certificate of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion (GCDI) be accredited from 1 January 2019 for 5 years;

In 2018, Academic Board recommended to the Vice-Chancellor fifteen (15) existing programs for reaccreditation and nine (9) new programs for accreditation.

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 19 February 2019. If you wish to attend Academic Board as an observer, 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