UNIVERSITY *of* TASMANIA

Academic Senate Meeting – 8 March 2024
Report to 3 May 2024 University Council Meeting

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 8 March 2024 meeting:

Report from Student Representatives
The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) Student President, Mr Liam McLaren, advised Senate that TUSA had released a Media Statement on the Israel-Palestine Crisis. The Statement was developed with stakeholder consultation over a two month period. The development of the Statement, including the consultation process, was undertaken under the umbrella of inclusion, safety and support, and the Statement was written from a strengths perspective that called out the wrongs of the situation. The full Statement was circulated to Senate members after the meeting.

Strategic Session – Theory of Change for Learning and Teaching
Senate members participated in a Strategic Session on the Theory of Change for Learning and Teaching. Prof Mitch Parsell and Dr Valeriya Komyakova facilitated the session. Senate were informed that the Theory of Change was a methodology used to plan, participate, and evaluate change and improvement, and further, to articulate the underlying assumptions and beliefs that drive the change process. The Strategic Session focussed on how Schools and Institutes might use the newly developed Theory of Change agenda, how they would embed the accountabilities in their Educational Quality approach and what resources they would require. At the end of the session, the Chair encouraged Senate to think about how the document might be used and to submit any further feedback to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education (DVCE). The Chair asked that Senate see the next iteration of the document so Senate members can decide if they support it going forward.

Development of an Action Plan in Response to Generative Artificial Intelligence
Senate were advised that TEQSA would be issuing a request for information (RFI) in June to all providers for submission of action plans related to the development and progression of an institutional strategy in relation to engagement with the impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). The DVCE informed Senate that, although the University was embracing the benefits that AI can offer students in their educational journeys, it was also conscious of the need to use AI ethically in line with University principles of conduct, and that the strategy and action plan would need to address both of these imperatives. Senate were further informed that UTAS needed to equip students for an AI-led workforce, therefore UTAS needed to assure TEQSA that the appropriate governance and mechanisms to support students were in place. The DVCE stated that the response to TEQSA would be submitted to Senate prior to it being sent to TEQSA.

Course and Unit Performance Monitoring and Review Procedure
Senate were advised of the introduction of a new Procedure, the *Course and Unit Performance Monitoring and Review Procedure*, and asked, given Academic Senate's role in the governance of course quality, to consider the most appropriate way to monitor this process, including what reports Senate might receive and when Senate might receive these. The Chair noted that the current summary reports Senate received were not effective and couldn't fully expend Senate's governance responsibilities in this space. The Chair reminded Senate to also think about the role of the Monitoring and Assurance Committee (MAC), and suggested that a plan be developed to bring back to Senate, noting that Senate seeing 2022 reports at the end of 2023 was not acceptable and that timelines needed to be a significant consideration.

Next Meeting of Academic Senate
The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be held on 31 May 2024.

Appendix 1: Decisions by Senate at the 8 March 2024 Academic Senate meeting.

Appendix 1 - Academic Senate Decisions at the 8 March 2024 Academic Senate Meeting

College	Title	Resolution or Outcome
All	Strategic Session – Theory of Change for Learning and Teaching	Academic Senate: • Considered how Schools and Institutes might use the newly developed Theory of Change Agenda. • Provided feedback from Schools, Colleges and Institutes on the Accountabilities in their Educational Quality document and how this could be embedded. • Considered what resources Schools and Institutes may require to support their Educational Quality approach. • Requested the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education (DVCE) to provide an updated Accountabilities document to Senate for endorsement.
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	Standing Academic Committee Report	Academic Senate noted the Report from the Standing Academic Committee (SAC) which advised Senate that SAC had approved the following curriculum changes on Senate's behalf: • Creation of a new course called 'Non Award – International UCP and HAP', to ensure international students were enrolled in UCP and HAP in a legislatively appropriate way. • The removal of the Cradle Coast teaching location for the Marketing Major in B3A Bachelor of Business, noting that this major was the least popular at that location and students could still complete Marketing on-campus at Launceston (in the accelerated study periods), online in both accelerated mode and normal semester mode, and on-campus in Hobart in normal semester mode.
All	AQF Levels for Vertical Doubles	• Academic Senate approved stating the AQF level of vertical doubles at the AQF level of the higher qualification in course proposal documentation. • Academic Senate noted the plan to simplify how vertical doubles were handled across UTAS.
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	New Vertical Double – Bachelor of Arts and Master of Strategic Communication	Academic Senate approved the creation of new vertical double Bachelor of Arts and Master of Strategic Communication.
CoBE	Structure Amendment – X1M Diploma of Pharmacy Studies	Academic Senate noted the amendments to course X1M Diploma of Pharmacy Studies.

CoBE	Structure Amendment – Business Stream in 21A Diploma of University Studies	Academic Senate noted the amendments to component BAMSTR04 *Business*.

CoBE	New Course – Diploma of Applied Technologies (Specialisation)	Academic Senate:
		• Approved the creation of course Diploma of Applied Technologies (Specialisation), and
		• Approved the creation of the following new components:
		    o BMASPC04 *Sustainable Business*
		    o CHSSPC01 *Fermentation*
		    o ITESPC08 *ICT*
		    o MECSPC01 *Extractive Industries*
		    o MFESPC01 *Advanced Manufacturing*
		    o SSCSPC02 *Cyber Security*.

CoBE	Significant Amendment – X1C International First Year Diploma Engineering	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to X1C International First Year Diploma Engineering.
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	Amendment to Domestic Admission Requirements – H7L Master of Laboratory Medicine	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course H7L Master of Laboratory Medicine.
CoBE	Component Amendment – Change in Structure for BUSMJR02 *Business Analytics*	Academic Senate noted the amendments to BUSMJR02 *Business Analytics*.
CoBE	Course Discontinuation – 37L Master of Marketing Management	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 37L Master of Marketing Management due to a decline in enrolments, which is reflected across the sector. At the time of this proposal, there were no students with accepted offers for commencement for 2024, and continuing students have been considered and allowed for in the discontinuation planning.

College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Component Discontinuation – Geospatial Science Major in P3O Bachelor of Science	Academic Senate: • Approved the discontinuation of component GETMJR01 *Geospatial Science* due to low enrolments over time, and because it is duplicated in the Bachelor of Geospatial Science offered separately at UTAS. • Approved the discontinuation of the *Geospatial Science* major (GETMJR01) from P3O Bachelor of Science and associated double and vertical awards.
All	Development of an Action Plan in Response to Generative Artificial Intelligence	Academic Senate noted that an Action Plan in response to generative artificial intelligence was in development, in response to a request from the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) to the sector for plans to be developed.
All	Course and Unit Performance Monitoring and Review Procedure	Academic Senate: • Noted the Course and Unit Performance Monitoring and Review Procedure. • Agreed that a plan should be developed by the DVCE, based on the discussion at Senate, as to the most appropriate way for Senate to monitor the Course and Unit Performance Monitoring and Review process to ensure Senate was meeting its obligations in relation to the governance of course quality as detailed in the Higher Education Standards Framework, and that plan should be submitted to the May meeting of Senate for approval.