

Academic Senate Meeting – 2 August 2024 Report to 30 August 2024 University Council Meeting

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 2 August 2024 meeting.

Report from Student Representatives

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) Student President, Mr Liam McLaren, advised Senate that the most recent Food Security Report showed an increase from 42% to 53% of students in the severe lack of food security category, noting the need for work to be done in this space, especially on regional campuses and with online cohorts. Mr McLaren congratulated everyone involved in the ongoing advocacy work for International student Devarshi Deka who was left paraplegic after an alleged assault on Hobart's waterfront last year, noting that this work had resulted in the Federal Government granting a permanent visa for Mr Deka which was an excellent outcome. Mr McLaren sought an update on the implementation of recommendations from the recent Lyn Walker Report on Gender Based Violence. Dr James Brann (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Equity and Success) advised that the Action Plan was about to be finalised and should be available by mid-August/early-September. Dr Brann acknowledged that although there was a great deal happening in this space, communications could be better.

Strategic Session 1 – Draft Refreshed University Strategic Plan

The Vice-Chancellor led Senate through a session on the draft Refreshed University Strategic Plan, noting that it was important for Senate to have a discussion as the Strategic Plan included a significant evolution in how the University was organised and that this had implications for academic delegations and governance more generally. Academic Senate discussed the Plan, particularly as it related to academic governance and the role and input of Senate in the implementation of the Plan.

Strategic Session 2 - Graduations

The Chair of Academic Senate led Senate through a session on how best to improve the experience of Graduations for all relevant stakeholders. The Chair presented members with previously collated feedback and a proposed set of principles for Senate's consideration. Senate broke into groups to consider enhancements to graduation ceremonies to ensure the best possible experience for students, their families and friends, and for staff and other key stakeholders. One person from each group reported back to Senate with suggestions from their group's discussions.

Transforming Our Approach to Student Success (Student Retention)

Dr James Brann presented to Senate on 'Transforming Our Approach to Student Success (Student Retention)'. Senate members were informed that completion and success rates at the University needed to lift, and that in early 2024, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education (DVCE) and colleagues visited Georgia State University (GSU) and Massey University to explore data-rich approaches to student success. Dr Brann led Senate through GSU's model which had demonstrated significant and sustained success using a data-rich, whole-of-cohort approach. Dr Brann advised that it was important to note that a whole-of-cohort approach did not negate the need to support under-represented groups but rather placed concern for the most disadvantaged students at the centre of all interventions. As a result of this presentation, Academic Senate endorsed a whole-of-cohort approach to student retention, supported by the recommendations that UTAS:

- Developed a whole-of-university approach through an Equity and Success Strategy;
- Continued to develop its predictive analytic capabilities;
- Developed clear, simple and data-informed course structures;

- Continued to develop its capacity to offer proactive and professional course advising;
- Continued to simplify its administrative processes (e.g., enrolment); and
- Built clear and data-informed induction programs.

The next meeting of Academic Senate will be held on 3 October 2024.

Appendix 1: Decisions by Senate at the 2 August 2024 Academic Senate meeting.

Appendix 1: Academic Senate Decisions at the 2 August 2024 meeting of Academic Senate

College	Title	Resolution or Outcome
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE) and College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Report from the Standing Academic Committee	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach Out Plan Details for 43M Bachelor of Education (Science and Mathematics). • Discontinuation of the Launceston offering of K71 Master of Information and Technology from 1 January 2025. SAC were advised that commencing enrolments in Launceston for K71 had been falling steadily since 2019 and were now below twelve, and this had been the case for the last three years. SAC were informed that this had resulted in small classes, little diversity and few options for group work.
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	Significant Amendment – C6B Graduate Diploma of Professional Accounting	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course C6B Graduate Diploma of Professional Accounting.
CoBE	Significant Amendment – C5B Graduate Certificate in Professional Accounting	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course C5B Graduate Certificate in Professional Accounting.
CoBE	Significant Amendment – C5X Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Organisational Capability	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course C5X Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Organisational Capability.
CoSE	Change of Grading Scheme to Ungraded Pass - XGR504 <i>Advanced Analytical Techniques (CSL)</i>	Academic Senate approved amendment of the Grading Scheme for XGR504 <i>Advanced Analytical Techniques (CSL)</i> to Ungraded Pass.
CoSE	Component Discontinuation – GISHSP01 <i>Geospatial Science Honours</i> Specialisation	Academic Senate approves the discontinuation of component GISHSP01 <i>Geospatial Science Honours</i> . There will no longer be a geospatial major in the Bachelor of Science, and hence students should no longer be offered the Geospatial Science specialisation under S4E Bachelor of Science with Honours.

CALE	Component Discontinuation – FSAMJR10 <i>Art & Curatorial Practice</i>	Academic Senate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the discontinuation of component FSAMJR10 <i>Art and Curatorial Practice</i> due to continuing low enrolments; 2. Approved the removal of FSAMJR10 from the following courses: A3A Bachelor of Arts, R2B Associate Degree in Arts and A1A Diploma of Arts.
CALE	Significant Amendment – 43G Bachelor of Educational Studies	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course 43G Bachelor of Educational Studies.
CoBE	Significant Amendment – C7S Master of Professional Accounting	Academic Senate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved proposed amendments to course C7S Master of Professional Accounting; 2. Approved the discontinuation of component FINSPC05 <i>Financial Planning</i>; 3. Approved the discontinuation of component PHCSPC03 <i>Healthcare Accounting and Administration</i>. <p>These two discontinuations are in response to a number of factors, including changed resourcing in the Australian Institute of Health Services Management (AIHSM), low enrolments at the Launceston campus, and a sector-wide decline in the financial planning industry.</p>
CoSE	Course Amendment – Z1K Diploma of Sustainable Living	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course Z1K Diploma of Sustainable Living.
CoBE	Course Amendment – Z1H Diploma of Applied Health and Community Support	Academic Senate noted the amendments to course Z1H Diploma of Applied Health and Community Support.
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	Course Discontinuation – 54W Bachelor of Health (Public Health) Professional Honours	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course 54W Bachelor of Health (Public Health) Professional Honours. Intake for the course was suspended for 2024 pending review. CoHM has moved away from offering Professional Honours courses, preferring to direct students to Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters courses. 15 students are currently admitted to the course. Those students who do not complete the course, or exit from the course by the end of 2024, will be provided with the option to transfer to the postgraduate course suite with full credit. No teach out of the course will be required.
CoSE	Component Amendment – OCEMJR03 <i>Oceanography</i>	Academic Senate noted the amendments to component OCEMJR03.
CoHM	Course Amendments – Advanced Practice Suite	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57A Master of Advanced Practice (Specialisation) • 56A Graduate Diploma of Advanced Practice (Specialisation)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 55A Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice. <p>Academic Senate approved creation of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Critical Care and Retrieval</i>• <i>Community and Urgent Care</i>• <i>Applied Safety and Quality</i>• <i>Communicable Disease Prevention</i>• <i>Organisational Resilience</i>• <i>Health Economics</i>• <i>Medication Safety.</i>
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