

**Academic Senate Planning Day – 7 December 2023
Report to 1 March 2024 University Council Meeting**

The following major items were considered by Academic Senate at its 7 December 2024 Planning Day:

Universities Accord – Student Support Policy

The Chair and Prof Martin Grimmer (acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Equity and Success, and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Excellence), guided Senate through a planning session in relation to the requirement emanating from the Universities Accord that higher education providers must have, and comply with, a policy that addresses the support that will be provided to their students, in order to assist students to successfully complete the units of study in which they were enrolled. Prof Grimmer stated that UTAS support the idea of a student support policy, but have expressed concern over the deficit nature of the compliance approach to support, noting that a single policy may not be the best tool. Senate were advised that there were no guidelines around the requirement and so institutions were trying to structure their response based on the information in the Amendment Bill. Senate were advised that the Government would accept a policy framework with embedded policies that were available to students, and that UTAS may try to construct an externally facing website as the single source of truth. Senate discussed the advantages and disadvantages of externally facing websites versus internal intranets, and the challenges that were present due to the speed at which the new requirement was expected to be implemented, noting the main focus needed to be that students should know where to go to get help. The Vice-Chancellor expressed the desire to respect what the Government had requested, but to give them something better than what they would expect. Senate split into groups to further consideration this matter. Feedback from the groups (which is summarised in the Minutes) will be collated and Prof Grimmer will incorporate it into the final policy solution.

Academic Capability Framework

Prof Martin Grimmer presented to Senate on the Academic Capability Framework, which he advised would provide a clear and consistent guide for academic staff and managers on the capabilities and outcomes for success across core areas of academic activity. Prof Grimmer shared the ecosystem of processes that impact academic performance and success, noting that they all relate to one another and feed back into each other. These processes included: academic performance; role clarity and work allocation; probation, promotion and achievement; career development and planning; academic capability; and performance and probation expectations. Prof Grimmer stated that currently there was a lack of understanding which led many academics to ponder whether they were ready for a promotion or not. Senate were informed that the aim of the Academic Capability Framework was to support, promote and enhance academic performance, noting that the Framework would be developed and tested now and into 2024 through ongoing consultation, with the final amendments, approval and implementation scheduled for mid-2024. Senate split into groups to further consideration this matter. Feedback from the groups (which is summarised in the Minutes) will be collated and Prof Grimmer will incorporate it into the next iteration of the Framework.

Self-Review of Academic Senate in 2023

Senate were asked to complete the annual Self-Review of Academic Senate. The Chair advised members that Dr Hawkins, as Associate Chair of Senate, would be inviting all level A, B and C members to get together in the new year to discuss opportunities for enhancing their role and experience on Senate. The Chair reminded members that the External Review of Senate would take place in the first quarter of 2024 and that the outcomes of that Review would feed back into Senate. The Chair also mentioned the positive response to the recent Governance Workshops run by the Chair and the Director, Governance and Compliance, noting that they would continue to spread the message in relation to good governance across the University.

Next Meeting of Academic Senate

The next scheduled meeting of Academic Senate will be held on 8 March 2024.

Appendix 1:

Decisions by Senate at the 7 December 2023 Academic Senate Planning Day.

Appendix 1 - Academic Senate Decisions at the 7 December 2023 Academic Senate Planning Day

College	Title	Resolution or Outcome
All	University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted that ULTC approved that, in 2024 colleges and schools would transition to APA7 as the default replacement of Harvard referencing, noting that schools could still use the style of referencing that reflects the discipline if preferred.
College of Business and Economics (CoBE)	Standing Academic Committee (SAC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted that Standing Academic Committee approved the creation of a new non-award course University Connections Program. The University Connections Program will transition from the existing Diploma of General Studies into this new non-award enabling course.
CoBE	Standing Academic Committee (SAC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted that Standing Academic Committee approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of Semester 2, 2024 availabilities as intakes for the following four courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Z1A Diploma of Agribusiness ○ Z1B Diploma of Applied Business ○ Z1H Diploma of Applied Health and Community Support, and ○ Z1J Diploma of Applied Science • the deletion of Semester 2, 2024 availabilities for the following five courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Z2A Associate Degree in Agribusiness ○ Z2C Associate Degree in Applied Business ○ Z2F Associate Degree in Applied Technologies ○ Z2H Associate Degree in Applied Health and Community Support, and ○ Z2J Associate Degree in Applied Science; and • the removal of Semester 2 2024 availability of course Z2E Associate Degree in Design as an intake, noting the course will remain with a Semester 2, 2024 availability as an exit-only point for the Bachelor of Design.
College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)	Standing Academic Committee (SAC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted that Standing Academic Committee approved the proposed renegotiation of the third party delivery agreement with the Centre for Legal Studies for the delivery of course L6B Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from 1 January 2024 for an initial three-year period, with the option to extend for an additional two years.
All	Standing Academic Committee (SAC) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted that Standing Academic Committee approved:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of a shell course in Akari titled ‘Honorary Degree’ to facilitate the awarding of future permissible awards to honorary degree recipients. • the abbreviation for Honorary Degrees to be ‘Hon’ followed by the appropriate abbreviation for the selected award.
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	New Vertical Double – Bachelor of Biomedicine and Master of Laboratory Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved the creation of a new vertical double degree, Bachelor of Biomedicine and Master of Laboratory Medicine. ○ Approved the creation of new component Bachelor of Biomedicine. ○ Approved the creation of new component Master of Laboratory Medicine.
CALE	New Course Nest – Outdoor and Environmental Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved the creation of new course Bachelor of Outdoor and Environmental Education. ○ Approved the creation of new course Diploma of Nature-Based Guiding. ○ Approved the creation of a new vertical double, Bachelor of Outdoor and Environmental Education and Master of Teaching.
CoBE	Pathway Amendments – Diploma of University Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted the structure amendments to the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ERTSTR03 Engineering pathway ○ MSCOTH08 ICT pathway ○ MSCOTH11 Science pathway.
CoBE	Structure Amendment – ZOT Undergraduate Certificate in Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate noted the amendments to course ZOT Undergraduate Certificate in Science.
College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	Course Discontinuation – K7J3 Master of Applied Science (Chemistry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course K7J3 Master of Applied Science (Chemistry) as the chemistry specialisation has been taught out.
CoBE	Discontinuation Update – 37J Master of Business Administration (International)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved the update to the discontinuation of course 37J Master of Business Administration (International) in relation to timelines for the discontinuation. This course was previously approved for discontinuation in March 2022 due to redevelopment of the MBA course suite in line with • the University's Postgraduate Curriculum Transformation Project.
CoBE	Significant Amendment - B3A Bachelor of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course B3A Bachelor of Business.

CoHM	Significant Amendment - H3O Bachelor of Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Academic Senate:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approved proposed amendments to course H3O Bachelor of Nursing.○ Approved the discontinuation of course H3N Bachelor of Nursing.
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