ACADEMIC BOARD

1.30 pm, Tuesday 15 September 2020 by video conference

Members Present: A/Prof Tony Masters (Chair, Academic Board); Prof Jane Hanrahan (Chair, Academic Standards & Policy Committee); A/Prof Wendy Davis (Chair, Academic Quality Committee); A/Prof Michael Kertesz (Chair, Graduate Studies Committee); A/Prof Lenka Munoz (Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee); Prof Shae McCrystal (Chair, HDR Scholarships subcommittee); A/Prof Helen Agus (Science (Life and Environmental Sciences)); A/Prof Tihomir Ancev (Arts & Social Sciences (Economics)); Prof Kathy Belov (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)); Dr Francois Blaniaki (Architecture, Design & Planning); Charlotte Bullock (Student Representative Council nominee); Dr Stephen Cilborn (University of Sydney Business School); Dr Susan Coulson (Health Sciences); Tegan Cox (Faculty Academic Services Committee representative, Brain and Mind Centre); A/Prof Steven Cumming (Health Sciences); A/Prof Haryana Dhillon (Science (Psychology)); Courtney Diggins (UG Student, Engineering); Liam Donohoe (President, Student Representative Council); Narjis Fatima (PG Student, Science); Prof Alan Fekete (Engineering (Computer Science)); Prof Stephen Garton (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Lina Goh (HDR Student, Health Sciences); Dr Tom Goldfinch (Engineering (Civil)); Prof Mark Gorrell (Medicine & Health (Centenary Institute)); A/Prof Thomas Grewal (Medicine and Health (Pharmacy)); Dr Christopher Hartney (Arts & Social Sciences (Literature, Art & Media)); Trent Hammond (HDR Student, Medicine & Health); Prof Jason Harris (Law); Dr Daniela Helbig (Science, History & Philosophy of Science); Dr Grant Hooper (Law); Dr Syeda Zakia Hossain (Health Sciences); Cameron Howlett (PG Student, University of Sydney Business School); Dr Wenyue Hu (Architecture, Design & Planning); Ziyi Hong (Student Representative Council nominee); Prof Duncan Ivison (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)); Prof Lisa Jackson Pulver AM (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services)); Annamaree Jagose (Dean, Arts & Social Sciences); A/Professor Craig Jin (Engineering, Electrical & Information Engineering); Patty Kamvounias (University of Sydney Business School); Katarina Grobler (UG Student, Conservatorium); Philip Kent (Director, University Libraries); James Kite (Medicine & Health (Medical Sciences)); A/Prof Angela Knox (University of Sydney Business School); A/Prof Ghena Krayem (Law); A/Prof Sarah Lewis (Health Sciences); Dr Liwei Li (Engineering (Electrical)); A/Prof Sandra Loshcke (Architecture, Design & Planning); Minran Liu (Co-President, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association); Dane Luo (UG Student, University of Sydney Business School); A/Prof John Lynch (Conservatorium); A/Prof Lynda Matthews (Health Sciences); Anne Mai-Prochnow (Engineering (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering)); Dr Slade Matthews (Medicine & Health (Medical School)); Dr Elaine Mcfadzean (Faculty Academic Services Committee nominee); Dr Carolyn McKay (Law); Shurui Miao (Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association nominee); Sayan Mitra (PG Student, Science); A/Prof Rebekah Moles (Medicine & Health (Pharmacy)); Dr Stephen Mould (Conservatorium); Dr Shanika Nanayakkara (Medicine & Health (Dental School)); Brendon Nelson (Director, Student Administrative Services); A/Prof John O’Byrne (Science (Physics)); Dr James Parkinson (Science (Mathematics & Statistics)); Prof Philippa Pattison (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)); A/Prof Maurice Peat (University of Sydney Business School); Dr Fernanda Penalozza (Arts & Social Sciences (Languages and Cultures)); A/Prof Helen Proctor (Arts & Social Sciences (Economics)); Prof Susanna Scarparo (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Life)); Dr Carl Schneider (Medicine and Health (Pharmacy)); Dr Yash Shrivastava (Engineering, Electrical & Information Engineering); Prof Nicholas Smith (Arts & Social Sciences (Philosophical & Historical Enquiry)); Prof Heiko Spallek (Heads of School Committee representative, Medicine & Health); A/Prof Siegbert Schmid (Science (Chemistry)); Dr Sanet Du Toit (Health Sciences); Dr Olaf Werder (Arts & Social Sciences (Languages and Media)); Prof Greg Whitwell (Dean, University of Sydney Business School); A/Prof Tim Wilkinson (Engineering (Civil)); Prof Peter Wilson (Arts & Social Sciences (Philosophical & Historical Enquiry)); Prof Bronwyn Winter (Arts & Social Sciences (Languages and Culture)); Prof Iain Young (Dean, Science); A/Prof Derek Wyman (Science (Geosciences)); Xinsheng Wu (Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association nominee); Prof Sarah Young (Medicine & Health (Medical Sciences)); A/Prof Jingdong Yuan (Arts & Social Sciences (Social and Political Sciences)); and Dr Sanaa Zaki (Science (Veterinary Science)).

Apologies: Dr Michael Spence AC (Vice-Chancellor and Principal); Prof Simon Bronitt (Dean, Law); James Ardouin (Student Representative Council, UG nominee); A/Prof Leo Davies (Medicine & Health (Medical School)); Prof Glen Davis (Health Sciences); Prof Robyn Dowling (Head of School & Dean, Architecture, Design & Planning); Dr Astrid Frotjold (Medicine & Health (Nursing and Midwifery)); Shrutti Goradia (UG Student, Health Sciences); Shervin Jivani (PG Student, Architecture, Design & Planning); Prof Cheryl Jones (Heads of School Committee representative, Medicine & Health); Hamidreza Kahlaee (Science, Life & Environmental Sciences)).
Attendees: Emma Bowen (Faculty General Manager, Science); Kate Calhau (Executive Assistant to Chair, Academic Board); Prof Ross Coleman (Director Graduate Research); Edwina Grose (Director, Student Operations); Kerrie Henderson (University Policy Manager); Kiuyan Hone (Committee Officer); Andrew Horne (Senior Policy and Projects Officer); Katie Humphries (Committee Officer); Christine Lacey (Curriculum Team Leader, Engineering); A/Prof Peter McCallum (Registrar and Academic Director, Education Policy & Quality); David Pacey (Secretary to Senate); Kate Small (Deputy Chief of Staff); Prof Tim Soutphommasane (Director, Culture Strategy); Rachel Weiss (University Quality Manager); Alyssa White (Manager Governance (Senate & Academic Board)); and Lucinda Wright (Governance Support Officer).

Visitors: Corinne Caillaud (Associate Dean, Education, Sydney School of Health Sciences) was present for item 3.1; and Francisco Bueno (Faculty of Science); Nisharnthi Duggan (Faculty of Science) Dr Lining Arnold Ju (Faculty of Engineering); Dr Caroline Moul (Faculty of Science); Dr Mac Shine (Faculty of Medicine and Health); and Dr Sabin Zahirovic, (Faculty of Science) were present for item 4.3.

CONFIRMED MINUTES

This symbol indicates items that have been starred for discussion at the meeting.

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Note for the Record
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and informed members that the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, was due to appear before the Federal Government's Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment Legislation, and that the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Garton, would present the Vice-Chancellor's Report on his behalf.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Note for the Record
The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of Australia and paid respects to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and to their Elders, past, present and emerging. The Chair recognised their continuing connection to land, country and culture and also paid respects to the elders of the people of the lands on which Academic Board members were situated.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Starring of Items and adoption of unstared items

Resolution AB2020/5-1
The Academic Board resolved to:
1. star items 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5, 6, 7.5, and 12.1; and
2. adopt all unstared items.

Note for the Record
The Chair informed members that in addition to the pre-starred items on the agenda a request was received to star item 7.5.
2.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution AB2020/5-2
The Academic Board resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 July 2020 as a true record and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the amendment to the record for item 6 Question Time.

Note for the Record
A member sought to amend the record of the comment regarding the Vice-Chancellor recruitment and selection process under item 6 Question Time. It was resolved that the comment raised at the meeting be paraphrased to "A member asked “Have we the Academic Board responded to the best of our abilities with regard to our responsibilities and opportunities?” regarding the Academic Board’s contribution to the selection process for the next Vice-Chancellor.”

2.3 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

3 Strategic Items of Business

3.1 Anti-Racism Pledge

Resolution AB2020/5-3
The Academic Board resolved to endorse the Anti-racism Pledge and note the request for individual action from staff members.

Note for the Record
Associate Professor Corinne Caillaud presented the work of the MOSAIC Network and sought the engagement of members with the Anti-racism Pledge. The objective of the Pledge is to highlight action against racism and recognise the various opportunities in the higher education sector to improve diversity and inclusion.

Members were encouraged to engage with the pledge; adopt two actions from the list outlined in the paper; and make the commitment public on the university intranet page, scheduled to be launched at the end of September.

The Board endorsed the Pledge and noted the request for individual action from staff members. The Chair thanked Associate Professor Corinne Caillaud and all staff involved in the development of this initiative.

3.2 2020 Thematic Review Report

Resolution AB2020/5-4
The Academic Board resolved to recommend the Thematic Review 2020 report to the Admissions Subcommittee, and approve the recommendations made by the Thematic Review 2020 report on the Quality of English Language Pathways and Support:

1. To the extent that resources allow it, the panel recommends implementing early engagement strategies as quickly as possible;
2. The panel recommends that the Statistical Analysis of English Language Pathways and Performance Report prepared by the Evaluation and Analytics Team in DVCE be provided annually to the Academic Quality Committee, UE Education and UE Student life;
3. The panel recommends that the University develop a referral process for students identified as requiring specialist support for academic success to faculty resources or to a centralized team of experts. The centralized team of experts will be credited with the time to provide English language support and advice;
4. The panel recommends that the University and Taylors College work closely to ensure that USFP students are adequately prepared to achieve their academic potential at University. This is likely to entail careful analysis of University
performance and possible refinement of preparatory activities at the College and at University;

5. The panel recommends that a pre-arrival transition program include training in everyday English for students as well as recommendations for resources available immediately and throughout their course. Students should be made aware that they are expected to develop their academic, professional and social English throughout their course. Development in specialist academic, professional or everyday English required for a course should be integrated into the full length of the course;

6. The panel recommends that any program of English language support developed at the University includes support and resourcing for academics and provides appropriate upskilling. The panel is aware that resourcing may be limited. The intent of this recommendation is to ensure that any strategies developed include consideration of the most effective deployment of resources to support academics and staff charged with implementing the strategy;

7. The panel recommends that the English Language Support strategy ensures a seamless program of central and faculty support, with the PVC Student Life portfolio and faculties working together, avoiding duplication between faculty and centre work, and ensuring students are aware of the curricular opportunities;

8. The panel recommends that the University include processes for diagnostic evaluation of English skills as part of the new transition units;

9. The panel recommends the University promote awareness of factors impacting student communication skills as part of staff professional development in cultural competence;

10. The panel recommends that pre-arrival information regarding studies and other critical information be translated into the most used languages, other than English, spoken by the student body, both domestic and international.

Note for the Record
Rachael Weiss, University Quality Manager, presented an overview of the Thematic Review 2020 report on the Quality of English Language Pathways and Support, which was initiated to address the University’s poor performance against key Go8 competitors in relation to English language student support. The Thematic Review panel considered analyses of student performance and pathways using information collected from faculties and schools and compared the data with other models adopted by other universities. Emerging from the review was the notion that a whole of institution approach be taken to embed English language support in curriculum, to be realised through the implementation of the ten review recommendations.

Observing that the recommendations focus primarily on student support during candidature, Professor Alan Fekete commented that an alternative approach to consider could involve tightening admissions criteria to improve the distribution of support resources and sought further information regarding the Statistical Analysis of English Language Pathways and Performance and Outcomes Report. The Chair advised that this report would be presented to the Academic Quality Committee.

Professor Fekete then referred to the English language concordance table; queried the equivalence of IELTS and CET scores, and expressed interest in examining the relationship between admission to the University on marginal CET scores compared with equivalent IELTS scores and first year failure rates. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) commented that the various factors impacting on first year failure rates should be explored before adjustments are made to admissions standards.

The Registrar and Academic Director (Education), Associate Professor Peter McCallum provided background on the governance of the University of Sydney Foundation Program (USFP), and as the Chair of the Board of Studies for USFP, informed members that USFP are actively working to address the issues of English language proficiency, having recently mapped English scores against other scores to track performance of students against the English language achievement over overall achievement.
Associate Professor Craig Jin raised a potential discrepancy between the TOEFL IBT scores in the English Language concordance table and the information on the TOEFL IBT website. This query was taken on notice to enable review of the website and correction of the table if necessary. The Board agreed to refer the report to the Admissions Subcommittee for further discussion.

**Action: AB 2020/5-01**
University Quality Manager to note the feedback of the Board; review the TOEFL IBT website and make any necessary amendments to the English Language concordance table in the Thematic Review report; and submit the report to the Admissions Subcommittee for additional discussion.

4 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

4.1 General Report

**Resolution AB2020/5-5**
That the Academic Board note the report from the Chair and note the following Executive Approvals made by the Chair:

1. the approval of a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to move the delivery of Nursing courses from the Mallet St campus to the Camperdown campus;
2. the approval of a proposal from the Registrar and Academic Director (Education) to authorise the extension to the online delivery of units of study and assessment until the end of 2020;
3. the approval of a proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Master of Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations; Master of International Business and Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, with effect from Semester 2 2020;
4. the approval of a proposal from the Vice-Principal (External Relations) and Director, Admissions, Sydney Future Students, to adjust the existing Broadway Scheme to cater for students who have experienced significant disadvantage as a result of 2020 bushfire and pandemic events; and
5. the approval of a proposal from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Executive Director, Student Administration Services to change the dates for the published replacement exam period for Semester 2 2020; additionally, the Board is asked to:
6. approve the Deputy Chair to act on behalf of the Academic Board between Monday 12 October to Friday 23 October inclusive.

**Note for the record**
The Chair updated the Board on the upcoming end-of-year Academic Board charity collection and invited members’ feedback on a suitable cause for this year’s collection.

**Action: AB 2020/5-02**
Executive Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Medicine and Health to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to move the delivery of Nursing courses from the Mallet St campus to the Camperdown campus.

**Action: AB 2020/5-03**
Registrar and Academic Director (Education) to note the Academic Board’s approval of a proposal to authorise the extension to the online delivery of units of study and assessment until the end of 2020.

**Action: AB 2020/5-04**
Dean and School General Manager, University of Sydney Business School to note the Chair of Academic Board’s executive approval of the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Master of Human Resource Management and Industrial
Relations; Master of International Business and Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, with effect from Semester 2 2020.

**Action: AB 2020/5-05**

Vice-Principal (External Relations) and Director, Admissions, Sydney Future Students to note the Chair of Academic Board’s executive approval of the proposal to adjust the existing Broadway Scheme to cater for students who have experienced significant disadvantage as a result of 2020 bushfire and pandemic events.

**Action: AB 2020/5-06**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Executive Director, Student Administration Services to note the Chair of Academic Board’s executive approval of the proposal to change the dates for the published replacement exam period for Semester 2 2020.

### 4.2 Student Members’ Report

**Resolution AB2020/5-6**

The Academic Board resolved to note the report of the student members of the Academic Board.

**Note for the Record**

*Report of Co-President, SUPRA*

Minran Liu, Co-President, SUPRA, brought two student statements to the Academic Board regarding the Draft Change Proposal for the Faculty of Medicine and Health, in relation to the reorganisation of teaching and subsequent impact on supervisory support; the closure of institutes and withdrawal of technical support; and the perceived lack of consultation with the HDR cohort and inadequacy of the one hour webinar in addressing student concerns. The Co-President, SUPRA conveyed their request for a student impact analysis to be completed by the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

The Board recommended that SUPRA formally submit the statements to the Faculty of Medicine and Health to be considered as part of the Draft Change Plan process and advised that the Faculty would be required to formally respond to the statements.

Additionally, Co-President, SUPRA raised reservations about the impact of the VC’s Voluntary Redundancy (VR) program on the availability of supervisors and teachers and reported on a recent meeting between SUPRA and the Director, Graduate Research on the recent amendments to the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015 and issues raised by the student cohort relating to academic integrity breaches.

*Report of the President, SRC*

Liam Donohoe, President, SRC, updated the Board on the recent business of the SRC including the SRC’s 16 page submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2020, and the National Day of Action on 28 August 2020 which was met with disproportionate police presence and repression. The President, SRC informed members of further actions in the pipeline, which would be conducted in accordance with public health guidelines, and recommended that the University take a stronger stance to condemn the actions of police and uphold the right to protest on campus.

To close, members were informed that the 93rd SRC President, Swapnik Sanagavarapu, would assume office from December 1st 2020.

**Action: AB 2020/5-07**

The Co-President, SUPRA, to note the advice of the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor to submit the student statements to the Faculty of Medicine and Health for formal response.

### 4.3 Honours and Distinctions
Resolution AB2020/5-7
The Academic Board resolved to note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on honours and distinctions.

Note for the Record
The Chair congratulated and welcomed to the meeting the recipients of the Young Tall Poppy Awards, Dr Lining Arnold Ju, Faculty of Engineering; Associate Professor Alice Motion, Faculty of Science; Dr Caroline Moul, Faculty of Science; Dr Mac Shine, Faculty of Medicine and Health; and Dr Sabin Zahirovic, Faculty of Science.

The Chair also acknowledged the recent achievements of PhD candidates in the 3 Minute Thesis and Visualise Your Thesis competitions and extended a special welcome to the respective winners, Nisharnthi Duggan, Faculty of Science; and Francisco Bueno, Faculty of Science to present their videos. Members were encouraged to view the winning 3 Minute Thesis competition submission, ‘Maybe we shouldn’t be scared of spiders’ by Nisharnthi Duggan, following the meeting.

Additionally, the Chair congratulated the Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson AC and Dean of the Business School Professor Greg Whitwell, who were both named in The Educator’s sixth annual Higher Education Hot List report.

Action: AB 2020/5-08
Chair of Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.

5 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Resolution AB2020/5-8
The Academic Board resolved to note the Vice-Chancellor’s report.

Note for the Record
Professor Stephen Garton, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, spoke on the behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, and acknowledged the work of Vice-Chancellor, Tim Payne, Director of Higher Education Policy and Projects, Professor John Buchanan, Head of the Discipline of Business Analytics, in leading the University’s response to the Higher Education Reform Package.

On the issue of police repression on campus on 28 August 2020, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor affirmed the University’s support for the right to protest and informed the Board that the University has raised concerns with the NSW Police Area Command and are currently drafting of protocols in partnership with the SRC and NTEU to establish parameters around police conduct on campus.

6 QUESTION TIME

Note for the record
Discussion took place on the 40/20/20 model and comparison to the division of research and education across the sector. Clarification was sought regarding the location of standards and procedures of the Academic Board.

A member raised concerns about the upcoming Voluntary Redundancy Program and the subsequent impact the quality of teaching and research and staff workload, querying the extent to which an upturn in enrolments might mitigate the need for a VR program. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor referred the member to the Draft Change Proposal for further details on financial modelling.

7 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Resolution AB2020/5-9
The Academic Board resolved to note the report from the meetings of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee held on 4 August 2020 and 25 August 20.

7.1 Change to Master of Professional Engineering admission criteria

Resolution AB2020/5-10
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to change the IELTS requirement for the Master of Professional Engineering and the Master of Professional Engineering Accelerated.

**Action: AB 2020/5-09**
Faculty of Engineering to change the IELTS requirement for the Master of Professional Engineering and the Master of Professional Engineering Accelerated.

### 7.2 Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015

**Resolution AB2020/5-11**
The Academic Board resolved to:

1. approve the revisions to the *Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015*; and
2. approve the new *Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Procedures 2020*.

**Action: AB 2020/5-10**
Director, Graduate Research to note the Academic Board’s approval of the revisions to the *Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015* and the new *Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Procedures 2020*.

### 7.3 Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020

**Resolution AB2020/5-12**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the *Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020*.

**Action: AB 2020/5-11**
Director, Graduate Research to note the Academic Board’s approval of the *Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020*.

### 7.4 Amendments to Enrolment Suspensions

**Resolution AB2020/5-13**
The Academic Board resolved to:

1. approve the proposed amendments to the *Coursework Policy 2014*; and
2. endorse and recommend that the University of Sydney Senate approve the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority) Rule 2020*.

**Action: AB 2020/5-12**
The Chair of Academic Board to recommend that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority) Rule 2020*.

### 7.5 Proposed amendments to the University of Sydney (Governance of Faculties and University Schools Rule) 2016 (“GOFUS”)

**Resolution AB2020/5-14**
The Academic Board resolved to endorse and recommend that the University of Sydney Senate approve the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Governance of Faculties and University Schools Rule) 2016 (“GOFUS”), subject to:

1. the position of Associate Dean (Student Life) being added to the membership of the Research Education Committee; and
2. further edits for clarification of ambiguity in wording, following feedback from various members.

**Note for record**
The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor spoke to the proposal to amend the University of Sydney (Governance of Faculties and University Schools Rule) 2016 (“GOFUS”) to align faculty and school level governance structures with five UE Committees, these being, Research Committee; Research Education Committee; Education Committee; Indigenous Strategy and Services Committee; and Work Health and Safety Committee, and updated the Board that certain members had raised issues of ambiguity in the wording of the proposed amendments to the GOFUS, which would be clarified as a condition of Board approval.

Associate Professor John O’Byrne discussed the value of also including a Student Life Committee to correspond with the Associate Dean (Student Life) position. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) confirmed that the Education Portfolio were developing a student experience strategy, and that further changes would be made to the GOFUS as a result. It was noted that the role of Associate Dean (Student Life) was omitted from the membership of the Research Education Committee, and agreed that the position be re-instated.

On the topic of amendments to the GOFUS, members discussed additional opportunities to clarify in the GOFUS the delineation of Faculty and Faculty Board and the requirements for quorum, and explore amendments to broaden democratic participation. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor invited submissions outlining concerns to inform further review of the GOFUS.

A concern was raised about the restructure of faculty committees and impact on the structure and reporting arrangements of the Associate Deans. It was confirmed that the structure was designed to afford flexibility for local arrangements and empower each Faculty and University School to establish additional committees and working parties as required.

The Board noted that the Faculty/University School Education Committees would have the delegation to also consider academic matters relevant to the curriculum committees of the Academic Board.

Due to time constraints, Associate Professor John O’Byrne agreed to reserve a question for further discussion offline.

**Action: AB 2020/5-13**
The Chair of Academic Board to recommend that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the University of Sydney (Governance of Faculties and University Schools Rule) 2016 (“GOFUS”), subject to amendments to clarify ambiguities and reinstate the position of the Associate Dean (Student Life) on the Research Education Committee.

### 7.6 Amendments to the Higher Degree by Research Supervision Policy 2020

**Resolution AB2020/5-15**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the amendments to the Higher Degree by Research Supervision Policy 2020.

**Action: AB 2020/5-14**
Director, Graduate Research to note the Academic Board’s approval of the amendments to the Higher Degree by Research Supervision Policy 2020.

### 8 REPORT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

**Resolution AB2020/5-16**
The Academic Board resolved to note the report from the meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee held on 28 July 2020 and 18 August 2020.

### 8.1 Education Portfolio: Report of the Assessment Advisory Committee

**Resolution AB2020/5-17**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Assessment Advisory Committee to delay the completion of assessment plans to the end of 2020; deferring review of graduate quality rubrics; and delaying the commencement of graduate quality measurement to a date yet to be determined, pending further rubric validation, agreement on a shared
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University-wide model for assessment of graduate qualities and development of a technical capture and reporting capacity.

Action: AB 2020/5-15
Assessment Advisory Committee to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal to delay the completion of assessment plans to the end of 2020; deferring review of graduate quality rubrics; and delaying the commencement of graduate quality measurement to a date yet to be determined, pending further rubric validation, agreement on a shared University-wide model for assessment of graduate qualities and development of a technical capture and reporting capacity.

8.2 Faculty of Engineering: Bachelor of Advanced Computing, New Cybersecurity Table A Major

Resolution AB2020/5-18
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing and Bachelor of Science; and the Bachelor of Advanced Computing and the Bachelor of Commerce, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2022.

Action: AB 2020/5-16
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing and Bachelor of Science; and the Bachelor of Advanced Computing and the Bachelor of Commerce, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2022.

8.3 Faculty of Engineering: Bachelor of Advanced Computing, course resolutions amendment

Resolution AB2020/5-19
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing and Bachelor of Science; and the Bachelor of Advanced Computing and the Bachelor of Commerce, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-17
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing; Bachelor of Advanced Computing and Bachelor of Science; and the Bachelor of Advanced Computing and the Bachelor of Commerce, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.4 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Table E Specialisations

Resolution AB2020/5-20
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and the subsequent amendments to the Table E specialisations unit of study tables, with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-18
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and the subsequent amendments to the Table E specialisations unit of study tables, with effect from 1 January 2021.
8.5 **Faculty of Science: Science Table 1, Soil Science and Computer Science Majors**

**Resolution AB2020/5-21**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science (pre-2018); Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science (pre-2019); and Bachelor of Psychology (pre-2019); and the subsequent amendments to the Science Table 1 Soil Science and Science Table 1 Computer Science unit of study tables, with effect from 1 January 2021;

**Action: AB 2020/5-19**
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science (pre-2018); Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science (pre-2019); and Bachelor of Psychology (pre-2019); and the subsequent amendments to the Science Table 1 Soil Science and Science Table 1 Computer Science unit of study tables, with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.6 **Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, course learning outcomes**

**Resolution AB2020/5-22**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Course Learning Outcomes for the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-20**
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Course Learning Outcomes for the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.7 **Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Psychology), stream suspension**

**Resolution AB2020/5-23**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to suspend admission into the Psychology stream of the Bachelor of Advanced Studies and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions, and recommend that Senate approve the amendment to the Senate Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-21**
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to suspend admission into the Psychology stream of the Bachelor of Advanced Studies and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions, and recommend that Senate approve the amendment to the Senate Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.8 **Faculty of Engineering: Bachelor of Engineering Honours**

**Resolution AB2020/5-24**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Engineering Honours; the Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Commerce; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Design in Architecture; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Laws; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Project Management; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-22**
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Engineering Honours; the Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of
Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Commerce; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Design in Architecture; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Laws; Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Project Management; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.9 Faculty of Engineering: Faculty Resolutions

Resolution AB2020/5-25
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Faculty Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-23
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Faculty Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

8.10 Faculty of Medicine and Health: Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies), amendment to unit of study tables

Resolution AB2020/5-25
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours/Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the Table A, with effect from Semester 1, 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-24
Executive Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours/Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the Table A, with effect from Semester 1, 2021.

8.11 Faculty of Science: Nanotechnology and Nanoscience program, Table A amendments

Resolution AB2020/5-26
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours/Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the Table A Nanoscience and Nanotechnology unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-25
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies; and the Bachelor of Engineering Honours/Bachelor of Science, and the subsequent amendments to the Table A Nanoscience and Nanotechnology unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

9 REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Resolution AB2020/5-27
The Academic Board resolved to note the report from the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee held on 28 July 2020.

9.1 HDR Scholarships Subcommittee: Report of the HDRSSC, 2021 Schedule and Terms of Reference

Resolution AB2020/5-28
The Academic Board resolved to approve the amended terms of reference of the HDR Scholarships Subcommittee to reflect the revised number of meetings per year, and note the confirmed schedule of dates for 2021 scholarship applications and award.

**Action: AB 2020/5-26**
The Chair, HDR Scholarships Committee to note the Academic Board’s approval of the amended terms of reference of the HDR Scholarships Subcommittee to reflect the revised number of meetings per year, and note the confirmed schedule of dates for 2021 scholarship applications and award.

9.2 **University of Sydney Business School: Master of Commerce; Graduate Certificate in Commerce; Graduate Diploma in Commerce and Master of Commerce (Extension)**

**Resolution AB2020/5-29**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Master of Commerce; Graduate Certificate in Commerce; Graduate Diploma in Commerce and Master of Commerce (Extension), and approve the amendments to the unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-27**
Dean and School General Manager, University of Sydney Business School to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Master of Commerce; Graduate Certificate in Commerce; Graduate Diploma in Commerce and Master of Commerce (Extension), and approve the amendments to the unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2021.

9.3 **University of Sydney Business School: Master of Management**

**Resolution AB2020/5-30**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the course learning outcomes for the Master of Management, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-28**
Dean and School General Manager, University of Sydney Business School to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the course learning outcomes for the Master of Management, with effect from 1 January 2021.

9.4 **Faculty of Science: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

**Resolution AB2020/5-31**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Course Learning Outcomes for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Action: AB 2020/5-29**
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Course Learning Outcomes for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with effect from 1 January 2021.

9.5 **Faculty of Engineering: Master of Engineering**

**Resolution AB2020/5-32**
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Master of Engineering to suspend the Risk Management major, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2022.
Action: AB 2020/5-30
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Master of Engineering and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2022.

9.6 Faculty of Engineering: Faculty Resolutions
Resolution AB2020/5-33
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Faculty Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-31
Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Engineering, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to amend the Faculty Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2021.

9.7 Faculty of Medicine and Health: Master of Nursing (Pre-registration)
Resolution AB2020/5-34
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to amend the Master of Nursing (Pre-registration) and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions, with effect from Semester 1 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-32
Executive Dean and Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Medicine and Health, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to amend the Master of Nursing (Pre-registration) and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions, with effect from Semester 1 2021.

9.8 Sydney Law School: Master of Laws by Coursework and Graduate Diploma in Law
Resolution AB2020/5-35
The Academic Board resolved to approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Laws by Coursework and Graduate Diploma in Law, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2021.

Action: AB 2020/5-33
Dean and School General Manager, Sydney Law School, to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Laws by Coursework and Graduate Diploma in Law, and the subsequent amendments to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2021.

9.9 Education Portfolio: Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015 and the new Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Procedures 2020
Resolution AB2020/5-36
The Academic Board resolved to note the Graduate Studies Committee’s endorsement of the proposed changes to the Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015 and the new Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Procedures 2020.

9.10 DVC Education Portfolio: Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020
Resolution AB2020/5-37
The Academic Board resolved to note the Graduate Studies Committee's endorsement of the Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020.

9.11 Faculty of Engineering: Master of Complex Systems

Resolution AB2020/5-38
The Academic Board resolved to note the advice from the Faculty of Engineering regarding the correction to the Master of Complex Systems course resolutions and unit of study tables, with effect from 1 January 2021.

10 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC QUALITY COMMITTEE

Resolution AB2020/5-39
The Academic Board resolved to note the report from the meeting of the Academic Quality Committee (AQC) held on Tuesday 25 August 2020.

10.1 2020 Thematic Review Report
This item was considered under 3.2 on the agenda.

10.2 Working Parties

Resolution AB2020/5-40
The Academic Board resolved to note the Academic Quality Committee’s approval of the terms of reference for the following working groups, subject to amendments, as discussed, and pending member details:
1. Academic Staffing and Resourcing of Degree Programs Working Group;
2. Marketing of Degree Programs Working Group; and

10.3 Request of Course Review Deferrals

Resolution AB2020/5-41
The Academic Board resolved to note the Academic Quality Committee’s approval of:
1. rescheduling the course review for the Bachelor of Arts (and associated courses) from 2020 to 2021;
2. in principle, rescheduling the course review for the Master of Engineering from 2020 to 2021; and
3. rescheduling the course review for the Master of Urban Planning (and associated courses) from 2020 to 2021.

10.4 Report – Teaching Well and Supporting Students During COVID-19 Symposium

Resolution AB2020/5-42
The Academic Board resolved to note the Academic Quality Committee’s noting of the report on the Teaching Well and Supporting Students During Covid-19 Symposium.

10.5 Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015

Resolution AB2020/5-43
The Academic Board resolved to note the Academic Quality Committee’s noting of the proposed changes to the Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015 and the new Progress Planning and Review of Higher Degree by Research Students Procedures 2020.

10.6 Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020

Resolution AB2020/5-44
The Academic Board resolved to note the Academic Quality Committee’s noting of the Higher Degree by Research Guidelines for Progress Evaluation Panel Members 2020.
11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Report of the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies

Resolution AB2020/5-45
The Academic Board resolved to note the report of the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies summarising the business undertaken during the period from 10 June 2020 – 15 September 2020.

11.2 2021 and 2022 Academic Board and Committee Meeting Dates

Resolution AB2020/5-46
The Academic Board resolved approve the 2021 and 2022 meeting dates for the Academic Board and the Academic Board committees, as presented.

11.3 2020 Level D and E Central Promotions Committee Membership

Resolution AB2020/5-47
The Academic Board resolved to note the 2020 Central Promotions Committee membership. The membership complies with the Academic Promotions Policy, Schedule 3, Central Promotions Committees, terms of reference and operation.

11.5 Any other business

No other business was raised at this meeting.

12 LATE PAPERS

12.1 Dates for Semester 1 2020

Resolution AB2020/5-48
The Academic Board resolved to:

1. approve that the 13 contact week semester model be retained and that the dates for Semester 1, 2021 be as follows:
   Welcome Week: 22 February – 26 February
   Classes (weeks 1 – 5): 1 March – 1 April
   Mid-semester break: 2 April – 8 April
   Classes (weeks 6 – 13): 11 April – 4 June
   Stuvac: 7 June – 11 June
   Exam period: 14 June – 26 June; and
2. note that the change in dates will apply across all degree programs at the University, with the exception of programs for which a variation in their academic calendar is approved by the Academic Board; and
3. note that a proposal for longer term change to semester length will be considered early in 2021 and take account of the experience of Semester 2, 2020.

Note for the record
Professor Philippa Pattison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) presented a proposal to revise the Semester 1, 2021 dates to delay semester commencement by one week and reduce the contact weeks from 13 to 12. While there was general support from staff and students for the delay to Semester 1 commencement to reduce the pressure on administrative and academic workloads and ensure adequate time for the finalising of examination, results, credit, enrolment and timetabling processes, consultation has revealed low appetite for a condensed 12 contact week semester model due to concerns around workload, disruption to faculties/schools and impact on the student experience.

In view of the feedback received, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) sought the Board’s consideration of an alternative option; to delay the start of Semester 1 2021 by one week while retaining the 13 contact week semester model.

During the ensuing discussion, it was confirmed that Faculties and Schools may continue to submit requests to the Academic Board for a variation of semester dates; that the delay would
not apply to intensive sessions; that the availability and operational hours of facilities would be considered in the planning process; and that the interval between the two semesters would be six weeks in duration and that there were no plans for the removal of STUVAC or mid-semester breaks.

It was advised that consideration be given in the planning process to the workload impact of academics teaching in both Semester 1 and winter intensive sessions.

The President of the SRC sought confirmation that there were no plans to bring forward the deadline for enrolment and recommended that unit of study related materials be made publicly available to assist students with unit selection.

The Board considered the following three options for Semester 1 2021 in a formal vote.

- **Option 1:** To adopt the proposed revised dates, as presented in the paper, to delay the commencement of Semester 1 2021, and compress 13 contact weeks into 12.
- **Option 2:** To further revise the proposed Semester 1 2021 dates by delaying the commencement of Semester 1 2021 but retaining a 13 contact week semester.
- **Option 3:** To retain the original dates for Semester 1 2021 as previously approved by the Academic Board.

The Board voted against Option 3 before proceeding to a vote on Option 1 and 2. The Board then voted to support Option 2, retaining the 13 contact week semester with a delay of 1 week for the 2021 start dates.

**Action: AB 2020/5-34**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) to note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Semester 1 2021 dates, with effect from 1 January 2021.

**Meeting closed at 3.10pm**

The agenda pack for this meeting is available from: [Academic Board Website](#)