

The University of Queensland
Minutes of a Meeting of Senate held on 27 April 2017 at 5:30pm in the
Senate Room, Level 5 Brian Wilson Chancellery,
St Lucia Campus

Minutes confirmed by Senate on 24 May 2017

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Attendance

Present: Mr P N Varghese AO (Chancellor), Mrs M Brown, Professor F D'Agostino, Hon Justice M Daubney, Associate Professor G Hainge, Ms K Hirschfeld, Dr Z Hodge AM, Professor P Høj, Mr D Kerr, Mr T Mackay, Mr G Murdoch, Associate Professor T Roberts, Mr M Starkey, Ms M Tredenick, and Dr C Tromans.

Apologies: Ms T Dwyer (Deputy Chancellor), Mr T Crommelin, Mr P Hennessy, Mr J Merrick, Mr C Sartain, and Mr M Zivcic.

In attendance: Provost, Professor A Byrne; Chief Operating Officer, Mr G Pringle Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor J Wright; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Rix; Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), Professor D Macdonald; Chief Financial Officer, Mr A Betts; Acting Director, Office of Marketing and Communication, Ms S Holborn; General Counsel, Ms C Seeto; and Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor and President, Ms J Connah.

Secretary: Dr J Montgomery.

Observer: President UQ Union, Ms G Starr.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Members and Attendees to the meeting. Apologies received were noted.

2. Declaration of interests

A change to interests was provided by a Member.

3. Confirmation of the minutes

The general minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017, which had been circulated, were **confirmed**.

Sec.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

The list of matters arising from previous minutes was **noted**.

5. Statement by the President of the Academic Board

The Statement by the President of the Academic Board was taken as read.

The President referred to items in the Academic Report (Item 12), minutes of which are under that item.

6. UQ 2016 Annual Report

The University's 2016 Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements, which were tabled in Queensland Parliament on 31 March 2017, were **noted**.

7. Senate elections plan for 34th Senate

A Memorandum from the Returning Officer outlining the Senate elections plan for 34th Senate term was **noted**.

8. Bequests and donations

Senate **approved** the bequests and donations, as set out in the Senate agenda papers.

Sec.

9. Senate annual calendar

The Senate annual calendar was **noted**.

10. Senate report on litigation

The Senate report on litigation was **noted**.

11. Animal Ethics Committee Annual Report 2016

As a requirement under the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, a Report from all five of UQ's Animal Ethics Committees for the 2016 was **noted**.

A Member suggested that it would be useful to include data over time, to establish trends.

Sec.

12. Academic Board Report

The Report from the Academic Board meeting held on 10 April 2017 was **noted**.

12.1 UQ compliance with the 2015 Higher Education Standards Framework

Senate **noted** the mapping document in the papers, which tabulates UQ's compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015. A Member congratulated the President and all who were involved in collating the document.

The new national standards for higher education in Australia – the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 – came into effect on 1 January 2017. The previous 2011 Standards had been substantially rewritten.

The University is compliant with by far the majority of standards and there are no areas of non-compliance. There are a few areas where full compliance is in progress particularly in the Corporate Monitoring and Accountability, and Academic Governance Standards (6.2, 6.3). The President noted that Senate has not yet set criteria to establish whether or not a new University policy should be reserved for Senate. Issues of a governance nature, such as these, will be advanced through the Senate Governance Working Group.

Sec.

A progress report on compliance with the Framework will be provided to Members at the end of this year.

ABP

In future, this mapping document will be updated and presented to Senate annually.

ABP

12.2 Academic Board Annual Report 2016

Members **noted** the 2016 Annual Report of the Academic Board. Activities of the Board and its committees are reported against the functions of the Board listed in the Academic Board Policy.

12.3 Vice-Chancellor approvals

Members **noted** the approvals delegated to the Vice-Chancellor for program development proposals, and policies not reserved for Senate.

13. Risk Committee

The 2016 Risk Committee Report was **noted**. This report outlines the main activities of the Committee in 2016 and the goals for 2017. The Chair of the Risk Committee noted that the report was comprehensive and demonstrated how the risk process at the University has matured over the last five years.

The next stage is for Senate to agree on a risk appetite statement. This statement will set the risk level. To introduce the risk appetite statement it was proposed to hold briefing sessions, separate to Senate meetings, to explain the statement and allow for questions. All Members were encouraged to participate. The statement will then be put to Senate for agreement.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 May 2017 at 5:30pm in the Senate Room.