

ACADEMIC BOARD

CHAIR'S POST-MEETING REPORT TO ALL STAFF

To All Staff

This report is to let you know about the various issues considered and addressed by each meeting of Academic Board. I would like to thank Professor Sandra Grace, Deputy Chair (Teaching), Academic Board, for chairing the meeting of Academic Board held on 28 September 2023 in my absence. The following is a summary of the decisions and outcomes from that meeting.

NEW COURSES

Accreditation of the following courses has been approved from Term 1, 2024:

- Bachelor of Engineering Systems (Honours), Bachelor of Business and Enterprise (3208001)
- Master of Engineering (1209110)

COURSE REMOVALS

The Graduate Certificate in Australian Nursing (1007304) has been disaccredited and removed for delivery from Term 5, 2022.

POLICIES

Academic Board approved amendments to the following:

- [Prizes and Medals Policy](#): the policy was updated to streamline processes relating to the award of University Medals and include the criteria for the University Medal (previously in Rule 10 – Awards).
- [Rule 3 – Coursework Awards – Student Assessment and Examinations](#) (new Section 6); the Rule was amended to allow one single resubmission of a failed assessment task per unit in certain limited circumstances.
- [Rule 2 – Coursework Awards – General Provisions](#): the period of exclusion due to poor academic performance has been defined as two years (previously the period of exclusion was either one study period or permanently).

Academic Board approved the rescission of **English Post Enrolment Language Assessment Policy** as it had become obsolete and was no longer fit for purpose.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board received briefings on:

- [Governance Review undertaken by Dr Michael Tomlinson](#): the review was part of the requirements for the University's re-registration, and various practical recommendations in relation to academic governance have been made. Ongoing, Academic Board and its committees need to interrogate issues, including actions required to address them, and to review the effectiveness of those actions.

- [iQILT Reports for Terms 1 and 2, 2023](#): this report showed improvements in the delivery of units but there were still units not doing well – the Academic Standards and Quality Committee has developed new processes to improve outcomes on these issues.
- [Admissions Commencing Student Cohort Report, Full Year 2022](#): this report showed longstanding issues with educational partners and agents. This was being monitored by the Educational Partnership Board, and was also addressed by the newly established Global Recruitment and Admissions Committee (GRAC). The Executive Director, Global and Director, Admissions had improved rigour in key performance indicators for agents, and provided training and opportunities to improve performance, and recommended removal of some underperforming agents.
- [Cohort Report – Half Year, 2023](#): this report showed an overall increase in success rates in Terms 1 and 2, with outstanding results for offshore international students. There were underperforming though improving cohorts in PNG; and an underperforming cohort in India, although this cohort was declining as these students return to ESOS compliant onshore studies. EduCo cohorts in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne were below the threshold for satisfactory performance.
- [Student Outcomes Report, First Half 2023](#): this report showed that over 500 units had moved to the Southern Cross Model. Success rates were up and fail rates were down. There were notable success rates for the Faculty of Health and Gnibi College.

YOUR INPUT

Academic Board intends to engage with contemporary issues in the university sector in a more exploratory way. To this end, I encourage staff to submit questions and ideas to Academic Board for discussion, either through your Faculty or College Board or by submitting a Question on Notice to Academic Board. You are also welcome to contact me directly to discuss any issues that concern you and you think Academic Board should be aware of.

I hope you will find these regular updates informative and welcome your interest and involvement in academic governance at Southern Cross University. As always, if you would like to learn more about Academic Board or attend an Academic Board meeting as an observer, please feel free to get in touch.

Regards

PROFESSOR ANDREW ROSE

Chair, Academic Board

Date: 31 October 2023