

Academic Senate Meeting – 7 March 2025 Report to 2 May 2025 University Council Meeting

Academic Senate convened on 7 March 2025. A Chair report detailing the main items considered at the meeting is below.

Future Model of Academic Senate

At this meeting the proposed future model of Academic Senate was reviewed that reimagines how Senate considers various reports to meet its obligations, and as a result intends to reduce the number of Senate sub-committees from six to two. Members were informed that changes responded to internal and external reviews during 2024 and had been developed following extensive consultations with smaller cohorts to refine the proposed model. Key benefits identified include reduced duplication across committees, greater capacity for Senate to consider major initiatives in depth, and optimisation of members' time and engagement.

In response to queries about how student voices would continue to be heard, Mr Jack Oates Pryor, President of the Tasmania University Student Association (TUSA), advised that the new approach was positive as it would reduce the time burden of student representatives' participation in multiple committees. Mr Oates Pryor also noted that TUSA was working actively with management to develop other avenues for incorporating student input into university activity.

Academic Senate endorsed the proposed approach to the future model and noted that a detailed package of new instruments would be submitted to the May 2025 Senate meeting for endorsement, and recommendation to Council for approval where necessary.

Report from Student Representatives

Mr Oates Pryor advised Senate about TUSA's perspectives on current issues, highlighting:

- TUSA welcomed recommendations in the final report of the Tasmanian Legislative Council's inquiry into the UTAS Act about student membership on University Council. Members were informed that the National Union of Students would make a submission in support of increased student representation on university governing bodies to the current Australian Senate inquiry into the quality of governance at Australian higher education providers.
- The student body strongly supported the vision and aims of the University's Strategic Refresh and were keenly awaiting further detail about how new initiatives would be implemented.
- TUSA supported ongoing effort to improve the coordination of communication to students, and suggested fresh consideration of building and room identifiers with a view to improving students' ability to navigate when on campus.

Gender Based Violence Action Plan Update: Changes to Student Safety and Wellbeing

Senate received an overview of proposed changes to student support services that had been developed as part of implementation of the University's Gender Based Violence Action Plan. Dr James Brann (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Equity and Success) advised that the new structure aimed to be best practice by offering an initial triaging point for students within the first week of contact, at which the most appropriate way forward would be determined. Aspects raised during discussion included the capacity for security teams to service campus locations that were always open, such as certain library spaces, and student access to legal advice.

Update on the National Student Ombudsman (NSO)

Members were provided with a Tasmanian-specific update about this new Commonwealth body. Dr Brann advised that the intent of the NSO was that any student in Australia was able to contact them about individual or systemic issues, however Tasmanian legislation governing student complaints had not yet been amended to align with the new avenue for raising concerns. In response to the jurisdictional overlap, the NSO had recently notified the University that any reports made by students to the Tasmanian Ombudsman would be referred to the NSO.

Academic Systems Project

To support development and implementation of the Academic System Project feedback was sought from members about the proposed redesign of study periods, the proliferation of which had been identified by the Project as a critical driver of complexity in curriculum design, timetabling, infrastructure utilisation and time management. Greatly reducing the number of study periods was strongly endorsed by Senate for its ability to improve student experience and reduce system complexity, and a range of new models and approaches were presented to address these challenges, with each presenting a different mix of benefits and trade-offs. Break-out group discussions were held across all networked locations to consider each prototype and identify benefits, risks and preferred options, with collated recommendations informing selection of the final model.

New Credit Framework

A proposed new credit framework was put forward for endorsement based on findings and outcomes from the Credit Optimisation Project, an initiative undertaken as part of the Student Enrolment Transformation Program. The new framework seeks to evolve from complex percentage-based rules towards a new model that focuses on learning outcomes, clear minimum study requirements and simplified credit types. Discussion canvassed various aspects such as minimum study requirements at UTAS, and the intended development of a precedent database as a means of providing flexibility for course-specific variations within the proposed new framework. Senate endorsed the core principles of the proposed approach and noted that a final proposal would be submitted to a future meeting of Senate for approval.

The Chair observed that the conversation about this item was an excellent demonstration of how the proposed new model of Academic Senate could provide valuable opportunities for feedback as major initiatives were being developed.

The next meeting of Academic Senate will be held on 16 May 2025.

Appendix 1: Academic Senate Decisions at the 7 March 2025 meeting of Academic Senate

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Academic Unit	Senate Agenda Item	Title	Resolution or Outcome	Oversight
Secretariat	2.2	Future Model of Academic Senate	Academic Senate endorsed the proposed approach to further develop the recommended future model of Academic Senate.	Chair, Academic Senate
Student Services and Operations (SSO)	4.1	New Credit Framework	Academic Senate endorsed the proposed credit framework approach based on three core principles: • Focus on learning outcomes • Clear minimum volume requirements • Simplified credit types.	Deputy Vice-Chancellor SSO
Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) and Partnerships and Learning Abroad	4.2	Recognition of Foundation Programs in Sri Lanka (Lyceum, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Informatics Institute of Technology	Academic Senate approved the recognition of Foundation Programs delivered by Lyceum, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology and Informatics Institute of Technology as meeting course entry requirements for the Bachelor of Business.	Dean, TSBE
College of Health and Medicine (CoHM)	4.3.1	New Course – Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology (Advanced Entry)	Academic Senate: • Approved the creation of new course Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology (Advanced Entry); and • Approved use of the Ungraded Pass grading scheme for the following units: - o <i>Advanced Topics in Educational and Developmental Psychology 1</i> - o <i>Advanced Topics in Educational and Developmental Psychology 2</i> - o <i>Advanced Educational and Developmental Psychology Placement 1</i>	Endorsed by University Course and Unit Proposals Committee (UCUPC)

			o <i>Advanced Educational and Developmental Psychology Placement 2.</i>	
CoHM	4.3.2	Course Amendment – H7K Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry)	Academic Senate: - Approved proposed amendments to H7K Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry); and Academic Senate: - Approved use of the Ungraded Pass grading scheme for the following units: - o <i>Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology 1</i> - o <i>Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology 2</i> - o <i>Advanced Research Skills in Psychology Practice 1, and</i> - o <i>Advanced Research Skills in Psychology Practice 2.</i>	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.3	Course Amendment – M7Q Master of Professional Psychology	Academic Senate: - Approved proposed amendments to M7Q Master of Professional Psychology; and - Approved use of the Ungraded Pass grading scheme for the following units: - o <i>Professional Psychology Placement 2, and</i> - o <i>Assessment and Intervention Skills in Psychology.</i>	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.4	Course Amendment – M4Y Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to M4Y Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours.	Endorsed by UCUPC
TSBE	4.3.5	Removal of 2025 Availabilities – 37P Master of Business Analytics	Academic Senate approved the deactivation of 2025 availabilities for course 37P Master of Business Analytics.	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.6	Course Amendments– Postgraduate Counselling Courses (M5I and M6I)	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to the following courses: - M5I Graduate Certificate of Counselling - M6I Graduate Diploma of Counselling.	Endorsed by UCUPC

CoHM	4.3.7	Course Amendment – C7U Master of Health Service Management	Academic Senate approved proposed amendments to course C7U Master of Health Service Management.	Endorsed by UCUPC
Interim Chair, UCUPC	4.3.8	Course Amendment – M1E Diploma of Counselling	Academic Senate notes the amendments to course M1E Diploma of Counselling	Endorsed by UCUPC
Interim Chair, UCUPC	4.3.9	Component Amendment– HEASTR06 <i>Health Science Stream</i> in 21A Diploma of University Studies	Academic Senate noted the change in structure for HEASTR06 <i>Health Science Stream</i>	Endorsed by UCUPC
College of Sciences and Engineering (CoSE)	4.3.10	P3J Bachelor of Natural Environments and Conservation – Withdrawal of Launceston Offering	Academic Senate approved the withdrawal of the Launceston offering of P3J Bachelor of Natural Environments and Conservation from Semester 1 2025.	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.11	Course Discontinuation – C6I Graduate Diploma of Health Service Management	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course C6I Graduate Diploma of Health Service Management. Historically there have been no international students who have completed this Grad Dip and therefore the only likely students who might need the Grad Dip for exit purposes are domestic students still completing the Masters. There are 14 domestic students, all of whom have completed a minimum of 62.5 credit points of the Masters and are on track to complete within the next 12 months. At that point there will be no need for this Grad Dip to be available as exit awards and therefore can be discontinued.	Endorsed by UCUPC
TSBE	4.3.12	Course Discontinuation – C5I Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course C5I Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management.	Endorsed by UCUPC

CoHM	4.3.13	Course Discontinuation – H5J Graduate Certificate in Therapeutic Medication Management	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course H5J Graduate Certificate in Therapeutic Medication Management. This course has been suspended for 2025 and the two core units in the course are to be discontinued January 2026.	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.14	Course Discontinuation – M4H Bachelor of Health Science with Honours	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of course M4H Bachelor of Health Science with Honours. The course will be discontinued as part of the Course Consolidation project due to low enrolments.	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoSE	4.3.15	Course Discontinuations – Applied Science Suite	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of the following courses: • K7J Master of Applied Science (Specialisation). • K7J2 Master of Applied Science (Biological Sciences). • S6P Graduate Diploma of Applied Science.	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoHM	4.3.16	Component Discontinuation – COESPC01 <i>Rehabilitation Nursing Stream</i>	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of component COESPC01 <i>Rehabilitation Nursing Stream</i> .	Endorsed by UCUPC
CoSE	4.3.17	Component Discontinuation – ESTHSP02 <i>Geography and Environmental Studies</i>	Academic Senate approved the discontinuation of component ESTHSP02 <i>Geography and Environmental Studies</i> .	Endorsed by UCUPC