On behalf of Academic Board Chair, Associate Professor Linley Lord,

Please find following a brief update on the activities of Curtin University’s Academic Board during the first quarter of 2015.

**Commencement of the 2015 Academic Year**

Academic Board noted the enthusiastic and lively atmosphere of the campus during ‘O Week’ and acknowledged the efforts of organisers, staff and volunteers involved in the events.

Additionally the Board noted the success of the University’s graduation ceremonies and commended organisers and staff who helped to make the occasions so memorable for all involved.

**Curtin’s Strategic Priorities for 2015**

Academic Board received a presentation from the Vice-Chancellor on Curtin University’s Strategic Priorities for 2015 as approved by Council.

**Monitoring Meetings**

**Council Scorecard Report**


**Research**

The March Academic Board Monitoring Meeting on Research focused on Key Performance Indicators, Measures and Targets within the monitoring framework.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Graeme Wright noted matters for celebration included improvements in research income, the University’s improvements in the world rankings, HDR completions, launch of the Graduate Research School, strong performance of leading research institutes and new research initiatives.
Professor Wright noted forecast changes to government policy, the realignment of research grant funding continues to provide a challenging operating environment. Consideration was also being given to the current targets for HDR load and the appropriate allocation of research support.

The meeting received presentations from Dr Nina Tirnitz-Parker, School of Biomedical Sciences on her collaborative research using stem cells in chronic liver disease and Professor Alan Duncan, Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre on the research focus of the Bankwest Curtin Economic Centre and its relationship to social inclusion. Of particular interest was the discussion relating to research impact.

For your information the scorecard report on Research can be downloaded here

Academic Board Elections/Appointments

A series of elections within the categories of Academic Board members were held between February and April 2015:

3.1(1)(j)(i) “4 members of the full-time academic staff of each Faculty located in Western Australia being...one Professor elected by the Professors in the Faculty”.

**Election of a Professor from the Faculty of Humanities:**
*Result:* Professor Kerry Pedigo

**Election of a Professor from the Faculty of Science and Engineering:**
*Result:* Professor Mark Buntine

**Election of one member from the Curtin Business School:**
*Result:* Associate Professor Siobhan Austen
(Deputy: Associate Professor Jeremy Galbreath)

**Election of two members from the Faculty of Health Sciences:**
*Result:* Dr Courtenay Harris
(Deputy: Dr Christopher Fisher)

Dr Janis Jansz

**Election of two members from the Faculty of Humanities:**
*Result:* Dr Jennifer Howell
(Deputy: Dr Paul Cozens)

Dr Lynn Churchill

**Election of two members from the Faculty of Science and Engineering:**
*Result:* Dr Jonathan Paxman
(Deputy: Dr Mohammad Asad)

Associate Professor Mauro Mocerino
(Deputy: Dr Cesar Ortega-Sanchez)
A second election process was initiated following a failure to secure nominations in the following categories:

3.1(1)(j)(i) “4 members of the full-time academic staff of each Faculty located in Western Australia being...one Professor elected by the Professors in the Faculty”.

Election of a Professor from the **Curtin Business School**: 

Election of a Professor from the **Faculty of Health Sciences**: 

A further call for nomination for the following category of Academic Board members was issued on Monday, 16 March 2015.

3.1(1)(j)(ii) “One Head of School elected by the Heads of School in the Faculty”.

Election of a Professor from the **Faculty of Humanities**

**Result:** Associate Professor Steve Mickler

**Curtin University’s 2015 TEQSA Renewal of Registration**

In March the Academic Board received an update on the TEQSA renewal of registration process. Curtin University will make its submission in May 2015.

Professor Clare Pollock, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic who is leading the project noted TEQSA had reduced its documentation requirements for Curtin following the indicative submission with only three courses to be sampled. A further report to the Board will be provided in due course regarding matters that had been identified as part of the registration renewal process that may require attention.

The Board also noted the CRICOS registrations for Curtin University Perth and Sydney were renewed by TEQSA on 24 March 2015.

Guidance Notes informing the University’s requirement under TEQSA’s regulatory framework can be found here: [http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-resources](http://www.teqsa.gov.au/for-providers/provider-resources)

**eVALUate Report**

Academic Board considered the aggregated report for Semester 2, 2014 and provided suggestions on how the feedback, particularly qualitative data, could be assessed, disseminated and utilised to improve teaching and learning.

A Strategic Conversation to considered the eVALUate Report results and other student satisfaction indicators will be held in the second quarter of 2015.

**New Courses**

Academic Board recommended the development of the proposed new courses B-INDMNT Bachelor of Applied Science (Mental Health Practitioner) and AD-INDMNT Associate Degree in Indigenous Mental Health, for commencement in Semester 1, 2016
The Board commended the work undertaken by the Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) in the development of the business case noting the course, based on feedback and input from communities around Australia is unique to Curtin University.

Research Centres and Institutes

Academic Board approved the establishment of the Curtin Institute for Computation and concurrently disestablished the Centre for Industrial Modelling and Optimisation (CIMO) and the Centre for Process Systems Computations (CPSC) to facilitate the integration of those and other related activities into the new Institute.

Policies and Procedures

Academic Board approved the revised Supervision of HDR Students Policy and noted the revised Supervision of HDR Students Procedures. The Supervision of HDR Students Policy can be found at [http://policies.curtin.edu.au/findapolicy/docs/Supervision%20of%20HDR%20Students%20Policy_Mar%202015.pdf](http://policies.curtin.edu.au/findapolicy/docs/Supervision%20of%20HDR%20Students%20Policy_Mar%202015.pdf)

Subsequent to this approval the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Training (as Chair, of the University Graduate Studies Committee) rescinded the Register of Supervisors Policy and Procedures.

Kind regards

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