Please find following an update on the activities of Curtin University’s Academic Board during the second quarter of 2015.

Academic Board has focussed on the key issues of:
- Strategic alignments of quality research outputs and the student experience;
- Academic integrity; and
- Policies and procedures that are aimed at improving teaching quality and supporting research within Institutes, Centres and Schools.

Review of University Enabling Plans:

Research Enabling Plan 2013 – 2017
Academic Board reviewed performance in 2014 and discussed the revised Research Enabling Plan targets for 2015.

Council Scorecard Report – June 2015

Monitoring Meetings:

Teaching, Learning and Student Experience - Scorecard Report
The June Academic Board Monitoring Meeting on the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Scorecard Report was held at the Lounge in the Robertson Library. The presentation focussed on key performance indicators, measures and targets against the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Enabling Plan, under Student Demand and Quality; Teaching Quality; Retention Rates, Graduate Success and Graduate Reputation; and the Student Experience.

The monitoring meeting received presentations from Professor Jill Downie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education, Dr Julie Howell, Associate Director, Careers and Employment Centre and Jason Giancono (President) and Hyo Chan Kim, Curtin Student Guild followed by a tour of the University Library.

The Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Report and iLecture Presentation from the Monitoring Meeting is available to all staff via the Office of Strategy and Planning website at https://planning.curtin.edu.au/strategic/monitoring.cfm.
Strategic Conversations

Academic Integrity
The strategic conversation on Academic Integrity posed questions relating to effective academic and research integrity standards; methods of assessment to confirm specified learning outcomes are achieved and assessment and grading practices reflect the level of student attainment. Discussion was held on the University’s processes in the wake of the MyMaster issue last year, the recent Four Corners program and the Radio National phone-in which all related to academic integrity.

An Academic Board Forum on Academic Integrity to further discuss these issues has been scheduled for Wednesday, 12 August 2015.

Academic Governance and Risk
The strategic conversation in relation to academic governance and risk focused specifically on Academic Board’s responsibility to assure Council on the processes in place to assure academic quality and integrity. Discussion was held on Curtin’s Risk Management Framework, the development of Key Risk Indicators or qualitative early warning indicators as defined by TEQSA, and the importance of risk management being considered, embedded and monitored by Academic Board and its standing committees.

Learning for Tomorrow Strategy
An update on the transformational teaching and learning initiatives implemented by the University under the Learning for Tomorrow Strategy was the topic of the strategic conversation held at the May 2015 Academic Board meeting. Key achievements to meet the strategic targets were noted and the challenge of scaling up a number of the initiatives to facilitate increased student engagement was discussed.

Quality Research Outputs
During discussions by the Board on the Research Enabling Plan, clarification was sought on the measures relating to the quality and volume of research outputs and achieving the agreed targets.

Professor Graeme Wright, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development provided information on how the measures were derived, aligning quality criteria from ERA and Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) Publication Categories and encouraging staff to have a publication plan. The focus of conversation was on quality research outputs, having a discipline-specific approach to evaluate conference attendance, modes of publication outlets and issues relating to self-plagiarism and copyright clearance.

Academic Board Elections
Professor Robert Durand and Professor Tony Wright were appointed to the Board following nomination and election for a Professorial representative from Curtin Business School and Faculty of Health Sciences, respectively.

Academic Board Governance

Review of Research Integrity, Governance and Implementation
Following a review of research integrity and governance, the Academic Board noted the action plan and subsequent implementation of processes to ensure research integrity and research ethics are compliant with relevant Curtin policies and the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

Operational Research Support Scheme
The new Operational Research Support model will provide operational level financial support for research that aligns with the University Strategic Plan. It is designed to align with academic research workload allocations (capacity) and research performance with an emphasis on assessment of quality research outputs. Non-traditional research outputs will also be factored into the distribution. The Board noted that the new scheme’s focus was to support collegiate rather than individual research efforts.

A Town Hall Meeting on the Operational Research Support Scheme and the specifications for the scheme in 2016 will be held on 15 July 2015.
Research Centres and Institutes
Academic Board recommended to the Vice-Chancellor the establishment of:

- The China Australia Writing Centre [External Collaborative];
- The Australia-China Joint Research Centre for Tectonics and Earth Resources (ACTER) [External Collaborative]; and
- Curtin’s exit from the Australian Centre for Geomechanics.

Library Research Impact Service Report
The Board noted the information the University Library’s Research and Quality Impact Service provides for researchers in relation to determining quantitative research impact metrics and measuring the economic and social impact of Curtin’s research outputs. This matter will be discussed again at the end of the year.

Monitoring Activities and Functions of Standing Committee through Regular Reports
The following reports were noted by the Academic Board:

Animal Ethics Committee Annual Report for 2014
The Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) Annual Report for 2014 was submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) and is a mandatory requirement in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2002 (Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) as a condition of Curtin University’s licence under the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Curtin Indigenous Policy Committee Annual Report for 2014
The annual report for 2014 of the Curtin Indigenous Policy Committee (CIPC) addressed achievements of specific objectives in the policy on Indigenous Governance; identified principal issues addressed and key activities undertaken by CIPC in 2014; and identified key priorities for 2015.

Faculty Assessment Quality Panel Reports, Semester 2, 2014
Assessment Quality Panels provide a structure to assure and enhance moderation and academic integrity practices, in order to assure the quality of assessment. The Faculty Assessment Quality Panel Report provided information on compliance with policy and procedures; issues identified through the moderation processes; and strategies for improving outcomes and policy compliance of the Assessment Quality Panels. The Board requested further information from Faculties be provided for consideration at a future meeting of Academic Board.

Human Research Ethics Committee Annual Report for 2014
The Board noted the Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) annual report for 2014 submitted to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as a condition of certification.

Plagiarism Report 2014
Academic Board discussed the Plagiarism Report which reviewed the number and distribution of plagiarism incidents and outcomes across Curtin during 2014 using data drawn from the Plagiarism Recording System. Discussions focussed on identifying effective ways to ensure staff and students are aware of their responsibilities in relation to plagiarism. Further information from Faculties has been requested in relation to high and very low levels of reporting.

Requests to Concede English Bi-Annual Report
The bi-annual report provided statistics and analysis on the requests submitted for consideration by the University Admission Committee to concede English during the period July 2014 to February 2015.

Scholarships Office Annual Report for 2014
The 2014 Scholarship Annual Report provided a summary of the administration, promotion and statistics of undergraduate, prestigious and external scholarships offered in 2014, as well as promotion of equity and new initiatives for 2015.
Teaching and Learning Quality Dimensions Quarterly Report
The Teaching and Learning Quality Dimensions Quarterly Report for June 2015, provided an overview and analysis of the specific teaching and learning activities, quality indicators and measures which align with the Assessment, Review and Transformation (ART 2015) outcomes and targets, and the Curtin Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Plan 2013-2017.

Trends in Graduate Studies 2010 – 2014
The Trends in Graduate Studies report provided an overview of enrolments and performance in higher degrees by research at Curtin from 2010 - 2014. Discussion by the Academic Board included strategies to meet HDR enrolment targets, including increasing the number of scholarships for domestic students.

New Courses
For commencement in Semester 1, 2016, the following new courses, majors and streams were approved by the Academic Board:

Bachelor of Science (Medical Radiation Science) (B-SCIMRS)

Medical Imaging Major (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (MJRU-MRSMI)
Medical Imaging Honours Stream (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (STRH-MRMIH) Medical Imaging Fourth Year Stream (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (STRU-MRMIF)

Radiation Therapy Major (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (MJRU-MRSRT)
Radiation Therapy Honours Stream (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (STRH-MRSMI)
Radiation Therapy Fourth Year Stream (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Stream) (STRU-MRSMI)

Medical Sonography Honours Major (Bachelor of Science Medical Radiation Science) (MJRH-MRSMS)

Policies and Procedures
Academic Board approved or recommended the approval of the following policies and procedures:

- Academic Awards Policy (Section 2 of the Course Approval and Quality Manual)
- Academic Promotion Procedures
- Amendments to the Course Approval and Quality Manual
- Professional Development in Tertiary Teaching for Teaching Staff Policy

Current University policies and procedures can be found on the Compliance, Legislation and Policy website at: http://policies.curtin.edu.au/findapolicy/

Associate Professor Linley Lord
Chair, Academic Board
Email: secretariat@curtin.edu.au
Web: https://secretariat.curtin.edu.au/

Ms Sue Moore
Secretary, Academic Board
Manager, Secretariat