Please find following an update on the activities of Curtin University’s Academic Board during the first quarter of 2016.

Academic Board has focussed on:
- Curtin’s Strategic Plan beyond 2017
- Addressing gender balance and culture change – SAGE Athena Swan
- Curtin’s response to TEQSA following Registration Renewal
- Academic policy review; and
- Annual reporting process

Academic Board Monitoring Meetings

Research

The 1 April 2016 Academic Board Meeting was preceded by a Monitoring Meeting on Research Activities highlighting:
- The need for a greater focus on the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) particularly in Category 2, 3 and 4 of the HERDC funding with greater industry engagement and alignment in a research and policy context;
- Increased competitiveness and availability of research funding including from industry;
- Opportunities in the new ARC Linkage scheme;
- The need for Curtin to consider how it can deliver the research and/or innovation benefits industry partners are seeking and provide clarity on an agreed approach;


Research Quality and Impact Service

The University Librarian, Ms Catherine Clark, noted the Commonwealth Government has indicated it is developing research impact measures. Curtin’s Library will seek to align to the Australian Research Council Research Impact Principles and Framework due for implementation in 2017/2018.
Strategic Conversations and Updates

Strategic Plan beyond 2017

Mr Marco Schultheis, Chief Strategy Officer outlined the four stages of development in the production of the University’s Strategic Plan 2017-2020 including:

• The University’s planning horizon from 2013-2030;
• Activities completed to December 2015 and those planned during 2016;
• Engagement and consultation to be undertaken;
• The involvement of Academic Board in that process including an Academic Board Forum to socialise and facilitate engagement with the Draft Strategic Plan 2017-2020;

Academic Board is sponsoring a Draft Strategic Plan 2017-2020 forum as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2016
Time: Noon to 2.00 pm
Venue: Life Sciences Building 300
                Room 219

SAGE Athena Swan

Professor Jo Ward, Dean of Faculty of Science and Ms Amanda Willis, Director, Corporate Values and Equity provided an overview of SAGE Athena SWAN initiative and pilot noting the focus is to lead cultural change and facilitate broad engagement across the University, not just within the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) fields. Information was also provided in relation to Curtin’s Career Development Strategy for Women. It was noted future funding sources i.e., ARC and NHMRC may be impacted if engagement by under-represented groups is not increased.

All staff across each Faculty and the Graduate School are invited to contribute. A sub-group of the Strengthening our Culture Steering Committee is being established to oversee and report on the program of work and Self-Assessment Teams have established.

Curtin’s Response to TEQSA Requests and HES Standards

The University provided detailed and thorough responses to TEQSA in the submissions uploaded in late January 2016. Two matters require further reporting in January 2017.

A Strategic Conversation will be held during 2016 to assure Academic Board that the implications of the new Higher Education Standards that will take effect on 1 January 2017 will be addressed by the University.

Universities Australia Conference

The President of the Student Guild provided his feedback on the Universities Australia conference highlighting the presentations on engagement with industry partners and learning innovation as a multi-discipline approach.

The Chair noted the Respect. Now. Always campaign launched by Universities Australia demonstrated significant leadership around a difficult issue. Academic Board requested a report detailing work undertaken or in train to address the issue. The Guild will screen The Hunting Ground shortly and Student Services is working closely with the Student Guild to finalise the University’s approach to the pertinent themes raised in the movie within an Australian context. The screening will include a panel discussion and staff and students are urged to attend.
Academic Board Governance

Academic Policy Review

In late 2015 the Academic Policy Review process recommenced with the receipt of a consultant’s report on Curtin’s Academic Policy Framework. In February Planning and Management Committee approved a moratorium until 30 June 2016 on changes to academic policies except those required to address legislative or urgent operational requirements. A new framework is currently being developed.

Annual Report Process

Academic Board noted the Annual Reports of its sub-committees and approved changes to constitutions and memberships in line with organisational changes approved by the Planning and Management Committee in November 2015 and to address other governance and operational matters.

Additionally Academic Board considered the Annual Report of the Curtin Sydney Academic Council and annual reviews and quarterly reviews of branch campuses and transnational programs.

Monitoring Activities and Functions of Standing Committee through Regular Reports

The following reports were noted by the Academic Board:

Research Institutes and Centres: Updated Summary of 2014 Annual Performance

The updated summary of the 2014 Annual Performance was noted. The report provided the Board with an understanding of the status of Research Institutes and Centre and the associated concerns and successes.

Work Integrated Learning Strategic Project Final Report

The Board considered the final report on the Work Integrated Learning Strategic Project and noted the achievements to date.

Requests to Concede English Report

The report provided detail on 18 applications, all approved, during the period April to August 2015. Greater certainty has been sought on the role of PELA, the process to concede English and related matters to ensure student success and quality of the student experience, reduce reputational risk and ensure students are equipped to succeed.

The University’s Planning and Management Committee is considering the matter in parallel to Academic Board and an update is to be provided to both on actions taken to address these concerns.

Progress Report on Actions Undertaken by the Library Relating to the Internal Audit Report on the Copyright Act (Electronic Content)

The report addressed issues relating to copyright that were highlighted in an audit report. The focus of the Library is an ongoing education process for staff and students.

Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed Grants Report

The report demonstrated the great work being done across the University and particularly highlighted the importance of the grants supporting the work and outcomes of teaching academics in high quality learning and teaching projects. Six applications have been funded with a new, second round underway to allocate the remaining funds.
New Courses

Academic Board approved the deactivation of the Doctor of International Health (DC-INTHL).

For commencement in Semester 1, 2017, the following new courses, majors and streams have been approved by the Academic Board:

- Master of Teaching (MC-TEACH);
- Master of Teaching (OpenUnis) (OM-TEACH)

Policies and Procedures

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

- Amended Fieldwork Policy;
- Collaborative PhD Policy.

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

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