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

Academic Board has focussed on:
- Curtin Medical School
- International activities
- Indigenous education
- Addressing gender balance, culture change and transforming learning
- Academic integrity, governance and risk; and
- Curtin’s Application to TEQSA for Registration Renewal

International Activities

The October Academic Board Meeting was preceded by a Monitoring Meeting on International Activities highlighting:
- repositioning of Curtin’s international focus by establishing links with US and European universities as a way of enhancing Curtin’s global reputation;
- implementation of the transnational strategy that has led to decisions to end or alter program delivery i.e., Curtin Sydney;
- International is focussed on:
  - recruitment of high-quality students including HDR students;
  - establishing deep partnerships;
  - campus consolidation; and
  - data gathering and analysis.

People and Culture

The November meeting was preceded by a Monitoring Meeting on People and Culture. Areas that the University is particularly seeking to address included the low rate of Indigenous staff and student participation and the lack of women in senior roles. Other areas considered included a number of the culture change initiatives currently underway across the University.
Strategic Conversations and Updates

Indigenous Education

Academic Board received a Strategic Update in relation to Indigenous Education at Curtin University from Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Professor Jill Downie, Director, Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Professor Marion Kickett and Elder in Residence, Associate Professor Simon Forrest.

Strategic Priorities for 2016 include:

- consolidation of Indigenous governance and associated groups;
- progressing initiatives to boost retention of Indigenous students and study completion rates; and
- implementation of inclusive policies, practices and initiatives.

Transforming Curtin IT

The Board received a presentation on the current state and future activities of the Transforming Curtin IT Program from Mr Chris Rasmussen, Chief Information Officer and Mr Gary Wright, IT Program Manager noting key achievements to date and that 13 projects are underway across four streams focussing on a modularised IT approach, intuitive systems, equitable learning through the use of technology and seamless research collaboration as well as ethics education.

Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates Conference (CABS)

In her report on the Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates Conference (CABS) (11-13 November) hosted by James Cook University (JCU) in Cairns the Chair noted a presentation by Michael Tomlinson from TEQSA on third party ventures, guidelines and notes for Academic Governance and the new Higher Education Standards due to take effect from January 2017.

A major area covered at the CABS conference was academic integrity. It was acknowledged that it is an increasing problem and that universities need to take an educative role as well as having the appropriate policy settings to deal with breaches. An update was given on the Office of Learning and Teaching submission to which most universities (approx. 30) have indicated their financial support. A reference group is being established and it is expected that different universities will lead different projects with Curtin possibly taking a lead role around academic integrity and assessment.

The 2016 CABS Conference is being hosted by the five Western Australian universities.

Academic Board Governance

Outcome of Curtin’s Application of Registration by TEQSA

Academic Board considered a number of matters that related to the TEQSA Requests and Observations. The Board was advised of the progress to date which would ensure that the TEQSA timelines would be met. A further update will be provided to Academic Board in February 2016. The Board noted the School, Campus and Area Reviews, draft Policies that had been developed and which would be implemented in 2016.

Academic Governance Risk Indicators

Academic Board approved the Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) in relation to Academic Governance. The aim is to provide a single view of Academic Board’s responsibilities as is outlined in its Constitution.

Monitoring Activities and Functions of Standing Committee through Regular Reports

The following reports were noted by the Academic Board:

Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) Approval – Exceptional Circumstances Bi-Annual Report

The bi-annual report noted there were 30 requests for exceptional circumstances credit for recognised learning (CRL) in the period March 2015 to August 2015 out of a total of 3,822 CRL requests. The low number also indicates a decreasing trend in the number of exceptional circumstances CRL requests.

The engagement of all Faculties in the revised process focussed on ensuring feedback and improvement was noted by Academic Board as demonstrating Faculties solid commitment to the improved AQP processes and increased engagement in relation to compliance.

Teaching and Learning Quality Dimensions Quarterly Report – October 2015

The report provided detail on measures associated with Teaching Staff, and Leadership and Governance of Teaching and Learning.


The report outlines progress on the 2014 Action Plan for the Measures and Quality Indicators associated with each Quality Dimension.

New Courses

Academic Board recommended that Council approve the new Field of Educational Activity: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and note the approval by the Australian Medical Council to proceed to Stage Two of the accreditation process.

The Board recommended to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic that she approve the reactivation of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (B-MBBS), with ten new units for commencement in Semester 1, 2017; and the ten associated new units and the student selection process for admissions into the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (B-MBBS).

For commencement in Semester 2, 2016, the following new courses, majors and streams have been approved by the Academic Board:

- Doctor of Philosophy (DR-PHILY)

Policies and Procedures

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

- Amended Course Approval and Quality Manual;
- Amended Scholarships and Financial Assistance Manual; and
- Amended Collaborative Education Services (International) Policy

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

Post-Entry Language Assessment

Academic Board noted Planning and Management Committee (PMC) had requested a detailed management plan to respond to matters raised within the Managing the Risks of International Students at Curtin University Jan 2014 – July 2015. The Board will consider the issue once the management plan has been finalised and the recommendations have been incorporated into the report.

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