

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 16 OCTOBER 2025

1. Procedural Matters

- Senate reviewed and noted the Register of Interests.
- Senate approved the Minutes of Meeting 04/2025 (15 August) of Senate as a true and accurate record.
- Senate approved the Minutes of a Circular Resolution (22 August 2025) as a true and accurate record.
- Senate noted the Actions Schedule.

2. Report from Chancellor

Senate noted the events and meetings attended by the Chancellor.

3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

Senate noted the Vice-Chancellor and President's Report to Senate which highlighted the following.

- Staff excellence awards and national leadership in graduate outcomes and student experience.
- An approved increase in domestic enrolments by the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC).
- The Department of Education's indicative allocation for international student enrolments in 2026.
- The University exceeded enrolment targets across all campuses, noting some faculties are below target.
- Over 30 ACU scholars have been ranked in the top 2% of scientists worldwide.
- The release of the interim report regarding governance in the higher education sector.
- The forecasted revenue reduction in response to international enrolment caps and mitigations.
- Sector challenges: declining domestic enrolments, generational shifts, and the impact of AI on academic integrity and university reputation.
- Ongoing reporting to Senate on revenue, expenditure, and project optimisation.
- Foreshadowed the Provost's presentation on the future of universities and AI at the December meeting.

4. ACU Future State

- Senate confirmed strategic principles and priorities following the Planning Day.
- Discussed sector pressures, funding constraints, and the need for mission-aligned investment.
- Foreshadowed the ongoing updates on long-term business planning by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate).

5. Mission and Identity Update

- Senate noted the completion of the Mission Review and the focus on staff formation and mission alignment.
- Senate also noted and discussed the Review Panel's findings relevant to its role as the governing authority of the Corporation, and provided input into management's response for several recommendations.

6. Senate Committee Reports

Academic Board

- Senate noted the digest of Academic Board meeting 05/2025, held on 17 September 2025.

Senate Standing Committee

- Senate noted the Report of the Senate Standing Committee from its meeting of 9 September 2025.
- Senate approved the proposal to amend Statute 9 – Student Organisations to reflect changes to ACU's organisational structure.
- Senate approved changes to the Senate Digital Communication Protocol, with immediate effect.
- Senate noted the final Senate and committee meeting dates for 2026.

Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

- Senate noted the Report from Meeting 04/2025 of the Finance and Resources Committee, held on 15 September 2025.
- Senate discussed ethical investment review and received a verbal update on budget progress.
- Recommended the appointment of KPMG as external auditors for 2026–2028.

Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

- Senate noted the Report from Meeting 04/2025 (3 September) of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Senate discussed updates on strategic risks, including mission and identity, and compliance with Ex Corde Ecclesiae.
- Senate noted the Sexual Misconduct Report and Wage Compliance Report.
- Senate noted the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Q2 2025 Report and the Cyber Security Report.

Report of the Honorary Awards Committee

- Senate noted the Report from the Honorary Awards Committee from its meeting of 9 September 2025.
- Senate approved the awarding of four Honorary Degrees and two Honorary Titles.

7. Reports from State Chapters

Senate noted reports from the ACT, NSW, Queensland, and Victorian State Chapters.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for 4 December 2025.