

## **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.