

SENATE DIGEST FOR MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Senators and attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted. The newly elected Student Member, Ella Birt was welcomed to her first meeting.

2. Report from Chancellor

The Chancellor highlighted current and anticipated Senate vacancies and the processes to fill the relevant positions.

3. Report from Vice-Chancellor and President

The Vice-Chancellor and President (VC) provided an overview of the present state of the University, including highlights, challenges and trends through the State of Play 2025 presentation and highlighted the following:

- Our fundamentals are strengthened, and institutional performance is beyond expectations;
- ACU now has the highest enrolment figure in the history of the institution with the highest international enrolments to date;
- Research performance is outstanding, as recognised in 2025 Times Higher Education rankings with ACU ranked 1st worldwide in research quality in psychology and 12th worldwide in research quality in education, among others; and
- Within an uncertain higher education landscape, we remain focussed on our Mission and our ambitions under Vision 2033.

4. COO Portfolio: Opportunities and Key Priorities

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) provided his inaugural update to the Senate and highlighted progress concerning efficiency gains. The COO cited Vision 2033, noting that the next stage is to develop a clear plan, to enable ACU to make decisions to deliver on that vision.

5. Report from Provost

The Provost provided an overview of the written report and highlighted the following:

- There has been a surge in enrolments in Brisbane;
- There has been a significant reduction in face to face-to-face teaching undertaken by casual staff; and
- CourseTrack has been introduced and will facilitate the provision of course advice and the assessment of students for course completion.

6. Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) Annual Report

Senate noted the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) 2024 Annual Report.

7. A Code of Governance Principles and Practice for Australia's Public Universities

Senate noted the report on Change in Sector Governance Advice: A Comparison of 2018 Voluntary Code and the 2024 Code of Principles.

8. Report of the Academic Board

The Chair of Academic Board advised that Academic Board met on 19 February and the Report will proceed to the next meeting of Senate.

Senate noted the Academic Board Annual Report for 2024

9. Report of the Senate Standing Committee

No report since last meeting.

10. Report of the Finance and Resources Committee

No report since last meeting.

11. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

No report since last meeting.

12. Report of the Honorary Awards Committee

No report since last meeting.

13. Reports from State Chapters

Senate noted the following Reports from State Chapters:

- Report of the ACT State Chapter meeting of 15 August 2024.
- Report of the ACT State Chapter meeting of 24 October 2024.
- Report of the NSW State Chapter meeting of 18 November 2024.
- Report of the Queensland State Chapter meeting of 19 November 2024.
- Report of the Victorian State Chapter meeting 04/2024, held on November 2024.