

DIGEST – ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 03/2025, 21 May 2025

A summary of the Academic Board meeting 03/2025 held on 21 May 2025 is detailed below.

Chair of Academic Board's Update

Academic Board:

- endorsed the Chair of Academic Board and Student Administration Risks Submissions.
- noted the Chair of Academic Board Approvals.

Vice-Chancellor and President's (VCP) Update

The VCP reported on:

- the recently held Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Corporation advising that members received and noted the 2024 Annual Report.
- the changes to the government following the recent federal election and potential impacts for the sector.

Academic Board noted the Report of the Vice-Chancellor and President.

Provost's Update

The Provost reported on:

- the announcement that Professor Mary Ryan, Executive Dean, Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) was departing ACU. She thanked Professor Ryan for the great work accomplished by FEA under her leadership.
- student load numbers, advising that they were strong. Professor Cugin provided an overview of the work of the Admissions and Marketing teams to convert applications into enrolments and advised that she was confident that ACU would reach its target.
- the decrease in International student load numbers due to several reasons including changes to policy.
- the double degree in Computer and Data Science advising that Associate Professor Eila Erfani had recently commenced at ACU as part of the leadership team for the degree.
- sponsorship of several programs by industry partners including Microsoft.

Academic Board discussed and noted the Report of the Provost including the 2025 enrolment outlook, Faculty health checks, Higher Degree Research snapshot and Faculty highlights.

Academic Board endorsed:

1. the approach to the Education-Research Nexus for ACU including the four principles as outlined in Attachment A.
2. the following three recommendations for improving the Education-Research Nexus Integration at ACU for implementation:
 - a. Updating of resources (such as exemplars) to support the inclusion of integration for the four principles into Course approvals/reviews.
 - b. Incorporation of education-research nexus principles into recruitment/probation criteria.
 - c. Mapping of units and research expertise

as presented by Dr Joanne Bennett, Academic Lead (Operations), Office of the Deputy Provost.

Policy Review, Approval and Monitoring

Academic Board:

- noted the 2024 Student Appeals Report.
- noted prospective changes to the Admissions to Coursework Programs Policy, specifically Clause 18, the minimum GPA requirement for entry into Honours programs, currently under review and slated for revision following consultation and approval through the relevant governance processes.

Reporting Committees

1. Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC)

Academic Board:

- noted the Digest of CAQC meeting 03/2025 held on 23 April 2025.
- approved the major course change for the Bachelor of Education (Primary and Secondary), consisting of:
 - the rescission of the degree's suspension on the Ballarat campus; and
 - the amendment of the course rules to clarify the offering of units at the specific course delivery locations, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001192, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the proposal to discontinue the Master of Teaching (Primary) (Leading Learning), as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001291, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Away from Base)
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education)
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary and Secondary) - also ACUO version
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary and Special Education)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts (Humanities)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts (Design Innovation and Design)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Exercise Science as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001309.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the Bachelor of Youth Work and Diploma in Youth Work as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001309.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Bachelor of Arts
 - Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
 - Diploma in Liberal Arts
 - Certificate in Liberal Arts as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001131.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001229.
- approved the major course change consisting of amendments to Admission Requirements, Completion Requirements, and Schedule of Unit offerings, arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the:
 - Master of Professional Psychology
 - Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)
 - Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy

- Master of Psychology (Clinical)
 - Master of Psychology (Clinical)/Doctor of Philosophy
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001053, effective for Semester 1 2026, **and**
- noted the following minor changes arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review detailed in CMAS proposal PR001053:
 - the addition of 4 new units
 - the suspension/discontinuation of two units
 - minor changes to all units.
- approved the major course change to amend the wording of the Admission Requirements arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the:
 - Master of Health Professional Education
 - Graduate Diploma in Health Professional Education
 - Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001109, effective for Semester 1 2026, **and**
- noted the minor changes arising from the Stage 1 Course review detailed in CMAS proposal PR001109, related to the review of:
 - Course Learning Outcomes for each course
 - AQF levels of all units
 - Unit assessments across the three courses
 - gaps in ACU Graduate Capabilities.
- approved the following major course change consisting of updates to course learning outcomes and course maps, and the addition of Coaching and Sports Analytics specialisations, arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the:
 - Master of High Performance Sport
 - Graduate Diploma in High Performance Sport
 - Graduate Certificate in High Performance Sport
 - Graduate Certificate in Exercise Rehabilitation for Sports Injuries
 - Master of Sports and Exercise Physiotherapy/Master of High Performance Sport
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001129, effective for Semester 1 2026, **and**
- noted the minor changes arising from the Stage 1 Course review detailed in CMAS proposal PR001129:
 - the availability of full-time and part-time options for ACU Term 1 commencing students
 - unit availability in alternative terms
 - GUO updates to ensure currency and alignment with updated Course CLOs and ACU Assessment Policy.
- approved the major course change for the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post-registration) to update the admission requirements and unit changes, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001169, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the proposal to discontinue the following courses previously offered through arrangement with Open Universities Australia (OUA):
 - Graduate Certificate in Health Administration
 - Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education
 - Graduate Certificate in High Performance Leadership
 - Graduate Certificate in Global Health
 - Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001290, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the proposal to discontinue the following courses, moved to ACU Online under new codes:
 - Master of Health Professional Education MHPRED
 - Graduate Diploma in Health Professional Education GDPRED
 - Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education GCPRED
 - Graduate Diploma in Psychology GDPSYC

- Master of Social Work MSWORK
- Master of Health Administration MHLHAD
- Graduate Diploma in Health Administration GDHLAD
- Graduate Certificate in Health Administration GCHADM
- Master of Rehabilitation MREHAB
- Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation GDREHB
- Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation (and specialties) GREHB
- Bachelor of Physical Activity & Health Science BPAHSC
- Bachelor of Physical Activity & Health Science (Honours) BPAHSH,
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001310, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the following major course changes arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the Master of Business Administration:
 - the addition of specialised streams to the Master of Business Administration ACU online (MBADOQ) and Master of Business Administration Multi-mode delivery (MBAZN);
 - the offer of the Master of Business Administration ACU online (MBADOQ) to international students offshore; and
 - the offer of the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration Face to Face (GDBA),
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR000892, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the major course change arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the Master of Occupational Health and Safety Environmental Management to amend the course rules to include:
 - a new thirty credit-point research stream; and
 - a new unit in Environmental Management,
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR000900, effective for ACU Term 1 2026.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)
 - Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry) (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Global Studies
 - Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Global Studies
 - Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Biomedical Science / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Biomedical Science / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Business Administration / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Business Administration / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
 - Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Philosophy / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Philosophy / Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Theology / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Theology / Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR0001271.
- noted the suspension of the Bachelor of Business Administration Away from Base (AFB) for Semester 2 2025, approved by the Deputy Provost on 18 March 2025.

2. University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC)

Academic Board:

- noted the ACU Education and Student Success Plan Progress Update.
- approved the suspension until 30 September 2025 of clauses 22 and 23 of the Course Accreditation and Amendment Procedure in accordance with clause 4 of Statute 5.1 - Courses for Degrees, Diplomas and Other Awards.
This suspension is exclusively to enable assessment changes related to the 'two-lane' approach to assessment security (as presented to Academic Board on the 19 February 2025), arising out of the ACU Generative AI Action Plan (as presented to Academic Board on the 10 July 2024).
- noted the Digest of ULTC meeting 03/2025, held on 29 April 2025.
- noted the ACU QILT Student Experience Survey 2024 results.
- noted the ULTC 2024 Annual Report to Academic Board.

3. Faculty Boards

Academic Board noted:

- the Digest of the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) Faculty Board meeting 02/2025 held on 20 March 2025.
- the Minutes and Bulletin of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Faculty Board meeting 02/2025 held on 31 March 2025.
- the Digest of the Faculty of Law and Business (FLB) Faculty Board meeting 02/2025 held on 19 March 2025.
- the Digest of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy (FTP) Faculty Board meeting 02/2025 held on 3 April 2025.
- the FTP Areas of Priority for 2025.