

DIGEST – ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 06/2025, 12 November 2025

A summary of the Academic Board meeting 06/2025 held on 12 November 2025 is detailed below.

Welcome and Apologies

Academic Board extended a warm welcome to ACU Senators Marita Winters and Julian Widdup at the meeting.

Chair of Academic Board's Update

The Chair advised that the Academic Board Standing Orders will be revised to include guidance on the sharing of Academic Board papers.

Academic Board:

- noted the Academic Risk Register 2025.
- noted the results of the Academic Governance Maturity Self-Assessment Survey and accompanying thematic analysis.
- noted the annual member survey and provided advice on the annual report to the Senate.
- noted the 2026 Academic Work Plan.
- noted the approvals granted by the Chair of Academic Board.

Vice-Chancellor and President's (VCP) Update

The VCP provided an update on several key matters:

- the Final Report and Principles – Expert Council on University Governance highlights the importance of greater Senate involvement in academic governance, particularly in matters of academic risk. The attendance of Ms Winters and Mr Widdup was seen as a positive step in this direction.
- the upcoming VC Staff Talks sessions will provide an excellent opportunity to reflect on the achievements of 2025 and to consider the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- the Provost has taken on the role of Chair of the newly established governance body, the Executive Leadership Forum (ELF), created to improve governance and collaboration across the university.
- discussion included the status of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC).
- enrolments were reported as tracking above target, with particular emphasis on the significant growth in ACU Online.
- the contribution of the Provost's Portfolio to the Bachelor of Computer Science was acknowledged with recognition of the Academic Board's critical role in such decisions.

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

Academic Board noted recent amendments to the ACU AI Action Plan from the AI Council as provided by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) (DVCE).

Provost's Update

The Provost provided an update on several key matters:

- the introduction of Ministerial Direction 115, which replaces Ministerial Direction 111 from 14 November 2025, along with an overview of its three phase process.
- enrolments for 2026 have exceeded targets, however, numbers may plateau in 2027 due to caps on both international and domestic students. To address this, initiatives such as partnering with an Online Program Manager (OPM) and ACU's expansion into transnational education have been established.

Academic Board noted:

1. Expected end of year 2025 enrolment load for the university and individual areas.
2. The enrolment load outlook for 2026-2028 as well as international and domestic challenges.
3. Innovations related to the establishment of a partnership with an Online Program Manager (OPM) and ACU's entry into transnational education.

Report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Catholic Mission)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Catholic Mission) provided an update on several key matters:

- the recent ACU Prize for Poetry, highlighting ACU's ongoing dedication to the Arts.
- recommendations relevant to the Academic Board arising from the recent Thematic Review: Identity and Mission.

Policy Review, Approval and Monitoring

Academic Board:

- noted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Success and Strategic Initiatives at ACU as provided by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous).
- approved amendments to the Scholarships and Awards Policy and the Administration of Scholarships and Awards Procedure with immediate effect.
- approved the Student Veteran Support Policy with effect from 1 January 2026.
- noted the proposal to Credit Report – Semester 2, 2025, which was noted and discussed at the Courses & Academic Quality Committee (CACQ) held on 15th October 2025.
- noted the proposal to Domestic Admissions Report, Midyear Intake 2025, which was noted and discussed at the Courses & Academic Quality Committee (CACQ) held on 15th October 2025.
- discussed and noted the 2024 Academic Misconduct Final Report.

Reporting Committees

1. Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC)

Academic Board:

- noted the Digest of the Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC) meeting 06/2025 held on 15 October 2025.
- approved the Stage 2 course review and major change proposal for the:
 - Bachelor of Arts
 - Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
 - Diploma in Liberal Arts
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Liberal Arts
 - Certificate in Liberal Arts (suspended)
 - consisting of the addition and discontinuation of majors and minors, amendments to completion requirements, unit revisions and course map updates, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001193, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- approved the Stage 2 course review and major change proposal for the:
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary and Secondary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Away from Base)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts (Design Innovation and Technologies)
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts
 - Bachelor of Education (Secondary) / Bachelor of Exercise Science

consisting of the introduction of new courses, majors and minors, the simplification of course structures, and improvements in curriculum alignment with employer and accreditation requirements, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001349, effective for Semester 1 2027.

- approved the Stage 2 course review and major change proposal for the:
 - Bachelor of Youth Work
 - Diploma in Youth Work
 consisting of unit changes, the introduction of a new minor, and the replacement of the Diploma in Youth Work with the Diploma in Youth Studies as an exit-only qualification, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001191, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- approved the Stage 2 course review and major change proposal for the Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation), consisting of alignment with the Two-Lane Assessment Approach, and changes to generic unit outlines and Learning Outcomes, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001230, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- approved the following major course change consisting of updates to course learning outcomes and course maps, and the addition of Majors in Exercise Rehabilitation and Sports Performance, arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the:
 - Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science
 - Bachelor of Exercise Science / Bachelor of Nutrition Science
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science / Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science
 as detailed in CMAS proposal 1667 effective for Semester 1 2027,
- noted the minor changes arising from the Stage 1 Course review detailed in CMAS proposal PR000680:
 - Updates to elective offerings and course maps for the Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science and associated double degrees.
 - New units to facilitate vocational outcomes.
 - Revised sequencing and recoding and re-titling of units to support new majors and enhanced outcomes.
 - GUO updates to ensure currency, alignment with updated Course CLOs, revised ESSA competencies, ACU Assessment Policy and
 - Enhanced placement opportunities associated with splitting the 20cp Professional Experience unit into two 10cp units.
 - Integration of Lane 1 (secure) assessments aligned to Course Learning Outcomes and revised ESSA competencies.
 - Alignment with AusActive and ASCA accreditation requirements.
 as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001690, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- approved the re-titling and replacing of the Bachelor of Exercise Science / Bachelor of Business Administration with the Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science / Bachelor of Business, to align with the new Bachelor of Business Structure and ACU's suite of ESSA-accredited courses, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001670, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- approved the Major Course Change for the Master of Clinical and Exercise Physiology to update the admission requirements and unit changes in relation to GPA entry requirements, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001690, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Master of Clinical Nursing
 - Graduate Diploma in Clinical Nursing
 - Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing
 as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001569.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Master of Public Health
 - Master of Public Health (Global Health and Advocacy)
 - Graduate Diploma in Public Health
 - Graduate Certificate in Public Health
 - Graduate Certificate in Global Health
 as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001611.

- approved the new course proposal for the:
 - Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Business
 - Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability / Bachelor of Business
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science / Bachelor of Businessas detailed in CMAS proposal PR001665, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- approved the new course proposal for the Master of Business Administration (via Emeritus), as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001587, effective for Semester 2 2026.
- approved the Stage 2 Course Review and Major Course Change for the:
 - Graduate Diploma in Australian Migration Law and Practice
 - Master of Australian Migration Law and Practiceconsisting of course learning outcome revisions and course map changes, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001630, effective for Semester 1 2026.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture
 - Graduate Certificate in Mission and Cultureas detailed in CMAS proposal PR001576.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the Graduate Certificate in Catholic Studies, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001574.
- noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 Course Review of the:
 - Diploma in Business
 - Diploma in Information Technology
 - Diploma in Biomedical Science
 - Diploma in Exercise Science
 - Diploma in Nutrition Scienceas detailed in CMAS proposal PR001592.
- noted the course suspensions approved by the Provost as noted at the CAQC meeting of 15 October 2025.
- noted the draft Courses and Academic Quality Committee 2026 Work Plan.

2. Internationalisation Committee (IC)

Academic Board noted:

- the digest of the Internationalisation Committee meeting 03/2025, held on 2 October 2025 and the circular resolution held from 30 October – 3 November 2025.
- the Internationalisation Committee's (IC) 2026 Work Plan.

3. University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC)

Academic Board:

- discussed and noted the update regarding the current state of assessment security across ACU's units and courses.
- noted the Digest of University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC) meeting 06/2025, held on 21 October 2025.
- noted the ACU Education and Student Success Plan.
- noted the progress update on the Your Voice Matters initiative, including developments in feedback practices, Canvas LMS design, and quality assurance processes.
- approved the ULTC Terms of Reference.
- noted the draft University Teaching and Learning (ULTC) 2026 Work Plan.

4. University Research Committee (URC)

Academic Board:

- noted and discussed the Research and enterprise end of year update.
- noted the Digest of the University Research Committee meeting 04/2025, held on 7 October 2025.
- noted the Research Operations Report for year-to-date August 2025 results.
- noted the Research Publications Performance Report, October 2025.

- noted the HDR Report, and the Graduate Research School Update, submitted by the Director, Graduate Research School and dated October 2025.
- noted the draft University Research Committee 2026 Work Plan.

5. Faculty Boards

Academic Board noted:

- the Digest of FEA Faculty Board meeting 05/2025, held on 11 September 2025.
- the FEA Faculty Board 2026 Annual Workplan, which will take effect from 1 January 2026.
- the Digest of FHS Faculty Board meeting 05/2025, held on 18 September 2025.
- the FHS Faculty Board 2026 Annual Workplan, which will take effect from 1 January 2026.
- the Faculty of Law and Business Faculty Board 2026 Annual Draft Work Plan.
- the Digest of FTP Faculty Board meeting 05/2025, held on 4 September 2025.
- the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy Faculty Board 2026 Annual Draft Work Plan.