

DIGEST – ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 01/2026, 20 February 2026

A summary of the Academic Board meeting 01/2026 held on 20 February 2026 is detailed below.

Welcome and Apologies

Academic Board welcomed new members to their first meeting.

Academic Board noted:

1. The changes to the ex-officio and elected membership; and
2. The timeline for the by-election to fill the Level E elected academic staff representative from the Faculty of Law and Business.

Chair of Academic Board's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following several key matters:

- Reported on the steps taken at the end of 2025 to clarify expectations regarding the conduct of members following the unauthorised release of meeting papers outside the institution.
- The amendments to Statute 2.5 – The Academic Board.

Academic Board:

- Noted the Report of the Chair (verbal).
- Noted the Academic Board Annual Report for 2025.
- Approved the nominees for award of University Medals and University Honours Medals for 2025.
- Noted the recipients of the Executive Dean's Awards for Academic Excellence for 2025.
- Approved the minimum Medal Score for 2026 as a weighted mark of 85.000.
- Noted the approvals granted by the Chair of Academic Board.

Vice-Chancellor and President's (VCP) Update

The VCP provided an update on the following several key matters:

- Progress on the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC).
- Impacts affecting International student enrolments across the sector.
- The institutional framework being developed at ACU to address racism, promote cultural safety and strengthen accountability.

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

Provost's Update

The Provost provided an update on the following several key matters:

- Current load data.
- Investigations were underway to gain an understanding of application to enrolment conversion rates.
- International student enrolments remained below the existing cap.
- That ACU was on track to meet its headcount targets.
- Discussion occurred on the impacts for ACU arising from the Australian Department of Home Affairs' rejection of international student visa applications from Nepal and India, as well as the potential factors contributing to these decisions.

Academic Board discussed and noted the Provost Report including the 2026 enrolment health checks, and the Faculties and Pathways highlights.

Policy Review, Approval and Monitoring

Academic Board noted the Semester 1 2025 Graduation Report.

Reporting Committees

1. Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC)

Academic Board:

- Noted the Digest of the Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC) meeting 07/2025 held on 3 December 2025; and
- Noted the Digest of the Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC) meeting 01/2026 held on 28 January 2026.
- Approved the new course proposal for the Undergraduate Certificate in Educational Studies, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001753, effective from Semester 1, 2027.
- Approved the major course change to add new Health Sciences and Arts minors, and remove discontinued minors for the:
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science
 - Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001759, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- Approved the major course change for the Bachelor of Nutrition Science, consisting of amendments to Minor offering titles and codes, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001758, effective for Semester 1 2027.
- Approved the major course change for the Master of Dietetic Practice, consisting of updates to admission requirements to align with Accreditation authority Dietitians Australia, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001760, effective for Professional Term 2 2027.
- Approved the major course change arising from the recommendations of the Stage 1 Review of the:
 - Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
 - Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)consisting of:
 - updates to course learning outcomes and Honours course rule structure, as endorsed on 3 December 2025 for implementation in 2027 and 2028; and
 - an amendment to the implementation date, from 2027 to Semester 1 2028, for the ACU term delivery model as endorsed on 28 January 2026, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001651.
- Noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Midwifery
 - Bachelor of Midwifery (Indigenous Cohort)
 - Bachelor of Midwifery (Graduate Entry)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001710.
- Noted the recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology – Pathway A: Coursework Stream
 - Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology – Pathway B: Thesis Stream
 - Graduate Certificate in Clinical Exercise Rehabilitation (exit degree only)
 - Graduate Certificate in Exercise Rehabilitation for Sports Injuries (ACU Online)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001791.
- Approved the new course proposal for the:
 - Bachelor of Information Technology
 - Graduate Certificate in Information Technology
 - Master of Information Technologyto be offered via OPM, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001832, effective for ACU Term 3 2026.
- Approved the new course proposal for the:
 - Master of Artificial Intelligence;
 - Graduate Diploma in Artificial Intelligence; and
 - Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence,

- to be offered via ACU Online, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001768, effective for ACU Term 3 2026.
- Approved the major course change to offer the following courses online:
 - Bachelor of Computer Science; and
 - Bachelor of Computer Science/Master of Data Science effective for ACU Term 2, 2026.
- Noted the 2026 Faculty Proposal Submission schedules from:
 - the Faculty of Education and Arts
 - the Faculty of Health Sciences
 - the Faculty of Law and Business
 - the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.
- Noted the following course suspensions approved by the Provost since the CAQC meeting of 15 October 2025:
 - Suspension of Business courses at Strathfield Campus for Semester 1 2026, approved 14 October 2025;
 - Suspension of Business courses at Brisbane Campus for Semester 1 2026, approved 21 October 2025;
 - Suspension of additional Business courses at Brisbane Campus for Semester 1 2026, approved 14 November 2025.

2. Internationalisation Committee (IC)

Academic Board noted the Global Portfolio's early 2026 assurance focus in relation to academic quality, governance, and regulatory assurance in international activity, including ESOS / CRICOS assurance.

3. University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC)

Academic Board:

- Noted the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Report.
- Noted the 2025-Indigenous Perspectives- A Curriculum Scope and Scan Project.
- Discussed and noted the report Exploring the Future ACU Library and advise on Library priorities arising from the recommendations.
- Noted the Digest of University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC) meeting 01/2026, held on 3 February 2026 and the circular resolution held from 4 - 6 February 2026.
- Noted the planned consultation activities as outlined in the Implementation and Communication section.
- Approved the amendments to the ULTC Terms of Reference (ToR) as endorsed by University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC) via circular resolution.

4. Faculty Boards

Academic Board noted:

- The Digest of FEA Faculty Board meeting 06/2025, held on 30 October 2025.
- The Digest of FHS Faculty Board meeting 06/2025, held on 06 November 2025.
- The Digests of the Faculty of Law and Business Faculty Board meetings held on 2 September 2025, 18 September 2025, 29 October 2025 and 4 December 2025.
- The Digest of FTP Faculty Board meeting 06/2025, held on 06 November 2025.
- The FTP Areas of Priority for 2026 (verbal update).
- The outline of arrangements for the launch of the revitalised Core Curriculum.

Other Business

Academic Board noted the presentation on Enabling Academic Excellence as provided by Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate).