

DIGEST – ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 02/2026, 29 April 2026

A summary of the Academic Board meeting 02/2026 held on 29 April 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.
2. The outcome of the election of the Deputy Chair, Academic Board.

Chair of Academic Board's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following key matters:

- Provided an overview of the work of the Australia-wide Australian Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates (OzCABS) and the NSW-based Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates (CoCABS). He acknowledged the important role these groups play in fostering a collaborative community where Academic Boards of Australian universities can support one another through discussion and seek advice on the diverse challenges facing the sector.
- Noted that the newly elected Deputy Chair, Associate Professor Gareth Wearne, attended the most recent CoCABS meeting. Associate Professor Wearne briefed the Board on key discussion topics, including engagement with the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), institutional responses to racism and anti-Semitism, and approaches to managing academic risk.

At his final meeting the Chair expressed his gratitude and acknowledged the many staff and external colleagues that had supported him throughout his tenure.

Academic Board:

- Noted the Report of the Chair (verbal).
- Noted the approvals granted by the Chair of Academic Board.

Provost Report

Overview of Human & Digital Futures

Academic Board discussed and noted the proposed Human & Digital Futures strategy, including its purpose, scope, and operating architecture, as a mission-aligned mechanism to support ACU's strategic positioning under Vision 2033 as presented by Professor Phil Parker, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Catholic Mission)

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

- Advised that following last year's Thematic Review – Identity and Mission, the portfolio is currently progressing implementation of the recommendations.
- Advised of the establishment of a Mission based standing committee of Senate.

Academic Board noted the report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Catholic Mission – April 2026.

Policy Review, Approval and Monitoring

Academic Board approved:

- The amendments to the Student Conduct Policy and Managing Student Misconduct Procedure with immediate effect.
- The amendments to the Support for Student Defence Reserves and Emergency Service Personnel Policy with immediate effect.
- The Common Academic Calendar and Study Periods for 2028 with immediate effect.
- The amendments to the Rescission, Revocation or Relinquishment of an Award Procedures with immediate effect.
- The amendments to the Course Accreditation and Amendment Procedure with immediate effect.

Academic Board noted:

- The DVCRE response to Action AB 2026/002, progress of policies for which Academic Board is the Approval Authority, as outlined in this paper.
- The 2025 Student Appeals Report.
- The 2025 Student and Public Complaints Report.
- The 2025 Student Conduct Report.
- The consequential amendments to Student Administration policies, procedures and guidelines arising from the approval of the Academic Roles and Responsibilities Policy.
- The Domestic Admissions Report Semester 1 2026.
- The Timetabling Report 2025 as presented to ULTC meeting 02/2026.

Reporting Committees

1. Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC)

Academic Board approved:

- The major course change for the Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Global Studies to amend the Course Rules and Course Map, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR002028, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The major course change to discontinue the Media Major and Minor within the Bachelor of Arts, including all remaining Media units, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR002099, effective from Semester 1 2028.
- The major course change for the:
 - Master of Professional Psychology
 - Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)to add Strathfield Campus as a delivery location, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR001928, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The major course change for the:
 - Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing
 - Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing
 - Master of Mental Health Nursingfor its transition from delivery via ACU Online, to the Risepoint-supported delivery model, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR001908, effective from Term 3 2026.
- The major course change to the Bachelor of Paramedicine, to amend the Admission Requirements wording, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR002128, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The Stage 2 review / major course change for the:
 - Master of Clinical Nursing
 - Graduate Diploma in Clinical Nursing
 - Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursingas detailed in CMAS Proposal PR001730, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The Stage 2 review / major course change for the:
 - Master of Digital Health
 - Graduate Diploma in Digital Health

- Graduate Certificate in Digital Health
as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR001632, effective from Term 3 2026.
- The major course change for 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 PR001792, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The major course change for the:
 - Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Laws
 - Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
to amend the Course Rules and Course Map, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR002008, effective from Semester 1 2027.
- The major course change for the Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security, for transition from delivery via ACU Online, to the Risepoint-supported delivery model, as detailed in CMAS Proposal PR002129, effective from Term 3 2026.
- The proposal, ACU Pathways Programs for High School, a pilot program of delivering ACU non-award units in a high school setting.

Academic Board noted:

- The Digest of the Courses and Academic Quality Committee (CAQC) meeting 02/2026 held on 8 April 2026.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the Bachelor of Arts sequences: Archaeology, Geography, Environment and Society, History and Politics and International Relations, as detailed in CMAS proposal PR002048.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Master of Teaching (Primary)
 - Master of Teaching (Primary) / Graduate Certificate in Religious Education,
with a proposed consequential change to the:
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science / Master of Teaching (Primary),
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR002096.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Master of Teaching (Early Childhood and Primary)
 - Master of Teaching (Early Childhood and Primary) (ACU Online)
 - Master of Teaching (Early Childhood and Primary) / Graduate Certificate in Religious Education
 - Master of Teaching (Early Childhood and Primary) / Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (ACU Online)
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR002095.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Master of Teaching (Secondary) including Internship specialisation
 - Master of Teaching (Secondary) / Graduate Certificate in Religious Education
with proposed consequential changes to the:
 - Master of Teaching (Secondary) (Leading Learning)
 - Bachelor of Arts/Master of Teaching (Secondary)
 - Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation)/Master of Teaching (Secondary)
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR002091.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Nursing
 - Bachelor of Nursing (Enrolled Nurses)
 - Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Business
 - Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Paramedicine
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001788.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Paramedicine
 - Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Paramedicine
as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001829.

- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Physiotherapy
 - Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001809.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Speech Pathology
 - Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001849.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the:
 - Bachelor of Applied Public Health (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science (Honours)
 - Bachelor of High Performance Sport (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Nutrition Science (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Paramedicine (Honours)as detailed in CMAS proposal PR001868.
- The recommendations of the Stage 1 course review of the Tertiary Preparation Program (Health Sciences) as detailed in CMAS proposal PR002009.
- The suspension of the Bachelor of Midwifery (Graduate Entry) on the Melbourne and Blacktown Campuses from Semester 1 2027, approved by the Provost on 19 March 2026.

2. Internationalisation Committee (IC)

Academic Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for the Internationalisation Committee as endorsed by the Committee.

Academic Board noted

- The digest of the Internationalisation Committee meeting 01/2026, held on 26 March 2026.
- The Internationalisation Committee (IC) 2025 Annual Report to Academic Board as presented to IC meeting 01/2026.

3. University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC)

Academic Board noted:

- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Report.
- The Digest of University Learning and Teaching Committee (ULTC) meeting 02/2026, held on 7 April 2026.
- Galuma- li as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student model of care.

4. University Research Committee (URC)

Academic Board noted and discussed the DVCRE Q1 2026 update.

Academic Board noted:

- The Digest of the University Research Committee meeting 01/2026, held on 10 March 2026.
- The Research Operations Report for year-to-date December 2025 results.
- The HDR Report, and the Graduate Research School Update, dated March 2026.

5. Faculty Boards

Academic Board noted:

- The Digest of the FEA Faculty Board meeting 01/2026, held on 12 March 2026.
- The FEA Areas of Priority for 2026 (verbal update).
- The Digest of FHS Faculty Board meeting 01/2026, held on 5 March 2026.

- The Digest of the Faculty of Law and Business Faculty Board Meeting 01/2026, held on 25 February 2026.
- The Digest of FTP Faculty Board meeting 01/2026, held on 27 February 2026.

Other Business

On behalf of the university, Vice Chancellor, Professor Zlatko Skrbis acknowledged Professor Tim McKenry in his service as Chair of the Academic Board and for his broader governance contributions throughout his tenure.