FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Proposed revisions to Terms of Reference and Delegations of Academic Senate to reflect FSPFD and new responsibility for equal opportunity and access and equity

Academic Senate: Terms of Reference

1. The Academic Senate shall advise Council on all matters of academic policy, including:

(a) the formulation of the academic objectives, goals, objectives and strategies of the University as set out in the Flinders Strategic Priorities and Future Directions and the actions necessary for their implementation;

(b) the academic goals which should inform financial planning;

(c) the extent to which the University's academic goals and objectives have been achieved;

(d) the development of teaching, learning, scholarship, research and research training;

(e) the conditions for the granting of fellowships, scholarships, bursaries and prizes;

(f) the entrance standards for students and the admission of students;

(g) equal opportunity, affirmative action, student access and equity, cultural diversity and inclusiveness;

(h) the development of new academic activities and the establishment of new faculties, departments, schools and centres, and changes in the academic organisation;

(i) courses and the granting of all academic awards;

(j) the administration of the statutes and rules governing academic awards.

2. The Academic Senate shall:

(a) be responsible for quality assurance in relation to teaching, research and service to the community academic matters and for the review of University performance in these areas;

(b) monitor and review academic performance across the University on the basis of reports of strategic action plans and Key Accountability Measures;

(c) approve the processes for approval and review of topics, including identification of their weighting and relationship to other topics;
(e) (d) oversee the processes and outcomes for assessment and examination of students and exercise a general review of all examination results as soon as possible after the declaration of results;

(e) receive an annual report within a framework determined by Academic Senate on the pattern of promotions in the University and to monitor promotion trends;

(f) receive an annual report from the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Committee on the implementation of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Program, Disability Action Plan and the operation of the University's grievance procedures;

(d) (g) exercise such functions, responsibilities or authorities as may be assigned or delegated to it from time to time by Council or the Vice-Chancellor, and provide such reports and advice as may be requested by the Council or the Vice-Chancellor.

3. The Academic Senate may:

(a) refer matters to a Faculty for consideration and report;

(b) request an Executive Dean of a Faculty to provide such information as may be required on the academic operation and activities of that Faculty;

(c) establish executive, sub-committees or such other committees as it determines and delegate to them, or to any individuals, any of its powers or functions sub-committees or working parties to advise it on any matters within its terms of reference;

(d) provide comments to Council, the Resources Committee or the Vice-Chancellor on policies relating to the allocation of University resources.

Authority Delegated to Academic Senate by Council

(a) to approve new/amended course documentation including the Rules governing academic awards;

(b) to approve quality assurance processes for teaching and research;

(c) to approve affiliation with other institutions within Council approved strategic directions;

(d) to approve the establishment of research and teaching centres/institutes;

(e) to approve reports of reviews of courses and academic areas and reviews of Research Centres/Institutes and where appropriate determine follow-up action;

(f) to approve the University's Research Management Plan within Council approved strategic directions;

(g) to approve principles for distribution of research funds;

(h) approve the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Program and the Disability Action Plan.

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