

What happened @ Academic Board

14 February 2024

Key decisions/actions by the Academic Board

Introduction of Simon Katterl to Academic Board

- Simon Katterl has joined Academic Board as a member with Lived Experience. Simon has provided strategic lived experience, human rights and regulatory advice to statutory agencies, mental health, legal and human rights organisations. He has subcontracted and collaborated with a range of professionals from different sectors, including numerous components of the Victorian government, to further a better mental health system. Simon Katterl has a distinguished CV in the area of lived experience and it is wonderful to have him as a member of Academic Board

Honorary Appointment

- The Board unanimously approved the new Honorary appointment of Professor Mark Stokes as Honorary Professor

HREC Chair

- Prof Stokes has also commenced in the role of HREC Chair. Prof Stokes has previously been Chair of ethics committee at another higher education provider. This is the first time that the HREC committee has an academic in a Chairing position and this will be very good for research at the Institute

2026 Academic Calendar

- The 2026 Academic Calendar was unanimously approved

Policy Updates

- Support for Student Policy
 - The Board unanimously approved this new policy out of cycle

Hot Topics

VET and Short Courses

- Prof Kathryn von Treuer and Renzo Vittorino recently delivered training in Papua New Guinea. This was delivered off the coast of Port Moresby, however, the trip was cut short due to social unrest and the potential dangers this posed. Mental health first aid and mental health literacy is lacking in Papua New Guinea and this training program was exactly what was needed.

Student Representatives

- Student Representatives will be nominated shortly for Academic Board and the Teaching and Learning Committee. Nominations have not opened yet, however will do soon. For further information please see [here](#)

Report from the Dean

Applications

- The applications portal was open until 4 February 2024 but remains open for the

Undergraduate and Graduate Diploma programs

- Numbers are steady and look good in terms of increasing the Honours and MPP online offerings
- The Post Registration program remains strong
- There has been a very large decline in the MPPP program for a number of reasons, which include various market forces

CRICOS

- The CRICOS accreditation has been approved

APAC

- There will be some changes around the way APAC report and appraise courses and risk
- It was noted that there are no outstanding accreditation issues
- Prof Linda Byrne will be starting a new accreditation for our Bachelor of Psychology shortly

Staffing updates

- Several new staff have recently joined the Institute
 - Dr Vivienne Colegrove and Jane Anastasios have joined the Counselling and Psychotherapy program and will contribute to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs also
 - A number of staff have joined in supervisory roles, in particular into the Post Registration program
- There have been some staff changes within the Student Services team
 - Meng Lim recently joined the Student Services team as Student Services Manager
 - Gergana Yildiz has left the team and a new team member will be recruited shortly
 - An incoming Student Services Officer will commence at the end of the month

Report from Student Services

- Numbers across the Institute are strong
- There is currently just over a 290 student headcount for commencing students
- It was noted that the admissions cycle will be reviewed for next year

Other business

None noted

Upcoming meetings in 2024

- Wednesday 3 April
- Wednesday 5 June
- Wednesday 7 August
- Wednesday 2 October
- Wednesday 27 November