

What happened @ Academic Board

13 AUGUST 2025

1. FAREWELLS

- Farewell to Dr Chris Kilby, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning and Course Coordinator of the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science. The Institute is sincerely grateful to Dr Kilby for his contribution over the past five years

2. WELCOMES

- Professor Lyn Littlefield is welcomed to Academic Board as the new Deputy Chair and Professor Catriona Davis-McCabe is welcomed as the new Staff Representative
- Dr Melissa Hayden is welcomed to the Institute as the new Course Coordinator for the Honours program. Dr Jo Brooker who has done an amazing job as Honours Coordinator will now take over as the Coordinator for Master of Clinical Psychology and thesis component
- Dr Bronte McLeod is welcomed to the Counselling team

3. KEY DECISIONS/ACTIONS BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD

- Course Standards Committee unanimously approved, out of cycle, changes to:
 - Trauma Informed Care; minor changes to the quiz assessment and structure of unit TIC403
 - Master and Doctor of Psychology (Clinical); Health Psychology CLN601 Assessment 1
- Governance
 - Academic Board Membership
 - It was noted that Council has made changes regarding the membership composition of Academic Board. This has now been expanded to include two Council members who will now serve as both the Chair and Deputy Chair
 - Prof Lyn Littlefield was welcomed as the new Deputy Chair of Academic Board.
 - HREC
 - Governance has also changed in relation to the HREC Committee. Moving forward, HREC Committee minutes will be submitted to Academic Board for their information

4. STAFF REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Prof Catriona Davis-McCabe was welcomed to Academic Board as the new Staff Representative

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Deborah Adelin was thanked for her work in gathering student feedback across the Institute. Numerous issues were brought to Academic Board. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Issues with the new Sonia placement software
 - Prof Byrne acknowledged that there have been some teething issues with this new program and Prof Catriona Davis-McCabe will follow up with Placement Coordinators to ensure students are provided with greater clarity
 - The burdensome requirement of complying with administrative paperwork
 - Prof Byrne acknowledged that complying with the governance requirements in relation

to paperwork can be difficult at times. Students are reminded that accurate and timely record-keeping is both an APAC and AHPRA requirement.

- Pre-recorded lectures being out of date
 - Prof Byrne will follow this up with Course Coordinators. Students are advised that where key concepts remain relevant, older recordings may still be used, even if they reference past contexts
- Recognition of Prior Learning for experience as generally registered psychologist for students undertaking the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post-registration)
 - Recognition for Prior Learning is not possible for work experience
- Increasing class sizes in the Bachelor and Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science
 - Class sizes have grown in those units where we now co-teach Graduate Diploma and Bachelor students. Class sizes remain lower than at other higher education providers offering the same courses
 - The Institute needs to ensure the viability of our courses, which was an important part of the rationale for co-teaching some units
 - The Dean will liaise with teaching staff to ensure that methods of teaching are being adapted to suit the slightly increased class sizes
- Students enquired about the possibility of some stand-up desks being provided in teaching spaces
 - Prof Byrne will follow up with OH&S and the finance department to discuss the viability of providing ergonomic furniture
- Prof Byrne thanks all students for their feedback. These and the other matters brought to Academic Board are taken very seriously and all matters discussed with the Student Representatives will be taken back to Course, Unit and Placement Coordinators for further discussion. Prof Linda Byrne has and will continue to speak directly with students about their feedback where appropriate.

6. POLICY UPDATES

- Academic Progress and Review Policy, Procedures and Outcomes
 - This policy was approved subject to a minor change to wording in the Schedule of Outcomes
- Academic Freedom Policy and Procedure
 - This new policy was unanimously approved

7. REPORT FROM THE DEAN

- Psychology training in Australia is currently being shaped by several major developments
 - APAC have finished public consultation for the alignment of standards
 - The Psychology Board of Australia is progressing with its comprehensive review of training pathways for embedding new competencies in digital literacy, cultural safety, telehealth and interdisciplinary practice



- Planning continues for the 2026 APAC accreditation

8. SHORT COURSES – VET

- This area of the Institute remains very busy
- The VET program is progressing well and several new staff members have joined the short courses team
- Student loans are now in place

9. RESEARCH UPDATE

- The new structure of the Research Centres has now been finalised after internal and external consultation. The new model adopts a two-centre structure:
 - Centre for Mental Health Innovation and Education Research
 - Centre for Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion Research
- The next stage involves appointing Centre leads, and these positions will be advertised shortly.

10. REPORT FROM STUDENT SERVICES

- Applications
 - Student Services is currently focused on applications for 2026
 - There is a strong strategy in place for following up on student leads
 - Applications to date represent a 70% increase compared with last year
 - There are currently over 600 new applications, predominantly across the MPP, Post-Registration and Honours programs; particularly from applicants seeking online courses
 - The team is concentrating on international student recruitment and engagement with international agencies and there are already over 50 international student applications
- Chatbot - Mila
 - The CMI Chatbot has now been successfully implemented, and student feedback has been positive
 - Early analysis indicates that the student experience has been enhanced because of the Chatbot
 - Students were thanked for their input into choosing a chatbot name 'Mila'

11. MEETINGS IN 2025

- Wednesday 12 February
- Wednesday 16 April
- Wednesday 4 June
- Wednesday 13 August
- Wednesday 8 October
- Wednesday 26 November