

What happened @ Academic Board

19 November 2025

1. FAREWELL

- Deborah Adelin, the Student Representative on Academic Board was thanked for her outstanding contribution over the past two years. It was noted that Deborah has provided valuable input by bringing student issues to the Board's attention. This feedback has helped shape the Institute into what it is today by addressing concerns that create a positive learning environment. Deborah was congratulated for her efforts and will be greatly missed.

2. KEY DECISIONS/ACTIONS BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD

- Course Standards Committee
 - The Board unanimously approved an online version of the Bachelor of Counselling and Psychology program. Currently we deliver this as a hybrid course. It is expected that this will increase demand
 - If this course grows there is the potential for both an online and face-to-face offering
 - The Institute is committed to ensuring the student experience remains positive

3. POLICY UPDATES

- Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policy
 - The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) remains at the top of the agenda
 - An update to this policy addresses evolving concerns and provides additional clarity and guidance on what constitutes academic integrity in relation to the use of AI
 - The Institute is committed to training and informing students on the use of AI so they gain competencies through appropriate methods
- Research Integrity
 - Possible breaches of Research Integrity in relation to Honours theses are currently escalated to the Research and Research Training (RRTC) committee to manage
 - AB discussed that Honours students facing integrity issues are engaged in a teaching focused activity, therefore, these hearing should escalate to the Academic Integrity and Progress Committee (AIPC)
 - Moving forward, additional guidance will be provided to students regarding what they can and cannot do with artificial intelligence, as well as the consequences of misuse

4. REPORT FROM THE DEAN

- Student numbers
 - The student numbers for 2026 are looking very positive and more than 700 prospective students are likely to be interviewed for our professional courses.
 - It was noted that having significantly more students at the Institute may impact the student experience, but the Institute remains committed to ensuring the student experience remains positive



- The institute is now entering a new phase with increased competition nationally
- Considerations are being given to new courses such as Trauma Informed Care and the development of multidisciplinary programs
- Psychology pathways
 - The proposed psychology pathways continue to be discussed as well as how these changes may impact the Institute
- Promotions
 - Prof Linda Byrne congratulated staff members who have recently been promoted
 - A/Professor Paul Jenkinson to Professor
 - Dr Joseph Sakdalan to Senior Lecturer
 - Dr James Collard to A/Professor
 - Dr Steve Trawley to A/Professor

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Late submission guidelines
 - Students have expressed concerns for a lack of clarity regarding submission penalties and the percentage of marks deducted for late submissions
 - Prof Byrne acknowledged that this issue has been raised previously and clarified that the penalty applies to the total mark for the assessment, not the student's overall mark
 - Prof Byrne and Dr Hayden will revisit the wording to ensure there is clarity regarding penalties for late submissions
- Ethics relating to CALD and LGBT communities, neurodiverse and First Nations peoples
 - Students have expressed a desire for more experience and information on ethics relating to CALD and LGBT communities, neurodiverse and First Nations peoples
 - Prof Byrne confirmed that this will be addressed moving forward. These competencies are required by the Psychology Registration Board and will be integrated across courses
- Parental challenges and juggling study with parenting
 - Students have flagged the challenges they face that relate to parenthood, such as breastfeeding and the need for quiet a space to breastfeed, with a door that is lockable to avoid interruptions
 - There is an upstairs quiet room near the Library for this purpose
 - Prof Byrne will discuss with facilities the possibility of putting a lock on this door
 - The Institute endeavours to accommodate students in circumstances where they are unable to attend tutorials or placement because of a sick child
 - Students are advised that recording tutorials is not feasible due to the confidential nature of the information shared during sessions
 - Students are advised that the institute and placements are similar to a work environment
 - Students are encouraged to discuss any issues with their placement provider or Course Coordinator to determine the best way to navigate a personal situation



6. SHORT COURSES – VET

- Accreditation
 - The Diploma of Counselling now has ACA accreditation and the Institute is one of the few providers offering this qualification at this level
 - It is expected that there will be 20 to 25 students enrolled next year
 - The short courses will also begin delivering Leadership and Management programs at the Diploma level, with planning underway for 2027
- Short Courses
 - Short courses are running as usual and student feedback continues to be very positive
 - The Institute is preparing for the upcoming Train-the-Trainer program which has successfully secured grants to support its delivery

7. RESEARCH UPDATE

- Grants
 - Prof Paul Jenkinson was congratulated for the large grant that he received
 - The Institute have received five grants this year with an additional three applications pending
- Research
 - Research output currently stands at 37 publications for the year
 - The two Research Centres are now operational and research leads have been appointed
 - Planning the strategic priorities and the launch of the Research Centres is underway
 - Prof Jenkinson is now focusing on the research report which will be finalised early in the new year

8. REPORT FROM STUDENT SERVICES

- International Students
 - A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in relation to international students, resulting in partnerships with two new international education providers. This development has had a direct impact on student numbers for next year, with over a 100% increase in non-domestic enrolments compared to last year.
- Enrolments
 - Student Services continue to work towards enrolling as many students as possible
 - Initial results from the Student Experience Survey suggest that the Institute is maintaining the same quality of teaching and learning experiences for students despite the significant increase in student enrolments
 - Student Services is now preparing for enrolments, which will open next week following the release of results



- Opening unit enrolments early will give the Institute a clear indication of how many students will be attending next year
- Unit evaluations
 - Unit evaluations will close shortly and Student Services are currently reviewing the feedback
 - Participation in the survey was 35%, which is a significant number and will enable the Institute to make informed decisions based on this feedback
 - All indicators suggest that the Institute continues to receive very positive responses
 - Student Services will work closely with faculty once the feedback is finalised

9. STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT

- Student Support
 - Dr Fiona Patterson continues to be extremely busy and has moved from working part-time to full-time
 - Zahra Ditta will shortly commence maternity leave and Sandra Baptist will replace her during this period, working five days a week next year while Zahra Ditta is on leave
 - The Institute has received a \$15,000 grant, which is being invested in a learning design project to create a robust model shell for Canvas sites
 - The Student Experience Survey data indicates that the Institute is ranked number one for undergraduate experience

10. MEETINGS IN 2026

- Wednesday 11 February (Online)
- Wednesday 8 April (Onsite)
- Wednesday 10 June (Online)
- Wednesday 5 August (Onsite)
- Wednesday October (Online)
- Wednesday 25 November (Online)