

2009 Australian National Conference of Chairs/Secretaries of Academic Boards/Senates

8-9 October 2009

Convenors:

Professor Anne Cusick University of Western Sydney and Deputy Chair NSW/ACT Committee of Chairs, Professor John Williamson University of Tasmania and Chair of Academic Senate, and Sonia Nelson University of Tasmania and Secretary to Academic Senate.

Venue:

The University Club, University of Tasmania

Accommodation:

Wrest Point is within walking distance of the University. Conference special room rates have been reserved. Book directly. Wrest Point have set aside discounted accommodation. 10 mountain side rooms (3.5 star) \$126 per night, 20 tower rooms (4.5 star) \$174 per night for mountain-view and \$186 per night for harbour view. Wrest Point have provided an accommodation booking form (attached) and a freecall booking number: 1800 139 760. Other accommodation is available in Sandy Bay within walking distance to the University – see your travel agent

Catering:

Conference registration includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. If you have special dietary requirements please advise when registering.

Access:

The University Club and Conference Dinner restaurant are wheelchair accessible

Conference Dinner:

Separate payment on registration form. Partners welcome. Set menu with limited choice so please advise any special dietary requirements on registration form.

Conference Program:

Welcome address, keynotes, invited papers, networking, participant forum chairs, participant forum secretaries, workshop for AQF submission development.

Registration Cost:

The conference is organised by volunteers, with pro-bono guest speakers. Registration rate is based on cost recovery (venue hire, catering etc) and calculated on the basis of an estimated minimum number of attendees. It is proposed that any 'profit' is used to support an annual update of national conference members and an annual update and extension of the Academic Board Chairs and Secretaries Network web-site.

Registration Process:

Fill out the registration form attached, making payment to University of Tasmania, and send to Sonia Nelson – Governance & Legal, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 107, Hobart Tas 7001 by **25 September 2009**.

2009 PROGRAM

	THURSDAY 8 th OCTOBER CHAIRS/SECRETARIES	FRIDAY 9 TH OCTOBER CHAIRS	FRIDAY 9 TH OCTOBER SECRETARIES
9.00am	Conference Opening Address UTAS Chancellor DAMIEN BUGG	Current issues in Australian higher education UTAS DVC (Academic) & Provost DAVID RICH	Current issues in Australian higher education UTAS DVC (Academic) & Provost DAVID RICH
9.45am	ACARA: update on the national curriculum and implications for universities ANNE CUSICK	Academic standards: the role of Academic Board BRUCE SUTTON	Academic standards: the role of Academic Board BRUCE SUTTON
10.30am	Morning tea	Morning tea	Morning Tea
11.00am	Student grievance and discipline issues in Australian universities JIM JACKSON	Chairs: The nature and purpose of Honours degrees: Time to change? JOHN WILLIAMSON	2009 secretary network update Facilitator: SONIA NELSON
12.00pm	2009 University Governance and regulations Forum Post mortem	AQF: review of the framework ANN DOOLETTE	AQF review of the framework: ANN DOOLETTE
1.00pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00pm	Academic Governance challenges in dual sector universities: TODD WALKER	Workshop to develop submission for the AQF national consultation phase Facilitator: ANN DOOLETTE	National Network of academic board/senate secretariats: workshop to develop national report on type and extent of academic committee support Facilitator: SONIA NELSON
3.00pm	Academic governance challenges in remote environments SANDRA DUNN	3.30pm Conference summary/ close Announcement of next venue	3.30pm Conference summary/ close Announcement of next venue
4.00pm	End	End	End
6.30pm	CONFERENCE DINNER WREST POINT Pier One		

Speaker profiles:

Damian Bugg

Damian Bugg AM QC is Chancellor of the University of Tasmania and has served on the Council since September 2001. He has been President of the Bar Association of Tasmania, Chairman of the Legal Assistance Scheme (Southern) and a Member of the Council of the Law Society of Tasmania. He was a Member of the Council of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration for 9 years and is currently President and a Board Member of the Canadian based International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law. In 1998 Damian was made a Fellow of the University of Tasmania and was appointed Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in August 1999. He received the Centenary Medal in 2003 and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005.

Anne Cusick

Professor Anne Cusick is *Provost of Campbelltown Campus, University of Western Sydney* and Professor of Biomedical and Health Sciences. She is a NSW Vice Chancellors Committee nominee to the *NSW Board of Studies*, NSW Vocational Education and Training Advisory Committee (VETAC), and a generalist appointee to NSW Department of Education *Private Provider registration* and course accreditation panels with particular expertise in academic governance. She recently served as *Chair of Academic Senate* at UWS for six years, and was member of the *UWS Board of Trustees* during the major university restructure and development of the Medical School. She has particular policy expertise in the development of student-centred academic policy and the critical appraisal of the effectiveness and transparency of academic governance arrangements.

Anne will facilitate the development of a national Chairs submission to ACARA. Academic Boards/Senates are well placed to provide ACARA with information regarding tertiary education stakeholder factors that need to be considered in development of implementation plans for the roll-out of the national curriculum. Academic Boards/Senates are also strategically located in universities to brief their academic communities on this far-reaching review.

Sandra Dunn

Sandra Dunn is Chair of Academic Board at Charles Darwin University, and member of the University Council steering group for the 2009 review of the Board. She is the Co-Director and Professor of Nursing, Clinical Practice at the Graduate School for Health Practice where she coordinates the postgraduate nursing courses. Prior to this, Professor Dunn was clinical chair of Flinders University and Director of Nursing and Midwifery Research at Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) in Adelaide, Australia. Professor Dunn is probably best known nationally for her leadership in setting the national standards for nurse practitioners

Ann Doolette

Ann Doolette is the Executive Director of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council. She heads the Council's Secretariat and provides strategic leadership and support for the Council. Prior to this, she was a Director in the South Australian Government and responsible for quality assurance of education and training providers and qualifications in the vocational education and training and higher education sectors through both regulation and educational support strategies. Ann has worked in the post-compulsory education and training sector for the past 25 years in a variety of roles, including management and teaching as well as developing curriculum and learning resources. She has played a major role in shaping national education and training policy directions and has served on and supported national committees in the education and training sector at the highest level.

The AQF Council is developing advice for the Ministerial Council on strengthening the Australian Qualifications Framework to ensure it remains nationally and internationally robust and supports flexible cross-sectoral linkages and pathways. The AQF Council has received strong stakeholder support for its proposal that the AQF is redesigned as a framework of qualifications based on a taxonomy of learning outcomes and explicit reference levels with a measurement of the volume of learning. During October, the AQF Council will be consulting on the application of this design to the AQF levels and qualification types. The presentation will provide an overview of this work and the workshop will provide the conference participants with the opportunity to give input into the application.

Jim Jackson

Jim Jackson is Chair of Academic Board at Southern Cross University. He is professor of law, and was the Foundation Dean of the Law School at that university. His current research is in the law relating to Higher and School education in Australia.

In this presentation Jim will speak to the findings of the ALTC project he has lead (together with Sally Varnham (UTS), Patty Kamvounias (Uni of Sydney) and Helen Fleming (SCU) on student grievance and discipline issues in Australian Universities. He will concentrate on matters of direct relevant to Academic Boards, including issues arising out of student appeals, rules and policy.

Sonia Nelson

Sonia Nelson, the Assistant Director, Governance at the University of Tasmania, is the Secretary of the Academic Senate at the University of Tasmania, a role she has held since 2007. Sonia is the Convenor of the 2009 Secretaries of Academic Boards/Senates stream of the conference and facilitator of the networking sessions.

Coming to the higher education sector from the vocational education and training sector, Sonia has worked in a variety of roles during the thirteen years she has worked at UTAS. These roles include working with the Career Development and Employment Service in Student Services, managing the University's admission centre in the Student Centre and contributing to implementation of the requirements of the Higher Education Support Act as a business analyst. Sonia's current role includes managing the University's Complaints and Student Discipline processes in addition to providing secretariat services to Academic Senate.

David Rich

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost, Professor David Rich, oversees the academic and administrative activities of the University. He assists the Vice-Chancellor in setting and achieving the University's strategic objectives and furthering its 'excellence' and 'distinctiveness' agendas.

His responsibilities include quality improvement, organisational performance management, strategic human resource management, senior academic appointments, academic promotions, the Cradle Coast Campus and community engagement. He has also overseen major reviews of the UTAS International Education Strategy and the University's Web Presence.

Bruce Sutton:

Bruce became Chair of the Academic Board at the University of Sydney in early 2006, and is currently in his second term in this role. His involvement with the Board and its committees started a number of years prior to him taking up the position of chair, mainly related to his position as the Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) with the University's Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

He had also chaired the Board's Undergraduate Studies Committee during this period. During his period of office, Bruce has led a major review of the research-training pathways at the University, co-authored the University's Charter of Academic Freedom, introduced a new system of faculty reviews based on the Baldrige National Quality Program, and is currently finalising an extensive review of the University's assessment policies.

Academic standards are set by the exercise of informed professional judgement by peers and calibrated by conversation among them. The academic standards aspired to by any university cannot be divorced from the mission of the university. Notwithstanding the difficulties inherent in the previous sentences, each university needs to be able to define and defend its academic standards within the academic community and to its stakeholders.

Todd Walker

Todd Walker is Chair of Academic Board, University of Ballarat, a role that has oversight and leadership of a single board structure within a regionally located dual sector University. He is Associate Professor of Biomedical Science, a Fellow of the International Academy of Cytotechnologists and his current research interests include clinical applications of diagnostic histology and cytopathology. Prior to his appointment, Todd held various senior positions at Charles Sturt University in New South Wales including Acting Head, School of Biomedical Science. Todd has extensive senior committee experience including chairing Faculty and Academic board, Curriculum Committees, AUQA steering committees, and Organisational Culture and Learning and Teaching committees.

In his presentation, Todd will provide an overview of the challenges with having a single academic board in a dual sector institute, highlight approaches to overcoming these challenges and offer solutions to forming strategic partnerships with the VET sector.

John Williamson

Professor John Williamson is Chair of the Academic Senate of the University of Tasmania, a role he has held since 2001. John is a graduate of New South Wales, Sydney and Curtin Universities and completed his PhD at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. He was appointed Professor of Education at the University of Tasmania's Launceston campus in 1993 and was the head of the School of Secondary and Post-Compulsory Education in the Faculty of Education until 2001.

As Chair of Academic Senate, John is a member of the University Council and the Senior Management Team and serves on a number of Committees including University Teaching & Learning Committee, Research College Board and Planning & Resources Committee. John is a member of the Tasmanian Teacher Registration Board and Chairs the Higher Education Expert Advisory Group, which advises the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority on matters relating to non-self accrediting institutions of higher education in Tasmania.