2020 Australian Chairs and Secretaries of Academic Boards and Senates Conference

10-11 November 2020

The University of Sydney
NSW 2006 Australia

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2020 Australian Chairs and Secretaries of Academic Boards and Senates Conference, hosted online by the University of Sydney.

2020 has been a year of intense change and pressure for universities across Australia and the world, requiring a rapid transition to remote teaching, and resulting in significant disruptions to normal academic life.

In these difficult times, it is more important than ever to ensure that universities maintain their integrity. It is our hope that coming together virtually for this conference provides you with an opportunity to discuss strategies that have been beneficial over the last few months, provide support and collegiality, and share inspiration for the future.

Dr Michael Spence AC,
Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The University of Sydney

Dear colleagues,

I am so pleased to be welcoming you for this year's Australian Chairs and Secretaries of Academic Boards and Senates Conference. The focus of this year's conference is engaging with the various changes and challenges that have confronted the university sector in 2020. We have a mix of panel sessions featuring colleagues from within the Australian Chairs and Secretaries group discussing their strategies for handling matters of common interest, and expert speakers sharing their knowledge on their specialist subjects.

The panel on academic integrity will include an update from TEQSA on the scope and activities of the new Higher Education Integrity Unit. TEQSA's new CEO will take this opportunity to introduce himself to you as well. We also welcome back Associate Professor Cath Ellis from UNSW for some thoughts on contract cheating during COVID-19.

The expert speakers on Tuesday are Tim Payne, Director of Higher Education Policy and Projects at the University of Sydney, who will talk about some of the significant Federal Government higher education policy changes in 2020, and Dr Gwilym Croucher, from the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, who will give a presentation on potential effects of the pandemic on university governance. On Wednesday, Professor Mike Kyrios, Director of the Órama Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing, will speak about student mental health during the pandemic.

Academic risk management was a popular topic in the pre-conference survey, and a panel of colleagues from Charles Sturt University will be joining us on Wednesday to share their journey in setting up and implementing an academic risk management working group.

The annual sector survey of Academic Boards/Senates was once again run in 2020, and we will hear about some of the trends and insights from this year's data.

In recognition of the fact that not everyone can attend both days of the conference, we have split the regular "hot topics" session into two shorter periods, one on each day. We are once again featuring short presentations as a starting point for the discussion, but please feel free to raise any further points of interest on the day.

Although we are unable to meet in person this year, we felt it was of the first importance to create an avenue for online discussion and sharing of knowledge. As such, you will notice that we have punctuated the conference with "break and chat" sessions. We hope that you take advantage of these short, unfacilitated Zoom room gatherings to catch up with a few colleagues from across the sector.

Please see further details below on the sessions and general arrangements. I look forward to seeing you online.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Tony Masters,
Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney
Chair, NSW and Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates

General information:

Zoom details

All registered attendees will receive a link to the Zoom meeting before the conference starts. We suggest that participants download the free Zoom app onto their device before the conference: https://zoom.us/download.
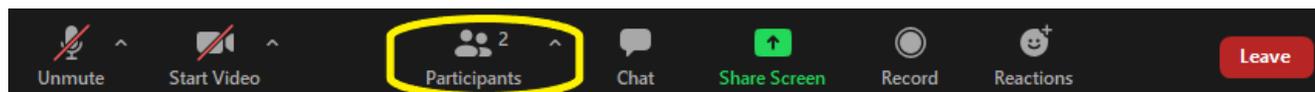
Please join the meeting 15 minutes before the start time so that we can verify that you have registered before admitting you to the main meeting. Please be sure to sign into Zoom using the email address with which you registered for the conference.
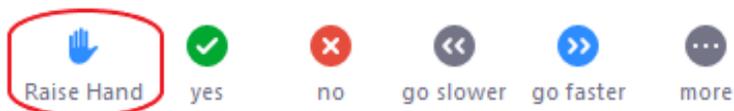
Zoom protocol during the webinar

As with a face-to-face conference, we ask that you save your questions to the end of the session or presentation.

At the end of the session or presentation, please indicate that you would like to speak by using the "raise hand" function on Zoom.

The "raise hand" function can be found by clicking the icon labelled "Participants" at the bottom centre of your computer screen:

This will open the participants window on the right of your screen, and in the menu at the bottom of the participants window, you will be able to select the "raise hand" icon:

The Chair will indicate when you are able to ask your question.
We suggest that attendees keep their videos off and microphones on mute unless asking a question.

Break and chat sessions

In the break and chat sessions, attendees will be allocated into Zoom breakout rooms at random. We would encourage you all to grab a cup of tea or coffee and have a quick chat to your colleagues from other institutions.

These breakout rooms are intended to be a virtual equivalent of bumping into someone in the line for coffee at a face-to-face conference, and they will not be moderated or recorded. Participants are welcome to use these sessions to discuss whatever topics take their fancy – the conversation does not have to be related to the conference business.

Contacts

Alyssa White,
Manager Governance (Senate and Academic Board), The University of Sydney
Secretary to the NSW and Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates
alyssa.white@sydney.edu.au
T +61 2 8627 6905   M +61 458 220 200

Kate Calhau,
Executive Assistant to the Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney
kate.calhau@sydney.edu.au
T +61 2 9351 3268   M +61 405 935 653

Tuesday 10 November 2020

Via Zoom

12.00-12.05	**Welcome** ***Presented by*** Associate Professor Tony Masters, Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney
12.05-12.15	**Acknowledgement of Country** ***Presented by*** Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services), The University of Sydney
12.15-12.30	**Opening remarks** ***Presented by*** Professor Stephen Garton AM, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The University of Sydney
12.30-2.00	**Session 1: Academic integrity and the risks of contract cheating** Maintaining academic integrity is a central part of academic governance. The rise of contract cheating companies in recent years presents new threats to institutions and students alike. Includes an update from TEQSA on the new Higher Education Integrity Unit. ***Facilitated by*** Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy, Chair, Academic Senate, Western Sydney University, and Deputy Chair, NSW and Territories Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates ***Panellists*** Associate Professor Cath Ellis, Associate Dean (Education), Arts and Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales Alistair Maclean, CEO, TEQSA Greg Simmons, Director, Policy and Analysis Group, TEQSA
2.00-2.15	**Break and chat** Attendees will be allocated into Zoom rooms at random and encouraged to grab a cup of tea or coffee and then have a quick chat with colleagues. Room allocations will change in each break.
2.15-2.45	**Session 2: Higher education policy changes in 2020** Overview of the Federal Government's Higher Education Policy changes in 2020. ***Presented by*** Tim Payne, Director, Higher Education Policy and Projects, The University of Sydney
2.45-3.00	**Break and chat** Attendees will be allocated into Zoom rooms at random and encouraged to grab a cup of tea or coffee and then have a quick chat with colleagues. Room allocations will change in each break.
3.00-3.45	**Session 3: Hot topics A** **Topic A: The Coaldrake Review** Will universities need to consider their research relationship with new programs? Will this have an impact on curriculum decisions in the future? ***Facilitated by*** Associate Professor Elisa Zentveld, Chair, Academic Board, Federation University *Please feel free to bring any other questions or topics of interest with you for discussion on the day.*
3.45-4.00	**Break and chat** Attendees will be allocated into Zoom rooms at random and encouraged to grab a cup of tea or coffee and then have a quick chat with colleagues. Room allocations will change in each break.
4.00-4.30	**Session 4: University Governance in a post-coronavirus pandemic world** A reflection on general trends and implications of the pandemic on university governance. ***Presented by*** Dr Gwilym Croucher, Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, and Program Director, L H Martin Institute, The University of Melbourne
4.30-4.45	**Closing remarks for Day 1** ***Presented by*** Associate Professor Tony Masters, Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney

9.00-9.15	**Welcome**	
	Presented by	Associate Professor Tony Masters, Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney
9.15-9.45	**Session 5: Academic Risk Management**	
	An overview of setting up the Academic Risk Management Working Group at Charles Sturt University, and how academic risk fits within the university's overarching risk framework.	
	Panellists	Dr Matthew Charet, Acting Director, Governance, Charles Sturt University
		Emeritus Professor Joyce Kirk, Chair, Academic Senate, Charles Sturt University
		Marcos Tabacow, Director, Risk and Compliance, Charles Sturt University
9.45-10.30	**Session 6: A review of the survey of Boards/Senates**	
	A review of data gained from the 2020 survey of Academic Boards/Senates	
	Presented by	Professor Mark Perry, Chair, Academic Board, University of New England
10.30-10.45	**Break and chat**	
	Attendees will be allocated into Zoom rooms at random and encouraged to grab a cup of tea or coffee and then have a quick chat with colleagues. Room allocations will change in each break.	
10.45-11.15	**Session 7: Hot topics B**	
	Topic B: The governance of 'no disadvantage'	
	Issues arising from Covid-19 include changing the assessment schedule, online examination, out of cycle approval, student complaints, and preparing to meet the Ombudsman. As the future-facing university pushes to be more nimble, flexible and responsive, a number of these experiences provide valuable learnings for those who oversee academic governance.	
	Facilitated by	Professor Chris Hickey, Chair, Academic Board, Deakin University
	Please feel free to bring any other questions or topics of interest with you for discussion on the day.	
11.15-11.30	**Break and chat**	
	Attendees will be allocated into Zoom rooms at random and encouraged to grab a cup of tea or coffee and then have a quick chat with colleagues. Room allocations will change in each break.	
11.30-12.30	**Session 8: Mental health in the time of COVID-19**	
	2020 has increased the focus on mental health as well as physical health.	
	Facilitated by	Associate Professor Celeste Lawson, President and Chair, Academic Board, Central Queensland University
	Panellist	Professor Mike Kyrios, Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, and Director, Órama Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Flinders University
12.30-1.00	**Closing remarks**	
	Presented by	Associate Professor Tony Masters, Chair, Academic Board, The University of Sydney