

MONASH UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC BOARD

Preamble

Pursuant to section 20 of the Monash University Act 2009 Council has established the Academic Board and assigned to it a range of powers and functions (Council Regulation 10(2)). Establishment of the Academic Board is also necessary to ensure compliance with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Higher Education Standards Framework.

The Board is responsible for the maintenance of high standards in education and research, and acts to assist the University in ensuring the highest quality of its academic endeavours. Pursuant to the power granted by Section 29 of the Monash University Statute and its responsibility to Council for the maintenance of high standards, Academic Board therefore makes regulations with respect to a range of academic matters.

In addition to performing its critical functions in approving academic programs, the Board is an active contributor to debates regarding academic direction and quality at the University. The Board achieves many of its functions via its committees, which play a critical role prosecuting the academic plans of the University.

Terms of Reference

To discharge the remit conferred on it by Council, Academic Board will:

- Oversee the quality of the university's academic activities wherever and in whatever form they occur. This includes regular analysis of performance indicators and evaluation of programs and initiatives relating to improvement of the university's educational programs and research activities domestically and internationally.
- Monitor the outcomes of the university's education and research activities. This includes, but is not limited to, the approval and review of the development and implementation of courses of study, policies and procedures relating to, or otherwise affecting, education, research and research training.
- Monitor compliance with those of the Higher Education Threshold Standards relevant to its remit and with any other Standards established under the Higher Education Standards Framework or equivalent.
- Consider and make recommendation to Council and/or senior management on issues of academic strategic planning, including endorsement and review of the University's Academic Plan.

Academic Board makes regulations with respect to:

- Requirements for entry to the University and admission to or enrolment in courses or units of study including admission to candidature for a higher degree by research.
- The accreditation or re-accreditation of coursework courses of study, including course requirements, granting of credit towards a course of study, assessment, examination and other academic requirements.
- Exclusion for unsatisfactory progress or inability to progress by students enrolled in coursework courses of study.
- Accreditation and reaccreditation of courses of study for higher degrees by research, including study program, supervision and examination.
- Management of progress by candidates enrolled for higher degrees by research.

Academic Board does not have responsibility for making recommendations on budget or resourcing matters but may, where relevant to the academic affairs of the university, communicate its opinion on such matters to Council or the Vice-Chancellor.

Academic Board:

- Will facilitate provision and dissemination of appropriate information at the appropriate levels to relevant groups of the university community. In doing so, Academic Board will be cognisant of and respond to information from those groups.
- May request and obtain information relevant to the university's academic affairs from any board, committee, faculty or officer of the university.
- May require the monitoring of academic activities within the faculties and the subsequent reporting of outcomes.
- Will report to Council after each meeting and on an annual basis, and will also report on all matters submitted to it by Council for report.

Academic Board may constitute such standing committees as it thinks necessary to:

- Provide appropriate expertise in areas relevant to its deliberations and the discharge of its remit.
- Ensure rigorous assurance of the quality of Monash's academic endeavours.
- Provide for efficient carriage of its business.

Membership

Membership of Academic Board is governed by Council Regulation 12.

The Board's membership composition – a tripartite structure of approximately equal ratios - recognises that the Board should have the right membership mix to provide for efficient conduct of its business and enable meaningful participation from key stakeholders across the University:

- Ex officio members – the most senior members of the University with direct portfolio responsibilities for academic affairs.
- Heads of Academic Units – senior faculty staff responsible/accountable for overseeing/implementing the University's academic mission within their faculties.
- A cohort of elected members from the broader University community of staff and students, visibly reflecting elements of collegiality and democratic participation in university academic affairs.

Members of Academic Board add significant value by contributing broad experience and perspectives not otherwise available to the Board and:

- While various perspectives are important and may be articulated during discussion, ultimately members are expected to act in what they honestly believe to be in the University's best interests.
- Are expected to diligently attend Board meetings or tender their apologies, and familiarise themselves with the agenda and supporting papers before meetings.
- Are obliged to disclose a conflict of interest in matters considered by the Board.
- Are expected to contribute to discussion, observing the Board's rules of debate.
- Will deal with confidential material appropriately and not disclose such information to a third party except where the disclosure is authorised by the Chair/proponent.