

Academic Committee Minutes

19 March 2025

14:00 – 16:00, MS Teams/H118a

Members Present:

Ex-Officio Members

Professor Geoff Smith

Professor Fary Cachelin

Professor Lawrence Phillips

Professor Maria Charalambous

Professor Gill Stark

Samantha Grady

Professor Castulus Kolo

Carl Teigh

Valérie de Saegher

Mark Parsonage

Faye Urquhart

Stephanie Murphy

Teresa Janikova

Vice-Chancellor & CEO (Chair)

Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Associate Provost, Business, Academic Development & Resources

Associate Provost, Learning & Teaching

Associate Provost, Academic, Collaborative & Industry Partnerships

Associate Provost, Student Experience & Academic Services

Non-Exec Board Director (President, Macromedia University)

Chief Finance Officer

Chief People Officer

Chief Transformation Officer

Head of Projects

Head of Student Experience & Wellbeing

Student Union President

Elected Members

Professor Jo Lusher

Professor (Dr) Zubin Sethna

Professor Simon Carrington

Robert Johnson

Academic Representative

Academic Representative

Academic Representative

Academic Representative

Apologies:

Steph Talliss-Foster

Dan Lanigan

Julie Wilson

Head of Registry

Chief Commercial Officer

Academic Representative

In Attendance:

Clare Kane

Louisa Reeder-Pearson

Head of Governance (minutes)

Collaborative Provision Manager (item 8)

Opening Items

1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies for absence were noted, as set out above. • There were no declarations of interest.
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.</p> <p>The Associate Provost: Student Experience & Academic Services highlighted that the NSS date was incorrect and should state January.</p> <p>There were no actions/matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Elections & Appointments to Academic Committee</p> <p>The committee were informed that two new members for Collaborative Provision Committee are required, a student and an academic representative. A professional services representative is</p>

	also required for Academic Committee. The nominations process will be actioned in readiness for 2025/26 academic year.
4.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor & CEO gave an update on Regent's portfolio strategy including a focus on quality and standards, teaching excellence, and innovation. The new portfolio includes exploring new content areas within [redacted] which will be aligned with the university's core values. The university had engaged specialist consultants to assist in this endeavor and is in early talks with potential [redacted] partners. The proposals will be presented at the university Board imminently and the committee will be kept informed on progress.</p>
Part A: Updates and Discussion Items	
5.	<p>TEF Roadmap Update</p> <p>The Associate Provost: Learning and Teaching gave an overview presentation of the university's strategy to achieve TEF Gold by 2027, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, professional development, and decision-making. The next TEF submission is in 2027, with the review period covering 2022-2026 and the university's ambition is to achieve outstanding indicators in order to achieve TEF Gold standards. Areas for improvement have been identified and a dashboard with metrics to track progress towards TEF Gold has been developed. The committee discussed the dependency on data to support its submission and that a particular focus on Learning Resources is required to drive improvement. The committee noted that achieving TEF Gold is a multi-stakeholder project that requires shared ownership and collaboration across the university.</p> <p><i>Presentation available.</i></p>
6.	<p>Student Experience & Wellbeing Update</p> <p>The Head of Student Experience & Wellbeing gave a summary update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of a new CRM system to improve data extraction and student experience management. The new system is expected to be fully operational by mid-May. • Belonging Campaign: The campaign included various activities and events to foster a sense of community among students. Its success has contributed to increased retention rates. • Wellbeing Activities: The introduction of new wellbeing activities, including mental health first aid training, wellbeing stalls, and various recreational sports and competitive sports events. • Student Support: An overview of the volume and type of requests coming through student support services, gave an indication of the high level of engagement with student support services across the community. • A service review of the disability services and new guidelines created for the 'cause for concern' process. Workshops on student support and wellbeing are planned for the summer. <p>The Associate Provost: Student Experience & Academic Services informed the committee that the National Student Survey response rate was currently ahead of last year but encouraged colleagues to promote student participation and referenced the ongoing poster campaign.</p> <p>The Committee noted the update.</p>
7.	<p>Student Voice Update</p> <p>The Student Union President gave a brief verbal update and overview presentation on SU activities and events. A written report on retention activities was also included with committee papers. The Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor asked for the SU President to amend the retention report, specifically in regard to the terminology for withdrawals.</p>

	<p>The Committee thanked the SU President for this added insight.</p> <p>Action: TJ to send corrected report to the Head of Governance.</p>
<p>Part B: Reports & Policy:</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Report from the Collaborative Provision Committee</p> <p>The Collaborative Provision Manager joined the committee for this item. It is proposed that collaborative provision partners IML and LMA implement delegated board arrangements. The mitigating strategies and ongoing review processes to ensure quality and standards were set out for the committee's consideration.</p> <p>The Committee approved the delegated Board proposals, as set out in the reports.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Update from the Quality Committee</p> <p>The Associate Provost: Student Experience & Academic Services gave an update from the Quality Committee, including the extension of the policy and regulation changes approval timelines. It is proposed that a move towards a periodic review and risk-based approach for revalidation processes will improve efficiency.</p> <p>The Committee noted the updates and approved the recommendations set out in the report - including an update to the Quality Committee's Terms of Reference (subject to including reference to the Academic Assurance Report).</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Validation Reports</p> <p>A) International Business B) Business, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Marketing & Brand, and Business Technology</p> <p>The Committee noted the validation reports received and that they had been approved by Chair's action.</p>
<p>Part C: Items for Information / Endorsement</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Strategic Risk Register</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer presented the changes to the Strategic Risk Register, this was last updated and reviewed by VCET in February 2025. The Chief Transformation Officer highlighted the ongoing red risks for <i>[redacted]</i> and the activities to help mitigate against this threat.</p> <p>The Committee noted the update.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Draft Sub Committee Meeting Minutes</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the following draft minutes:</p> <p>a. Collaborative Provision Committee – 5 February 2025 b. Research Committee – 12 February 2025 c. Quality Committee – 26 February 2025</p> <p>Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee minutes were not available.</p> <p>The Chair of Research Committee (Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor) brought to the attention of the committee the ongoing review of Regent's doctoral level activity. A more detailed assessment of value (tangible and intangible) of this activity had been conducted and the Research Committee's recommendation was set out <i>[redacted]</i>.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>Items 4 and 12b.</p>

14.	Communication from the Committee None
15.	Any Other Business None
16.	Next meeting: 2 July 2025