

'University Courses Committee' - Membership and Terms of Reference

Section 1 - Establishment

Background

(1) Charles Sturt University (the University) is required to exercise academic governance oversight of its courses and subjects, through the Academic Senate and its sub-committees. The duties of the University Courses Committee shall apply to all matters associated with strategic course development and academic governance issues pertaining to the quality of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs and policy.

Purpose

(2) The University Courses Committee shall be the peak body responsible for academic oversight of the coursework course and subject profile within the University. It will provide advice to the Academic Senate on strategies, policies, initiatives and innovation that promotes development of an innovative course profile for the University that is of the highest quality.

Section 2 - Glossary

(3) For the purpose of this document:

- a. Committee - means the University Courses Committee.

Section 3 - Membership

(4) The membership of the committee is set out below:

- a. Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (Chair).
- b. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) or nominee.
- c. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) or nominee.
- d. Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching).
- e. Three Deputy Deans, one from each faculty.
- f. Three Associate Deans, Academic, one from each faculty.
- g. Three additional elected faculty members, one from each faculty, who are also Course Directors.
- h. Three staff members nominated by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) in consultation with the Executive Deans and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), with expertise in course development, course review and policy development.
- i. Chair, Indigenous Board of Studies or nominee.
- j. One Faculty professional/general team member nominated by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) in consultation with the Executive Deans with specific expertise in course administration.

k. One student member nominated by the Student Senate.

(5) Nominated and elected members of the committee will have terms of office of two years.

(6) To ensure continuity of committee operations, one half of the nominated and elected members shall initially serve for a term of one year, with all nominated and elected members subsequently serving for a term of two years.

Section 4 - Functions and responsibilities

Committee responsibilities

(7) The University Courses Committee will undertake a systematic overview of the course profile and internal and external course accreditation and provide recommendations to the Academic Senate on standards and measures of quality.

(8) The committee has the following responsibilities in relation to the course profile:

- a. provide strategic academic oversight;
- b. receive advice on the future needs, and identification of opportunities;
- c. receive advice from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) or the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) on approved notices of intent and business cases, including for new courses, new offerings of a course or decisions to suspend or phase out a course (delegation AS36);
- d. monitor admissions and course enrolment trends; and
- e. oversee the course profile and course development of partner and third party operations.

(9) The committee has the following responsibilities in relation to internal accreditation:

- a. authority to accredit coursework courses and subjects leading to degrees and awards offered by the University (Delegation AS2);
- b. receive reports on approved low-impact changes to courses and subjects from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) or the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Delegation AS38);
- c. in exercising its delegations the committee must provide the Academic Senate with regular reports (as defined in [Delegation Schedule 09 - Academic and Course Delegations](#));
- d. oversee inclusion of graduate learning outcomes in course design;
- e. receive and consider minutes and reports from the Indigenous Board of Studies on achievements against institutional targets for Indigenous Australian content;
- f. oversee the schedule of comprehensive course reviews;
- g. receive and review summary reports on annual course reviews; and
- h. receive reports from Faculty Boards:
 - i. confirming that policy and procedures have been met;
 - ii. relating to courses and subjects in accordance with the [Delegation Schedule 09 - Academic and Course Delegations](#); and
 - iii. addressing mapped [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#) responsibilities including those relating to admissions, credit and recognition of prior learning, orientation and progress, learning outcomes and experience, qualifications and certification, diversity and equity; course design; approval and accreditation; monitoring, review and improvement; and course and subject representation, information and information management.

(10) The committee has the following responsibilities in relation to external (professional) accreditation:

- a. receive and consider the register of professional accreditation;
- b. receive and consider reports from faculties on the progress of courses undergoing accreditation; and
- c. receive advice from faculties on conditional approvals and failures, and faculty plans for meeting conditions or re-applying.

(11) The committee will monitor compliance with the [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#) and receive and consider reports on this relevant to the Committee and ensure appropriate actions where required.

(12) The committee will identify and oversee risks and solutions associated with the course profile and course accreditation, including those associated with internal accreditation, external (professional) accreditation and partner or third party operations.

(13) The committee will review relevant policies and procedures and make recommendations to the Academic Senate or the policy owner in accordance with the [Delegation Schedule 01 - Strategy and Policy Delegations](#), including but not limited to policies and procedures for course development and review, admissions, curriculum and credit.

(14) The committee will receive and consider advice from Faculty Boards on relevant policies and procedures.

Advisory role and referral of matters

(15) The committee shall advise the Academic Senate on all matters relating to the academic course profile and the academic governance of the courses and subjects of the University.

(16) The committee may refer any item to the Academic Senate or to the University Learning and Teaching Committee, the University Research Committee or Faculty Boards for discussion, consideration and/or action, and may refer relevant matters for action or noting to other committees or officers as appropriate.

Section 5 - Meetings

Quorum

(17) A quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be a majority of the membership: i.e., half of the entire membership, plus one.

Meetings

(18) Meetings will be published by the Office of Governance and Corporate Affairs in an annual schedule of meetings, approved by the Academic Senate. Meetings are open to all members of the University.

Agendas and minutes

(19) Agendas and minutes for the meetings of the University Courses Committee will be prepared by the Office of Governance and Corporate Affairs.

Related expenses

(20) Nil.

Conflicts of interest

(21) Where a member has a perceived or material conflict of interest, they must declare this to the Chair and at the committee meeting before the item of business is discussed.

Variations

(22) Variations to the terms of reference and/or membership of the committee must be approved by the Academic Senate.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	1st January 2020
Review Date	1st January 2023
Approval Authority	Academic Senate
Approval Date	19th December 2019
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Unit Head	Natalie Nixon University Secretary
Author	Ingrid Pulley Executive Officer (Academic Senate)
Enquiries Contact	Office of Governance and Corporate Affairs +61 2 63384207

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"University" - means the Charles Sturt University established by the Charles Sturt University Act 1989.