

# 'University Learning and Teaching 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 learning and teaching activities, through the Academic Senate and its sub-committees. The duties of the University Learning and Teaching Committee shall apply to all matters associated with strategic initiatives and academic governance issues pertaining to the quality of learning and teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs and policy.

### Purpose

(2) The University Learning and Teaching Committee shall be the peak learning and teaching body responsible for oversight of learning and teaching quality in coursework programs within the University. It will provide advice to the Academic Senate on learning and teaching, policies, initiatives and innovation that promotes learning and teaching interests of the University and that fosters learning and teaching that is of the highest quality.

(3) In particular, the University Learning and Teaching Committee shall:

- a. advise the Academic Senate on issues of policy and learning and teaching innovation; and
- b. provide strategic leadership in learning and teaching matters including scholarship and staff professional development.

## Section 2 - Glossary

(4) For the purpose of this document:

- a. Committee - means the University Learning and Teaching Committee.

## Section 3 - Membership

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

- a. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) (Chair).
- b. Dean, Learning and Teaching Innovation.
- c. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) or nominee.
- d. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) or nominee.
- e. Executive Director, Division of Student Success or nominee.
- f. Executive Director, Division of Library Services or nominee.

- g. Deputy Deans.
- h. Associate Deans (Academic).
- i. One academic staff member from each Faculty with expertise in learning and teaching, nominated by the relevant Executive Dean.
- j. One academic staff member from each Faculty with responsibility for workplace learning, nominated by the relevant Executive Dean.
- k. Three school level academic staff members, one from each Faculty, elected by their Faculty. The Executive Dean, will nominate a staff member as a Faculty representative pending an election process to fill a vacancy.
- l. One staff member nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) in consultation with the Executive Deans and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), with expertise in learning and teaching.
- m. One faculty professional/general team member with expertise in grade administration nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) in consultation with the Executive Deans.
- n. Two student members nominated by the Student Senate.

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

(7) Casual vacancies will be filled in the following manner:

- a. For nominated or appointed positions, the relevant position or body will nominate or appoint a replacement member.
- b. For elected positions:
  - i. where there is less than six months remaining in the term of the predecessor in office, the Executive Dean from the relevant Faculty will appoint a replacement; or
  - ii. where there is more than six months remaining in the term of the predecessor in office and there is an eligible runner-up from the most recent election for the vacated position, the runner-up will fill the casual vacancy; or
  - iii. where there is no eligible runner-up and there is more than six months remaining in the term of the predecessor in office, an election will be held.
  - iv. if no nominations for an elected position are received following a call for nominations, the Chair of the committee can appoint a member to that vacancy. The appointed member must meet the requirements for the category of membership that was vacated.

(8) A person who fills a casual vacancy holds office as a member for the rest of the term of the person's predecessor in office.

## Section 4 - Functions and responsibilities

### Committee responsibilities

(9) The University Learning and Teaching Committee responsibilities apply across all course and subject delivery modes and locations, including third party arrangements. The Committee will:

- a. oversee relevant aspects of the [Academic Quality Policy](#) and associated standards, including monitoring of staff levels of scholarly activity;
- b. oversee the quality and effectiveness of educational innovations or proposals for educational innovations, and encourage improvements in learning and teaching;
- c. monitor compliance with relevant standards in the [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#), receive and consider reports and monitor the impact of improvement actions;

- d. provide recommendations to the Academic Senate on learning and teaching standards and measures of quality, including establishment of benchmarks;
- e. monitor risks associated with the quality of learning and teaching and related academic standards;
- f. receive and consider annual reports on progression, attrition and completion of courses, including external benchmarking. These will include, at minimum, performance by:
  - i. cohort, including Indigenous students; and
  - ii. location, including under third party arrangements.
- g. receive and consider regular subject reports including method of assessment and grading, grade distributions, and student feedback by cohort and location;
- h. oversee relevant policies and procedures and make recommendations to the Academic Senate or the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), including but not limited to:
  - i. the awarding of grades, assessment, benchmarking, learning resources, educational support, workplace learning, and all other aspects of learning and teaching;
  - ii. the management processes associated with student grievances, complaints and appeals relating to learning and teaching; and
  - iii. academic integrity and academic misconduct;
- i. oversee workplace learning, placements and other community-based learning;
- j. receive and consider regular reports on academic integrity and academic misconduct;
- k. receive and consider advice from Faculty Boards on learning and teaching policies and procedures, assessment practices, issues and risks;
- l. receive and consider subject quality assurance reports from Faculty Assessment Committees/Faculty Boards; and
- m. oversee delegations related to assessments and grade approvals (in the [Delegation Schedule E - Academic and Research](#)).

### **Advisory role and referral of matters**

(10) The committee will advise the Academic Senate on all matters relating to the quality of learning and teaching and academic governance of the learning and teaching activities of the University.

(11) The committee may refer any item to the University Courses Committee, 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**

(12) A quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be a majority of the membership: i.e., half of the entire membership, plus one. Vacant positions are included when calculating a quorum.

### **Meetings**

(13) 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**

(14) Agendas and minutes for the meetings of the University Learning and Teaching Committee will be prepared by

the Office of Governance and Corporate Affairs.

### **Related expenses**

(15) Nil.

### **Conflicts of interest**

(16) 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**

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

## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Current
<b>Effective Date</b>	7th June 2022
<b>Review Date</b>	7th June 2025
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Academic Senate
<b>Approval Date</b>	6th June 2022
<b>Expiry Date</b>	Not Applicable
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