

## **Student Members of the Academic Board: Information**

October 2018



### **About the Academic Board**

The Academic Board of the University of Divinity has called for the election of two student members – one student in a coursework program, one student in a research degree. Membership to the Academic Board is for a term of 2 years.

Being part of the Academic Board is a great opportunity for professional development for students, of all ages and levels of experience.

The Academic Board is a key part of the University's governance. It is the place where new academic programs and revisions to existing ones are discussed, and it is the guardian of the academic quality and standards of the University. Most of the issues it considers directly affect students – from policies on assessment, unit design and courses to extensions, academic skills, and student support services.

In addition to the student members, the Academic Board includes: the Chair (Associate Professor Frank Rees), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Peter Sherlock), the Director of Learning and Teaching (Dr John Capper), the Director of Research (Professor John McDowell), the Chair of the Library Committee (Kerrie Burn), and the Academic Deans of each of the University's 11 Colleges.

The Academic Board meets on six Fridays each year from 9.30am to 12noon at Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne (videoconference facilities are available for interstate members).

### **About Student Members**

The position of student member is a volunteer position (travel expenses may be reimbursed).

Students members do not represent a particular College or particular students. Rather they bring critical judgment, from a student perspective, to the work and decisions of the Academic Board. The value of the student perspective is nationally recognised in Australia, as the principle of student participation in academic governance is a regulatory requirement of all Australian higher education providers.

The Board reports back to all staff and students through the University Gazette, published after each Council meeting, and the University Magazine *Vox*.

### **Responsibilities of Student Members**

Student members are expected:

- to attend six Academic Board meetings each year (held in East Melbourne on Fridays from 9.30am to 12noon)
- to read the papers for each meeting (distributed electronically a week in advance) and to be prepared to speak to items
- to respond promptly to requests where electronic approvals of items are required between meetings
- to attend an induction with the Chair of the Academic Board