

Student Members of the Academic Board: Information

October 2020



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 Dean of Academic Programs (Dr Maggie Kappelhoff), the Dean of the School of Graduate Research (Associate Professor Liz Boase), the Chair of the Library Committee (Kerrie Burn), and the Academic Deans of each of the University's Colleges. Associate Professor Glen O'Brien (Chair of the Research Committee) has been appointed to the Academic Board as an additional member.

The Academic Board meets on six Fridays each year, usually from 10am to approximately 12noon. Meetings are generally held via videoconference.

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 Board meetings each year (held on Fridays from 10am 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