



UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

GAZETTE

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This Gazette is a public document and is circulated to members of Council, members of Academic Board, Heads of Colleges, and Office of the Vice-Chancellor (OVC) Staff. It reports the outcomes of meetings of the University Council and Academic Board since the last Gazette was issued.

Summary of key activities

- A. Council approved the Graduate Certificate in Theological Education, the first University award in Australia designed to provide professional development for theological staff in higher education. The award will commence in 2017 through Australian Lutheran College and is open to staff of the University of Divinity in its first year, with staff at other higher education providers eligible to apply for admission from 2018.
- B. Council received the report and recommendations of the Panel which reviewed Catholic Theological College, and approved renewal of the Collegiate Agreement for a further term of seven years without condition.
- C. The Academic Board accredited St Athanasius College to deliver postgraduate awards of the University from 2017 for the first time. Three awards were approved: the Graduate Certificate in Divinity, the Graduate Certificate in Theology, and the Graduate Diploma in Theology.
- D. The Academic Board elected Associate Professor Frank Rees as its Chair for a period of three years commencing 1 January 2017. He will succeed Associate Professor Michael Kelly, who has served as Chair of the Academic Board since 2009.

1. Regulations and Determinations

The Regulations are available at

<http://www.divinity.edu.au/university-of-divinity/governance/the-act-and-regulations/>

- 1.1 The Council approved Regulation 77: Graduate Certificate in Theological Education. Academic Board has approved Determinations to the Regulation and accredited Australian Lutheran College to deliver the award by amendment of the Determinations to Regulation 3.

- 1.2 Academic Board accredited St Athanasius College to deliver the Graduate Certificate in Divinity, the Graduate Certificate in Theology, and the Graduate Diploma in Theology in face to face and online modes by amendment of the Determinations to Regulation 3.
- 1.3 Academic Board removed a reporting condition and confirmed the accreditation of Whitley College to offer the Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction), the Master of Arts (Spirituality), the Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction, the Graduate Certificate in Spirituality, and the Graduate Diploma in Spirituality by amendment of the Determinations to Regulation 3.
- 1.4 Academic Board approved additions and amendments to the list of Recognised Institutions in Determination 2.12 to Regulation 2.

2. Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures may be located on the University website at

<http://www.divinity.edu.au/university-of-divinity/governance/policies-and-procedures/>

- 2.1 Council approved the Academic Staff Policy with effect from 1 January 2017. The new policy replaces six policies which are repealed with effect from 1 January 2017: Academic Staff Classifications and Promotions Policy, Academic Staff Development Policy, Emeritus Professor Appointment Procedures, Honorary Researcher Policy, Lecturer Accreditation Policy, Visiting Professor Nomination Procedures. The new policy includes transitional procedures to ensure the continuing accreditation of existing staff, but adds a new requirement for regular review of staff to ensure accreditations remain current.
- 2.2 Council repealed the Managing Change (OVC) Policy, noting that all provisions of the policy were incorporated in staff employment agreements.
- 2.3 Academic Board approved revisions to the Course Progress Policy to improve the procedures for a Course Progress Panel, including provisions for a support person to accompany a student to a Panel.
- 2.4 Academic Board approved revisions to the English Language Requirements Policy to provide an admission pathway for students who have studied in an English-medium award and who use English in a professional context.
- 2.5 Academic Board approved revisions to the Student Unit Evaluation Policy and Procedures with effect from 1 January 2017. This includes a new list of questions that may be answered either online or on paper forms. New software will enable evaluation results to be provided to Colleges and staff more promptly than at present.

3. Appointments

3.1 Academic Staff

None.

3.2 Honorary Appointments

None.

3.3 Other Appointments

- 3.3.1 The Academic Board elected Associate Professor Frank Rees as Chair of the Academic Board for a period of three years commencing 1 January 2017. The election was endorsed by the Council.
- 3.3.2 Council reappointed William Uren sj as a member of Council under section 7 (1) (d) of the Melbourne College of Divinity Act for a further term of twelve months commencing 1 January 2017 and concluding 31 December 2017.
- 3.3.3 Council appointed Terry McCredden as an external member of the Finance and Investment Committee for a term concluding 31 December 2018.
- 3.3.4 The Academic Board appointed Dr Ross Fishburn as Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee for the remainder of 2016, following the retirement of Dr Peter Price owing to ill-health after five years of service in the role.

4. Other matters

- 4.1 Council received the report and recommendations of the Panel which reviewed Catholic Theological College. The report contained eight commendations of the College, and eleven recommendations for action by the College and University, including a recommendation to renew the Collegiate Agreement for a further period of seven years without condition.
- 4.2 Council approved a proposal from the Research Committee of the Academic Board to allocate a Research Training Scheme place to support a PhD place commencing in 2017 as part of the research project "Missing the Mark? Challenges for Meaning, Community Building, and Justice in an Ageing Population." The PhD will be supervised by project leaders Dr Laurence McNamara (CTC) and Dr Alan Niven (Stirling).
- 4.3 Council received a report from its Governance and Nominations Committee following completion of a self-review of the University against the new Higher Education Standards Framework. Three actions were identified to ensure full compliance from 1 January 2017 and a further report will come to the Council's November meeting to certify that these have been completed.
- 4.4 Academic Board established a Course Development Panel for a Graduate Diploma in Supervision at the request of Jesuit College of Spirituality and Stirling Theological College.