GAZETTE
Date: 28 Jul 2026
Issued by: Hannah Hornsby, University Secretary

This Gazette is a public document and is circulated to members of the Council, members of Academic Board, the University Executive, and University staff. It reports the outcomes of meetings of the University Council and Academic Board since the last Gazette was issued. View past issues of the Gazette.

Summary of key activities

A. Professor James McLaren will step down from the role of Vice-Chancellor effective 2 October 2026. Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch will act as Interim Vice-Chancellor while a search process is undertaken.

B. Council has awarded Professor Graham Lieschke AM the Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa), with the award to be conferred at the 2027 Melbourne graduation ceremony.

C. Upcoming Graduation Ceremonies:
Adelaide: Thursday 18 February, 2027
Melbourne: Friday 9 April, 2027
Brisbane: Saturday 22 May, 2027

1. Regulations and Schedules

Regulations are available on the University website at

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

1.1 On 9 July the Council approved the following Regulations and Schedules to Regulations

N/A

1.2 On 16 June 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Schedules to Regulations

1.2.1 *Regulation 2 Academic Board:* Minor amendments to Schedule 2, Terms of Reference for Learning and Teaching Committee.

2. Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures are available on the University website at

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

2.1 On 9 July 2026 the Council approved the following Policies and Procedures

N/A

2.2 On 16 June 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Policies and Procedures

2.2.1 *Academic Board Charter:* Cyclical review with significant amendments.

2.2.2 *Graduation Eligibility Policy:* Section 6 – tightening of provisions for aegrotat awards.

2.2.3 *Student Learning Experience Survey Policy (formerly Student Unit Evaluation Policy):* Major review and revision of survey process and focus, with changes to take effect from 1 January 2027.

3. Academic Appointments and Accreditations

3.1 Luke Bowen has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver the unit DP3042W Responding Pastorally to Critical Issues in Contemporary Ministry.

3.2 Associate Professor Samuel Deressa has been accredited through Australian Lutheran College to be appointed as an Honorary Research Fellow until 30 April 2029.

3.3 Revd Dr Paul Dogba has been accredited through Yarra Theological Union to deliver units in Moral Theology and Missiology at Doctoral level.

3.4 Dr Tom Edwards has been accredited through Whitley College to be appointed as an Honorary Research Associate until 30 April 2029.

3.6 Dr Charbel El-Khaissi has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Languages Ancient and Modern at Doctoral level.

3.7 Associate Professor Walter Firth has been accredited through Trinity College Theological School to be appointed as an Honorary Research Associate until 7 May 2029.

3.8 Andrea Grant has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver units in Spiritual Direction at Postgraduate Elective level.

3.9 Dr Katie Haldane has been accredited through Catholic Theological College to be appointed as an Honorary Postdoctoral Associate until 10 April 2031.

3.10 Fr Antonio Kaldas has been accredited through St Athanasius College to deliver units in Systematic Theology at Postgraduate Elective level.

3.11 Revd Dr Margaret Mayman has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Moral Theology at Doctoral level, and to deliver the unit BS31001P / BS9001P The Bible and Ethics.

3.12 Jenelle Pike (Uniting College for Leadership and Theology) has been classified at Level A (Associate Lecturer) and accredited to deliver units in Spiritual Direction at Postgraduate Foundational level.

3.13 Dr Katherine Thompson has been accredited through Whitley College to be appointed as an Honorary Research Associate until 2 April 2029.

4. Governance and Other Appointments

4.1 Dr Lisa Agaiby has been appointed to the Research Grants Panel for a term commencing 5 May 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with section 3.1(b) of the Research Grants Policy.

4.2 Dr Rosemary Dewerse has been reappointed as a Deputy Chair of Examiners for a term commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Regulation 2.6.3.

4.3 Revd Dr Arseny Ermakov has been reappointed as a Deputy Chair of Examiners for a term commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Regulation 2.6.3.

4.4 Associate Professor Peter Kline has been reappointed as a Deputy Chair of Examiners for a term commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Regulation 2.6.3.

4.5 Dr Blake Wassell has been appointed as a Deputy Chair of Examiners for a term commencing 3 July 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Regulation 2.6.3.

4.6 Ms Naomi Wolfe has been appointed to the role of Dean of Learning and Teaching in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, commencing 3 August 2026.

5. Other Matters

5.1 The next edition of the Gazette will be published within six weeks of the Academic Board meeting on 11 August 2026.