

## THE ACADEMIC VOICE



# The University of Western Australia Academic Staff Association

W2 Winthrop Tower, UWA M005: Ph: 6488 3836 Email: [uwaasa@uwa.edu.au](mailto:uwaasa@uwa.edu.au) [www.uwaasa.edu.au](http://www.uwaasa.edu.au)

## GOVERNANCE: ACADEMIC BOARD AND ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**T**he Academic Board is the chief academic body in the University. Its constitution, membership and terms of reference are set out in Statute No.19 and in the Regulations made pursuant to this Statute. As such, its decisions may have substantial impacts on academics' practice, achievements and wellbeing.

Academic Board is composed of the 'University Executive' that is, the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Deputy V-C, the Deputy V-Cs (Education and Research) and the Pro V-Cs (International and Research). All Faculty Deans and those of the School of Indigenous Studies, Coursework Studies, Graduate Research and Postdoctoral Training are members, as are the University Librarian and Chief Information Officer. Heads of School, all Winthrop Professors (265 in 2014) and the Presidents of the Student Guild and the Postgraduate Students Association are included. In addition, Academic staff elect 62 members whilst Professional/General staff elect a further 20. **A full list is available on the UWA website.**

**Quoting selectively from Statute No:19, the Board (after appropriate reporting from a faculty or other body)**

(a) recommends to the Senate the making, amending and repealing of regulations relating to courses, scholarships, prizes and other awards and to all other academic-related matters; and

(b) approves rules specifying the course requirements, structures and policies applying to courses for degrees, diplomas and certificates.

The Board advises the Senate on all proposals for the creation or disestablishment of faculties and schools and the transfer from one faculty to another of responsibility for funding a school.

The Board also receives and considers correspondence from the Guild of Undergraduates and forwards, with or without comment, any intended for communication to the Senate.

**Academic Board** has delegated authority for most of its business to the **Academic Council**, which is the principal executive arm of the Academic Board through which most of the Board's business is conducted.

**T**he Council's role and responsibilities are contained in its constitution. Its membership comprises ex officio appointments, deans of the faculties and eight members elected by and from the Academic Board.

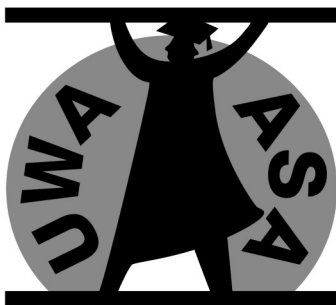
It has the power 'to make decisions without reference to the Academic Board . . . if these decisions are supported by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting'. The number required for a quorum of an Academic Council meeting is fifteen so decisions about academic activities and lives may be made by fifteen people, the majority of whom may have little current experience of teaching and research at UWA.

However, with regard to any matter within the minutes of an Academic Council meeting, ten members of the Academic Board may call for a special meeting of the Board which then may, or may not, decide that the item is a 'special matter'. If an item becomes a 'special matter' a decision about it should be made by the Board itself 'without further reference to the Academic Council'.

**S**o how can academics play a greater role in governance? The publication of SURF results on line arose from a request from the Student Guild to Academic Board, which then recommended it to Senate, yet only 18 Level E professors were in attendance when it was considered at the Board Meeting and only 6 of these held non-admin roles.

**H**undreds of Level E Professors are on Academic Board so by acting in concert and attending in greater numbers, greater influence could be exerted. Academic staff below level E may only attend Academic Board meetings if they are elected to the Board or if they have been invited to speak to it on a specific issue. However, by lobbying your Winthrop Professor colleagues and other elected representatives, the Academic Voice can be well and truly heard! Professor Ray da Silva Rosa, Associate Professor Debra Judge and Professor Matthew Tonts are all members of the UWA Academic Staff Association and on Academic Board.

**Please reference [www.governance.uwa.edu/committees](http://www.governance.uwa.edu/committees) for all details and quotes in the above text**



# The University of Western Australia Academic Staff Association

## GOVERNANCE: ACADEMIC BOARD AND ACADEMIC COUNCIL *continued...*

**A**cademic Board and Academic Council post minutes on the UWA website. To obtain the minutes for Academic Board and Academic Council, use your pHEME password at [www.governance.uwa.edu.au/committees/academic-board](http://www.governance.uwa.edu.au/committees/academic-board)

**D**o you have concerns about UWA policies and practices you would like to have raised at Academic Board? Contact UWAASA Committee Members Professor Ray da Silva Rosa, Associate Professor Debra Judge or Professor Matthew Tonts. Professor da Silva Rosa is also on Academic Council whilst Assoc/Prof Debra Judge can raise matters at the Academic Staff Consultative Committee (ACC) meetings.

**T**he UWA Academic Staff Association represents UWA academics, so we need to hear from you. Please let us know about your successes, struggles and ideas for change.

Do you have an idea about UWA that you would like to float? Do you have a view on how either policy or the administration of particular policy could be improved? Do you have a proposal for change? Is there something that UWA does well that you wish to celebrate? Is there a reflection about life as an academic at UWA that you would like to share?

These are just some of the topics on which we would like to hear academic opinion.

Feel free to contact\* the UWAASA Staff Writer: Victoria Burbank at: [victoria.burbank@uwa.edu.au](mailto:victoria.burbank@uwa.edu.au) or by letter: M257.

*\*University policy entitles the administration to monitor emails sent to and from a university email address. See University Policy: Use of Email (Appendix B) on UWA website.*

**T**he current committee took office in July 2014.

**President, Prof Raymond da Silva Rosa:** Ext. 2974  
[ray.dsilvarosa@uwa.edu.au](mailto:ray.dsilvarosa@uwa.edu.au)

**Vice President, Prof Stuart Bunt:** Ext. 2983  
[stuart.bunt@uwa.edu.au](mailto:stuart.bunt@uwa.edu.au)

**Secretary, Assoc/Prof Robert Cunningham:** Ext. 2952  
[robert.cunningham@uwa.edu.au](mailto:robert.cunningham@uwa.edu.au)

**Treasurer, Prof Allan McKinley:** Ext. 3165  
[allan.mckinley@uwa.edu.au](mailto:allan.mckinley@uwa.edu.au)

**Assoc/Prof Stephen Dobbs:** Ext. 2002  
[stephen.dobbs@uwa.edu.au](mailto:stephen.dobbs@uwa.edu.au)

**Assoc/Prof Debra Judge:** Ext. 3304  
[debra.judge@uwa.edu.au](mailto:debra.judge@uwa.edu.au)

**Assoc/ Prof Debra McDougall:** Ext. 2869  
[debra.mcdougall@uwa.edu.au](mailto:debra.mcdougall@uwa.edu.au)

**Assoc/Prof Thinh Nguyen:** 9528 0600  
[thinh.nguyen@uwa.edu.au](mailto:thinh.nguyen@uwa.edu.au)

**Dr Jamie O'Shea:** Ext. 2242  
[james.oshea@uwa.edu.au](mailto:james.oshea@uwa.edu.au)

**Prof Matthew Tonts:** Ext. 2683  
[matthew.tonts@uwa.edu.au](mailto:matthew.tonts@uwa.edu.au)

