

## Communique

### Academic Board Meeting AB2026/4, 2 September 2026

The University of Canberra Academic Board met for its fourth meeting of 2026 on Wednesday, 2 September.

#### **Strategic and governance matters:**

The Board noted preparations for upcoming Academic Board and Student Representative Council elections and discussed forthcoming Higher Education Standards Framework reporting requirements that take effect from 1 January 2027. Members endorsed the closure of remaining Wells Governance Review recommendations.

The Vice-Chancellor updated the Board on negotiations regarding Commonwealth Supported Place allocation and emerging discussions between the University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology on the potential of a Dual-Sector institution. Members discussed opportunities associated with stronger tertiary pathways, curriculum alignment, industry engagement, expanded infrastructure access and long-term sustainability. The Board noted that it would play an important advisory role as discussions progress.

The Board endorsed revised Academic Board Standing Orders. Discussion focused on governance provisions, agenda-setting arrangements and alignment with the Academic Board Rules. Members also considered proposals to strengthen oversight and approval of academic and research procedures and endorsed amendments to restore approval authority to the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC) and University Research Committee (URC).

The Board discussed a proposed University Academic Risk Framework, including a draft academic risk definition, institutional risk categories and risks associated with the proposed faculty model. Members provided feedback on student experience, governance, workforce and transition risks, and supported further development of the framework and academic risk register.

#### **Student experience**

The Board received the Student Report and discussed student feedback on group assessment practices. Members considered the balance between developing teamwork and collaboration skills and ensuring equitable assessment outcomes. Faculty Board Chairs were asked to consider group assessment practices within their faculties and report on any student impacts. Members also welcomed positive feedback regarding faculty-based orientation activities conducted during O-Week.

#### **Indigenous leadership and student success**

The Board received an update from the Office of Indigenous Leadership and Strategy on the development of the University's Indigenous Strategy 2027-2031. Members discussed Indigenous workforce participation, Indigenous student success, leadership initiatives, cultural intelligence frameworks and progress towards Indigenous Student Success Program requirements. The Board noted the establishment of new leadership and staff networks and welcomed increasing engagement with the Ngunnawal Centre.

## Research and research performance

The Board reviewed research funding performance and discussed strategies to strengthen research competitiveness and funding success. Members considered support for Category 1 grant applications, researcher development, Indigenous research opportunities, tender activity and approaches to building research capability across the University. The Board noted that a broader review of research grant performance and success factors is underway.

The Board also reviewed progress against the University's Research Implementation Plan and discussed support for early and mid-career researchers, mentoring, research capability development and strategic investment in areas of institutional strength. Faculty research performance reports were considered, with discussion focusing on research growth, pathways into higher degree research, collaboration opportunities and developing future research leaders.

The resolutions passed are available on the [Academic Board Resolution Register](#).

| Prepared by: |                     | Submitted by: |                        |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Name         | Remy Szabo          | Name          | Professor Tanya Lawlis |
| Position     | Secretariat Manager | Position      | Academic Board Chair   |
| Date         | 4 September 2026    | Date          | 9 September 2026       |