UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Communique

Academic Board Meeting AB2026/5, 28 October 2026

The University of Canberra Academic Board met for its fifth ordinary meeting of 2026 on Wednesday, 28 October.

Strategic and governance matters:

The Board noted that the Faculty Model Academic Risk Register had been approved by Council and was informing implementation, with progress to be reported to Academic Board. Work is continuing on an institutional definition of academic risk and an enterprise Academic Risk Register for consideration in 2027. The Board also discussed strengthening student participation in academic governance.

The Board considered revised faculty governance arrangements following the Faculty Board governance review undertaken earlier in October. Members approved the revised Faculty Board Charter, including a merit-based process for appointing Faculty Board Chairs open to Level D and Level E academic staff, and approved the Faculty Courses and Units Sub-Committee Charter. Members welcomed increased Indigenous representation on faculty Board and its Sub-Committees. Board members discussed student representation on governance committees including Faculty Board, remuneration for student members, and balancing broad representation with effective governance. The proposed Faculty Research and Faculty Quality and Success Sub-Committee Charters will return to the Board following further refinement regarding membership.

The Board also noted that responsibility for approving academic and research procedures would remain with the Academic Quality and Standards Committee and University Research Committee, following Council's decision not to approve a proposed change to the Delegations of Authority.

The Vice-Chancellor updated the Board on the University's developing submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly inquiry into governance arrangements at Canberra Institute of Technology, including the possibility of bringing UC and CIT together as a dual-sector institution. The proposal remains exploratory, with further assessment, consultation, due diligence and government consideration required.

UC Education Plan

The Board considered the final draft of the University of Canberra Education Plan, developed following consultation with staff and students and earlier consideration by Academic Board, Academic Quality and Standards Committee and VCG. Members approved the Plan's ambition, principles and commitments, which establish strategic direction across students, educators, undergraduate, postgraduate and research education and articulate the University's ambition to be Australia's most accessible university.

Discussion focused on flexibility in educational delivery, Indigenous content, transnational education and a target for 50 per cent of units in on-campus undergraduate degrees to be available fully online. Members emphasised that flexibility should extend beyond online delivery and recognise disciplinary, professional accreditation, regulatory and practical learning requirements. Supporting frameworks, measures and implementation arrangements will return to Academic Board for consideration and approval in 2027.

Student experience and voice

Student representatives presented findings from the Student Representative Council University Satisfaction Survey 2026, covering teaching quality, attendance and engagement, generative AI, belonging, safety and student voice. Members welcomed positive perceptions of teaching quality while identifying opportunities to strengthen assessment feedback and instructions, AI guidance, timetabling and workload, respectful learning environments, student belonging and opportunities for student voice.

The Board welcomed improved student understanding of the University's approach to generative AI, with just 8 per cent of respondents reporting that they were unaware of or confused about requirements. Members nevertheless noted the need for greater consistency across units and increased student confidence in applying AI requirements. The Board also discussed student belonging, particularly among postgraduate, online and hybrid students, and the balance between flexible access to lecture recordings and student engagement and attendance.

The Board congratulated the Student Representative Council on the Student Voice Australasia Conference which attracted more than 300 students from Australia, and their engagement with students through the Faculty-based student town halls.

Academic programs, access and pathways

The Board approved revised admission requirements for the UC Preparation Scheme and UC Connect to broaden and simplify access to both enabling programs. Changes include lowering the minimum age for UC Prep from 19 to 17, removing the requirement for applicants to have been out of secondary education for more than two years, and removing age, Year 12 and minimum grade requirements for UC Connect. English language entry requirements remain unchanged.

The Board also approved an extension of the English Bridging Course trial pathway for admission to the Master of Business Administration delivered in partnership with East China University of Science and Technology. The extension will enable a larger evidence base for evaluating student preparedness, academic performance, progression, retention, completion and student experience before decisions are made on the pathway's longer-term continuation.

The resolutions passed are available on the Academic Board Resolution Register.

Prepared by:		**Submitted by:**	
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Position	Secretariat Manager	Position	Academic Board Chair
Date	29 October 2026	Date	2 November 2026