

La Trobe University  
**ACADEMIC BOARD**  
**2026**

## **Establishment**

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See Section 20, Part 3 of the La Trobe University Act, Academic Board Statute 2009 and Academic Board Regulations 2019.

## **Role / Terms of reference**

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### **Terms of reference**

(min. ref. AB08/56(M), 423.6)

1. Academic Board is responsible for approving and monitoring the implementation of policy on academic matters including admission to degrees, diplomas and other awards; new and revised programs; teaching and learning; assessment; student conduct; research; reviews of courses and academic units; academic staff promotions and senior (Level D & Level E) academic appointments; and prizes and scholarships.
2. Academic Board will monitor institutional benchmarks for academic quality and outcomes.
3. Academic Board will provide academic oversight to assure the quality of teaching, learning, research and research training.
4. Academic Board will monitor the management of academic risks.
5. Academic Board will consider and advise the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council on academic matters and any other broad issues which affect the academic excellence of the University.
6. Academic Board will provide a forum to facilitate information flow and debate within the University.

## **Membership**

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### **Term of office of elected members**

- (a) The term of office of a staff member is 2 years.
- (b) The term of office of a student member is 1 year.

The following persons are prescribed as members *ex officio* of the Board:

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Chair   | Professor Carol McKinstry           |
| (b) Deputy Chair  | Professor Adam Mechler              |
| (c) Vice-Chancellor & President                         | Professor Theo Farrell              |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Ind Eng)         | Professor Chris Pakes               |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)                   | Professor Sue Bennett               |
| (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Future Growth)              | Dr Stacey Farraway                  |
| (e) Provost   | Professor Robert Pike               |
| (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training)             | Associate Professor Dan Bendrups    |
| (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)                    | Associate Professor Michael Donovan |
| (g) Chair, Coursework Committee                         | Associate Professor Madelaine Chiam |
| (h) Deputy Chair, Research & Graduate Studies Committee | Professor Daswin De Silva           |
| (h) Deputy Chair, Education Committee                   | Professor Suzanne O'Keefe           |
| (i) the Head/Executive Director of each Regional Campus |                                     |
| Albury-Wodonga:   | Dr Guinever Threlkeld               |
| Bendigo:  | Marg O'Rourke                       |

Mildura:  
Shepparton:

Sandra Connor  
TBC

- (j) the Head of each School
  - (j) Professor Robyn Murphy, Dean, School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment
  - (j) Professor Russell Hoye, Dean, School of Allied Health, Human Services & Sport
  - (j) Professor Simone Rochfort, Dean, School of Applied Systems Biology
  - (j) Professor Suzanne O'Keefe, Dean, La Trobe Business School
  - (j) Professor Marco Herold, Dean, School of Cancer Medicine
  - (j) Professor Wenny Rahayu, Dean, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
  - (j) Professor Joanna Barbousas, Dean, School of Education
  - (j) Professor Matthew McGuire, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - (j) Professor Lorne Neudorf, Dean, La Trobe Law School
  - (j) Professor Marie Gerdtz, Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
  - (j) Professor Monica Thielking, Dean, School of Psychology and Public Health
  - (j) Professor Jane Mills, Dean, La Trobe Rural Health School

**Elected staff members comprising:**

- (a) 20 x Level E academic staff.
  - (b) 16\* x Level A/B academic staff.
  - (c) 15 x Level C/D academic staff.
  - (d) 5 x Level 1-8 professional staff.
  - (e) 5 x Level 9 or above professional staff.
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- (a) Professor Leah Brennan
  - (a) Professor Louis de Koker
  - (a) Professor Elly Djouma
  - (a) Professor Ashley Franks
  - (a) Professor Marcel Jackson
  - (a) Professor Anne-Marie Laslett
  - (a) Professor Sarah MacLean
  - (a) Professor Jodi Oakman
  - (a) Professor Luke Prendergast
  - (a) Professor Vida Siahtiri
  - (a) Professor Art Stukas
  - (a) Professor Raelene Wilding
  - (b) Dr Anurag Adhikari
  - (b) Dr Natalie Araujo
  - (b) Dr Tobias Barkley
  - (b) Fiona Berry
  - (b) Dr Tony de Souza-Daw
  - (b) Dr Stephanie Downes
  - (b) Dr Fiona Durand
  - (b) Dr Nicole El-Haber
  - (b) Dr Joshua Grubb
  - (b) Dr Jayden Hunter
  - (b) Dr Jacq Jones
  - (b) Dr Nishan Mills
  - (b) Dr Nina Riddell
  - (b) Dr Ahmad Salehi Shahraki
  - (b) Dr Melanie Tassos
  - (b) Dr Katy Unwin
  - (c) Dr Kate Ashman
  - (c) Associate Professor Deborah Gleeson
  - (c) Dr Lisa Hanson
  - (c) Associate Professor Christine Hawkins
  - (c) Dr Magda Karagiannakis
  - (c) Dr Matthew King

- (c) Dr Kate Lafferty
- (c) Dr Lauren Lawson
- (c) Dr Fung Lay
- (c) Dr Helena Menih
- (c) Dr Hien Nguyen
- (c) Associate Professor Ross O'Shea
- (c) Dr Keir Strickland
- (c) Associate Professor Rwth Stuckey
- (c) Dr Laura Whitburn
- (d) Nick Alaimo
- (d) Dr Steph Di Palma
- (d) Portia Dilena
- (d) Charlotte Usher
- (d) Jessica Zibung
- (e) Matt Cooke
- (e) Weiyu Jiang
- (e) Dr Leah Kivivali
- (e) Emanouel Mereos
- (e) Vesna Stefanovski

**Student members comprising:**

- (a) 1 post graduate student who is a graduate research candidate, elected by and from the graduate research candidates of the University.
  - (b) 2 post graduate students, elected by and from post graduate students of the University. One must be from a metropolitan campus and the other from a regional campus.
  - (c) 3 students who are not post graduate students, elected by and from those students of the University who are not post graduate students. One must be from a regional campus and one must be from a metropolitan campus.
  - (d) President, La Trobe University Student Union (LTSU)
  - (e) Council Presidents, La Trobe Student Association (LTSA)
  - (f) Two Indigenous students (one coursework student and one graduate research candidate) appointed through an Expression of Interest process
- (a) Camille Schloffel
  - (b) Vacant
  - (b) Stephanie Wong
  - (c) Kain Neale
  - (c) Senith Waduge
  - (c) Alicia Wong
  - (d) TBC
  - (e) TBC
  - (f) TBC
  - (f) TBC

\*For the 2026-2027 membership period only. From 2028 the number of Level A/B Academic Staff members will revert to 15.

**In Attendance (prescribed persons)**

Chief Operating Officer  
 Chief Financial Officer  
 Chief Information Officer  
 Chief Marketing Officer  
 Chief of Staff, Vice-Chancellor's Office  
 Executive Director, Human Resources  
 Executive Director, Infrastructure and Operations  
 Executive Director, Operations  
 Executive Director, Research Office  
 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)  
 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and Employability)  
 Director, Student Administration

Mark Smith  
 Jodie Banfield  
 Shainal Kavar  
 Mary Dempsey  
 Katie Phillis  
 Regan Sterry

Bridget Soulsby  
 Alistair Duncan  
 Associate Professor Sarah Midford  
 Dr Naomi Dempsey  
 Rachel Cumberland

**In Attendance**

The Professoriate

**Co-opted membership**

Academic Board may co-opt members to ensure that the membership of the Board is reflective of the multi-campus nature of the University and supports the University's commitment to promoting gender equity. The term of office for these appointments will normally be two years.

**Reporting**

To **Council** after each meeting.

**Quorum**

50% of the membership plus one.

**Frequency of meetings**

Normally 6 times a year.

**List of any sub-committees**

- Academic Board Executive Committee
- Animal Ethics Committee
- Board of Graduate Research
- Coursework Committee
- Education Committee
- Higher Doctorates Committee
- Human Research Ethics Committee
- La Trobe Institutional Biosafety Committee
- Research and Graduate Studies Committee

**Secretariat**

Governance

**Contact person and phone / email**

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Sonia Nelson

Senior Executive Officer

Email [academicboard@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:academicboard@latrobe.edu.au)

Updated: 22/12/2025