

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

Meeting held on Friday 7 March 2025 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm at Hall 3, Level 1, Graduate Centre

Members Present

1	Prof. Sibrandes Poppema [Chair]	SP
2	Prof. Abhi Veerakumarasivam	AV
3	Prof. Adarsh Kumar Pandey	AKP
4	Prof. Adrian Lee Yuen Beng	LYB
5	Prof. Agamutu Pariatamby	AP
6	Prof. Angela Amphawan	AA
7	Prof. Angela Lee Siew Hoong	LSH
8	Prof. Arshian Sharif	AS
9	Prof. Bradley Carl Freeman	BCF
10	Prof. Chai Lay Ching	CLC
11	Prof. Cheng Mien Wee	CMW
12	Prof. Dato' Dr Fitzerald Henry	FH
13	Prof. Dr Chia Yook Chin	CYC
14	Prof. Faridah Mohd Nor	FMN
15	Prof. Felicia Chung Fei Lei	CFL
16	Prof. Goh Bey Hing	GBH
17	Prof. Ir Denny Ng Kok Sum	NKS
18	Prof. Ir. Mo Kim Hung	MKH
19	Prof. Ir. Rosdiadee Nordin	RN
20	Prof. Kavita Reginald	KR
21	Prof. Keng Shian Ling	KSL
22	Prof. Ker Pin Jern	KPJ
23	Prof. Khatijah Abdullah @ Lim Geok Khim	KA
24	Prof. Lau Sian Lun	LSL
25	Prof. Leong Yuen Yoong	LYY
26	Prof. Lim Weng Marc	LWM
27	Prof. Lin Mei-Hua	LMH
28	Prof. Long Chiau Ming	LCM
29	Prof. M A Hannan	MAH
30	Prof. Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair	MSN
31	Prof. Malissa Maria Mahmud	MMM
32	Prof. Mayeen Uddin Khandaker	MUK
33	Prof. Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua	MKA
34	Prof. Motoki Watabe	MW
	Prof. Nishanth Gopalakrishnan	
35	Chemangattuvalappil	NGC
36	Prof. Ong Hwai Chyuan	OHC
37	Prof. Patrick Siau Chi Yin	SCY
38	Prof. Pervaiz K Ahmed	PKA
39	Prof. Raja Affendi Raja Ali	RA
40	Prof. Rebecca Wong Shin Yee	WSY
41	Prof. Roslina Abdul Manap	RAM
42	Prof. Saidur Rahman	SR
43	Prof. Santha Vaithilingam	SV
44	Prof. Serge Demidenko	SD
45	Prof. Shandre Mugan Thangavelu	SMT
46	Prof. Teo Kok Lay	TKL
47	Prof. Veronica Ng Foong Peng	NFP
48	Prof. Vetriselvan Subramaniyan	VS
49	Prof. Wong Chin Huat	WCH
50	Prof. Wong Koi Nyen	WKN
51	Prof. Yap Kian Meng	YKM
52	Prof. Yeah Kim Leng	YKL
53	Prof. Yuka Fujimoto	YF
	Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniel Chong Ka Leong	CKL

Ex-Officio

1	Ng Beng Lean	NBL
2	Ms Chan Yong Yee	CYY

By Invitation

1	Assoc. Prof. Dr Calvin Cheong Wing Hoh	CWH
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr Catherine Lee Cheng Ean	LCE
3	Assoc. Prof. Dr Chew Jactty	CJ
4	Assoc. Prof. Dr Gan Joo Ee	GJE
5	Assoc. Prof. Dr Jane Teh Kimm Lii	TKL
6	Assoc. Prof. Dr Joaquim, Miguel Dias Soeiro	JMDS
7	Assoc. Prof. Dr Padma Priya K.R Pillai	PP
8	Assoc. Prof. Dr Selina Low Yeh Ching	LYC
9	Assoc. Prof. Dr Sim Tze Ying	STY
10	Assoc. Prof. Dr Woo Pei Jun	WPJ
11	Assoc. Prof. Dr Zaheer Anwer	ZA
12	Assoc. Prof. Dr Zuhaili Akmal Ismail	ZAI
13	Dr Ang Siew Ling	ASL
14	Dr Cheong Huey Tyng	CHT
15	Dr Nicholas Lee Boon Kheng	LBK
16	Dr Stella Ong Kim Yoke	OKY
17	Mr Kevin Tan Tee Liang	TTL
18	Ms Rita Lo	RL
19	Prof. Jonathan Peter Ivy	JPI
20	President of Student Council	PSC
21	Puan Izah Isa	II
22	SU Postgraduate Student Council	SUPSC
23		

Absent with Apologies

1	Assoc. Prof. Dr Katta Ramesh	KR
2	Prof. Alvin Ng Lai Oon	NLO
3	Prof. Chua Hui Na	CHN
4	Prof. Dato' Elizabeth Lee	EL
5	Prof. Ho Chee Kit	HCK
6	Prof. Jarlath Ronayne	JR
7	Prof. Kenneth Anthony Cafferkey	KAC
8	Prof. Keshab Man Shrestha	KMS
9	Prof. Khoo Gaik Cheng	KGC
10	Prof. Lee Chien Sing	LCS
11	Prof. Liew Chee Sun	LCS
12	Prof. Mayco Axel Santaella	MAS
13	Prof. Pradeep Nair	PN
14	Prof. Satish Narayana Namasivayam	SNN
15	Prof. Shakila Parween Yacob	SPY
16	Prof. Snezana Panovska	SPY
17	Prof. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood	JM
18	Prof. Tan Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur	NAMN
19	Prof. Teo Ee Sing	TES
20	Mr Ng Kok Cheng	NKC

In Attendance

Dr Sukhdev Singh

The meeting commenced with a note of welcome from the Chair.

Item		Action
1.0	Introductions and Apologies	
	<p>The Chair welcomed the following new members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Cheng Mien Wee 2. Prof Kavita A/P Reginald 3. Prof. Veronica Ng Foong Peng 4. Prof Felicia Chung Fei Lei 5. Prof. Nishanth Gopalakrishnan Chemmangattuvalappil <p>By invitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Prof. Jonathan Peter Ivy - Academic Dean, Lancaster University 7. Kevin Tan Tee Liang - Deputy Dean (Education) 8. Ng Kok Cheng – Chief Financial Officer 9. Chan Yong Yee – Chief Librarian <p>Apologies were noted as in the attendance list.</p>	Info
2.0	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
	The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 nd November 2024 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.	Info
3.0	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	3.1 There were no matters arising.	
4.0	Consideration of the Agenda:	
	4.1 The Chair informed Senate that the agenda is divided into 3 sections: Section A for Senate approval, Section B for discussion and Section C for noting. Members may also request any item to be moved to Section B for full discussion. There was no request for any item to be moved to Section B for full discussion.	Info
5.0	Comments from the Chair:	
	5.1 <i>Some restricted information.</i>	Info
Section A: Recommendations from Steering Committee for Confirmation		
6.0	Establishment of Faculties and Integrated Schools	
	<p>AV presented the establishment of faculties and integrated schools as part of the development of the academic portfolio and the needs of the university. The proposal is to establish the three faculties as well as the integrated schools within these faculties which is aimed at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting the University's 2025-2030 student enrollment growth strategy. 2. Enhancing the visibility and positioning of the University's expanding academic portfolio. 3. Satisfying external regulatory requirements and guidance regarding programme governance (e.g. architecture, 	

	<p>pharmacy, etc.).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Providing greater opportunities for staff to assume leadership roles and have greater accountability for expanding their respective academic fields. 5. Facilitating special and strategic considerations to support the overall University’s reputation and prestige (e.g. medicine). 6. Ensuring institutional operational efficiency and resource optimisation. <p>The School of Medical and Life Sciences will be named the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences and will have 4 integrated schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School b. School of Nursing c. School of Psychology d. School of Pharmacy <p>The School of Engineering and Technology will be named the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and will have 2 integrated schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School of Computing and Artificial Intelligence b. School of Engineering <p>The School of Arts will be named the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and will have 3 integrated schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School of Film and Performing Arts b. School of Architecture and Design c. School of Communication and Media Studies <p>AV further clarified that this structure, if approved, will be effective 15 March 2025.</p> <p>The newly formed 3 Faculties and 5 existing individual Schools are equal in terms of organisational hierarchy with Heads designated as Deans. Deputy Deans will only exist at the Faculty level.</p> <p>The heads of the integrated Schools will be designated as Heads of School and will report to the Dean). The heads of the departments in the integrated Schools will be designated as Heads of Department and report to the Head of School.</p> <p>The School Boards of Studies will now be just called Board of Studies (BoS). Research Centres will still be in the faculty/individual schools.</p> <p>Senate approved the proposed new entities.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Merger of Department of Accounting (DACC) and Department of Economics and Finance (DEF)</p>	
	<p>LWM informed Senate that the proposed merger of the Department of Accounting and the Department of Economics and Finance is necessary since the finance faculty contributes substantially to the accounting and finance programme and yet often find themselves remaining outside vital discussions shaping its future. So, a merger of the 2 departments ensures proper faculty (staff) alignment from educational, research and operational perspectives.</p>	

		Senate approved the proposed merger.	
8.0	Change of School Name School from School of Hospitality and Service Management (SHSM) to School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM).		
		GJE presented the proposal of the school's name on behalf of CKL who was unable to attend the meeting. The proposal is to better reflect some of the content of the programmes. Although there is no programme in tourism currently, most programmes center around teaching destinations, behaviours, and the multi-faceted field of tourism with wide economic and sociocultural implications. In addition, the term 'service management' is sometimes mistaken as the school programmes overlap with Sunway Business School programmes. Senate approved the proposed name change.	
9.0	To Disestablish an Inactive Research Centre: Centre for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies (CSAIOS), School of Arts (SOA)		
		MAS Informed Senate that this research Centre in the School of Arts has been existence for a while now, but the focus of the school is very different now. The person who was leading this has left and there is no focus on this area. The focus is to channel the resources to other areas within the School of Arts. The proposal is to close this Centre. Senate approved the proposal.	
10.0	Academic Senate – Revised Terms of Reference (TOR)		
		NBL informed Senate that the changes reflected in Academic Senate TOR are to be in compliance with our constitution. The President and Provost are the Chair and Co-Chair respectively. The members include Pro Vice Chancellors, Deans, Full – time Professors and such other qualified persons as may be appointed in a manner approved by the Board. We also need to include the Chief Financial Officer as Ex-Officio. The Senate may from time to time invite any person, including any student, to attend meetings of the Senate, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Dean (Lancaster University) 2. Director of Centre for Quality Management 3. Deputy Deans 4. Postgraduate Student Representative 5. Undergraduate Student Representative AV added that item 2 will need to be amended to standing committees have the authority to make decisions and set policies within their respective areas of responsibility on behalf of the Senate. Item 3 is to include the Senate may delegate any of the decisions to the sub-committees that are chaired by a member of the Senate. The Senate will receive, consider, and make decisions on proposals and recommendations from these sub-committees. Partnership and Programme Approval Committee (PPAC) should	

		<p>be moved up to Standing Committees section and some of the committee names need to be changed to reflect the new names.</p> <p>Senate approved the proposal with the above amendments.</p>	NBL
11.0	Terms of Reference for the Institutional Review Board		
		<p><i>Some restricted information.</i></p> <p>Senate approved the proposal.</p>	
Section B: Matters for Discussion			
12.0	Analysis of January 2025 Exam Cycle Results and Approval of Awards Confirmed by Programme Assessment Boards		
		<p>AV presented the analysis of the results of the January 2025 exam cycle. A total of 692 students registered for the diploma programme subjects of which 559 passed all subjects. A comparison with the August 2024 exam cycle showed a slightly lower pass rate.</p> <p>The undergraduate programmes had a total of 8496 students registered for the exams out of which 83% passed all subjects. A comparison with the August 2024 exam cycle showed a similar slight increase in the pass rate.</p> <p>A total of 91 students have completed the diploma programmes with 15 students qualifying for a Distinction and 50 for High Merit awards.</p> <p>For the undergraduate programmes a total of 513 students completed their programme of study. The analysis showed 125 qualified for Class I, while 240 qualified for Class II (1) and 134 for Class II(2).</p> <p>Fifteen (15) students completed the post basic certificate programmes (10 for Post Basic Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing and 5 for Post Basic Certificate in Perioperative Nursing). The School of American Education had 21 students completing the American Degree Transfer Programme. Ten students from the School of Education completed the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice.</p> <p>There were 101 Master awards from various schools with 53 qualifying for Distinction, 35 Merit and 13 Pass awards. It was noted that the list of postgraduate awards did not include any</p>	

		<p>PhD awards, and this is because most postgraduate by research awards are approved by Chair's action as and when URDC approves the awards.</p> <p>Senate approved the awards</p>	
Section C: Reports Received for Noting			
15.0	Approval of Awards by Senate Chair's Action		
		<p>MSN reported that 4 PhD awards and 2 master awards were approved by URDC and recommended for Senate approval. These were approved by Chair's action on 23 Dec. 2023. Additionally, 1 master and 1 PhD award were approved on 15 Jan. 2025 and another 3 PhD awards on 31 Jan. 2025. This makes a total of 8 PhD and 3 master awards.</p> <p>Senate noted the above awards that were approved by Chair's action.</p>	
16.0	Direct Entry from Bachelor to PhD		
		<p>MSN presented the 2 applications for direct entry to PhD that were approved by Chair's action due to the urgency on 15 Jan. and 31 Jan. 2025 respectively. The first candidate for PhD in Psychology had a CGPA of 3.84 while the second candidate for PhD (Computing) has a CGPA of 3.85. Both applicants have gone through the internal assessment process at the school level and were recommended by the respective schools and URDC.</p> <p>Senate noted the above direct entry approvals.</p>	
17.0	Appointment of External Examiner		
		<p><i>Some restricted information.</i></p>	

		Senate noted the above external examiner appointments.	
18.0	Status of Programme Approval and Accreditation		
		<i>Some restricted information.</i>	
19.0	Academic Senate Sub and Standing Committee Reports		
	13.1	Senate noted the following Reports of Award Classifications Confirmed by Programme Assessment Boards (PAB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School of Arts - Sunway Business School - School of Education - School of Engineering and Technology - School of Hospitality and Service Management - School of Mathematical Sciences - School of Medical and Life Sciences - School of American Education 	
	13.2	Senate noted the following School Board of Studies reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School of Arts – Meeting held on 25 Feb. 2025 - School of American Education – Meeting held on 6 Sep. 2024 - School of Education – Meeting held on 5 Dec. 2024 - Sunway Business School – Meetings held in Nov. 2024 and Jan. 2025 - School of Engineering and Technology – Meeting held on 10 Dec. 2024 - School of Hospitality and Service Management – Meeting held on 16 Aug. 2024. 	
	19.3	Senate noted the report from the University Education Committee (UEC) meeting held on 23 Jan. 2025.	
	19.4	Senate noted the report from the University Employability and Alumni Committee (UEAC) meeting held on 29 Nov. 2024.	

20.0	Any Other Business		
		<p>The Chair informed Senate that we now have 5 Pro-Chancellors which includes the first woman Pro-Chancellor, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria. She was recently the chair of the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation in Singapore prior to which she was secretary general of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry for many years. The Chair congratulated her on the appointment.</p> <p>As everyone is aware, Prof. Graeme Wilkinson is also a Pro-Chancellor now.</p>	

The meeting ended at 4.35pm with a note of thanks from the Chair. The next meeting is scheduled for 25th April 2025.

Minutes confirmed by:

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Chair

Date: