

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

Meeting held on Friday 25 April 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. Agamutu Pariatamby | AP |
| 4 | Prof. Alvin Ng Lai Oon | NLO |
| 5 | Prof. Angela Amphawan | AA |
| 6 | Prof. Angela Lee Siew Hoong | LSH |
| 7 | Prof. Arshian Sharif | AS |
| 8 | Prof. Bradley Carl Freeman | BCF |
| 9 | Prof. Chai Lay Ching | CLC |
| 10 | Prof. Cheng Mien Wee | CMW |
| 11 | Prof. Chua Hui Na | CHN |
| 12 | Prof. Dato' Dr Fitzjerald Henry | FH |
| 13 | Prof. Faridah Mohd Nor | FMN |
| 14 | Prof. Felicia Chung Fei Lei | CFL |
| 15 | Prof. Ho Chee Kit | HCK |
| 16 | Prof. Ir. Mo Kim Hung | MKH |
| 17 | Prof. Kavita Reginald | KR |
| 18 | Prof. Keng Shian Ling | KSL |
| 19 | Prof. Kenneth Anthony Cafferkey | KAC |
| 20 | Prof. Ker Pin Jern | KPJ |
| 21 | Prof. Keshab Man Shrestha | KMS |
| 22 | Prof. Khatijah Abdullah @ Lim Geok Khim | KA |
| 23 | Prof. Khoo Gaik Cheng | KGC |
| 24 | Prof. Lau Sian Lun | LSL |
| 25 | Prof. Lee Chien Sing | LCS |
| 26 | Prof. Lin Mei-Hua | LMH |
| 27 | Prof. Long Chiau Ming | LCM |
| 28 | Prof. M A Hannan | MAH |
| 29 | Prof. Malissa Maria Mahmud | MMM |
| 30 | Prof. Mayco Axel Santaella | MSN |
| 31 | Prof. Mayeen Uddin Khandaker | MUK |
| 32 | Prof. Motoki Watabe | NW |
| 33 | Prof. Nishanth Gopalakrishnan Chemmangat | NGC |
| 34 | Prof. Ong Hwai Chyuan | OHC |
| 35 | Prof. Pervaiz K Ahmed | PKA |
| 36 | Prof. Raja Affendi Raja Ali | RA |
| 37 | Prof. Roslina Abdul Manap | RAM |
| 38 | Prof. Santha Vaithilingam | SV |
| 39 | Prof. Satesh Narayana Namasivayam | SNN |
| 40 | Prof. Serge Demidenko | SD |
| 41 | Prof. Shakila Parween Yacob | SPY |
| 42 | Prof. Shandre Mugan Thangavelu | SMT |
| 43 | Prof. Snezana Panovska | SPY |
| 44 | Prof. Veronica Ng Foong Peng | NFP |
| 45 | Prof. Yap Kian Meng | YKM |
| 46 | Prof. Yeah Kim Leng | YKL |
| 47 | Prof. Yuka Fujimoto | YF |
| 48 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniel Chong Ka Leong | CKL |
| 49 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Sim Tze Ying | STY |

Ex-Officio

| | | |
|---|------------------|-----|
| 1 | Ng Beng Lean | NBL |
| 2 | Mr Ng Kok Cheng | NKC |
| 3 | 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 Katta Ramesh | KR |
| 8 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Selina Low Yeh Ching | LYC |
| 9 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Woo Pei Jun | WPJ |
| 10 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Zaheer Anwer | ZA |
| 11 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Zuhaili Akmal Ismail | ZAI |
| 12 | Dr Ang Siew Ling | ASL |
| 13 | Dr Nicholas Lee Boon Kheng | LBK |
| 14 | Dr Stella Ong Kim Yoke | OKY |
| 15 | President of Student Council | PSC |
| 16 | Puan Izah Isa | II |

Absent with Apologies

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Prof. Adarsh Kumar Pandey | AKP |
| 2 | Prof. Adrian Lee Yuen Beng | LYB |
| 3 | Prof. Dato' Elizabeth Lee | EL |
| 4 | Prof. Dr Chia Yook Chin | CYC |
| 5 | Prof. Goh Bey Hing | GBH |
| 6 | Prof. Ir Denny Ng Kok Sum | NKS |
| 7 | Prof. Ir. Rosdiadee Nordin | RN |
| 8 | Prof. Jarlath Ronayne | JR |
| 9 | Prof. Jonathan Peter Ivy | JPI |
| 10 | Prof. Leong Yuen Yoong | LYY |
| 11 | Prof. Lim Weng Marc | LWM |
| 12 | Prof. Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair | MSN |
| 13 | Prof. Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua | MKA |
| 14 | Prof. Patrick Siau Chi Yin | SCY |
| 15 | Prof. Pradeep Nair | PN |
| 16 | Prof. Rebecca Wong Shin Yee | WSY |
| 17 | Prof. Saidur Rahman | SR |
| 18 | Prof. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood | JM |
| 19 | Prof. Tan Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur | NAMN |
| 20 | Prof. Teo Ee Sing | TES |
| 21 | Prof. Teo Kok Lay | TKL |
| 22 | Prof. Vetriselvan Subramaniam | VS |
| 23 | Prof. Wong Chin Huat | WCH |
| 24 | Prof. Wong Koi Nyen | WKN |
| 25 | Assoc. Prof. Dr Padma Priya K.R Pillai | PP |
| 26 | Dr Cheong Huey Tyng | CHT |
| 27 | Mr Kevin Tan Tee Liang | TTL |
| 28 | Ms Rita Lo | RL |
| 29 | Su Postgraduate Student Council | SUPSC |

In Attendance

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Dr Sukhdev Singh |
|---|------------------|

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

| Item | | Action |
|------------|--|--------|
| 1.0 | Introductions and Apologies | |
| | The Chair welcomed Mr. Ng Kok Cheng – Chief Financial Officer to the Senate. Apologies were noted as in the attendance list. | Info |
| 2.0 | Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting | |
| | The minutes of the last meeting held on 7th Mar. 2025 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. | Info |
| 3.0 | Matters Arising from Previous Minutes | |
| | 3.1 <u>Item 10.0</u> : NBL reported that the proposed corrections to the standing and sub committees have been made in the Academic Senate Terms of Reference. | |
| 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 The Chair informed Senate that the University is now at 141 in Times Asia ranking which is a move up from 200-250. We are also at 74 in QS Asia ranking. The Times Asia methodology is not as friendly to us as the global ranking. Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah received Japan's Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of the collaboration of Sunway University with Japanese universities and the dedication and commitment of the Sunway Group and Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. The Chair also congratulated AP on being bestowed the Order of DIMP which carries the title of Dato' from His Majesty the Crown Prince of Pahang. RA has published our very first paper in Nature. The University's adjunct professor at Cambridge also has a paper in nature Genetics. It is important to have publications in the Nature journal because it is one of the criterias for the Shanghai ranking. We are also on track with the target for the other publications with about 700+ papers as of now. As for the student numbers, we do not have the exact number for the new intake yet, but the numbers are good. We are outperforming last year's number and probably the budgeted number as well. This indicates that we are at about 14% growth in 2025. Finally, the official launch of the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School will be on Wednesday evening at 8pm. All are invited to attend. | Info |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Section A: Recommendations from Steering Committee for Confirmation | | | |
| 6.0 | Student Appeal Case | | |
| | | The Chair commented that this agenda item should be removed since this is a misconduct issue and therefore needs to go to the appropriate committee. | |
| 7.0 | Appointment of External Examiners | | |
| | | <i>Some restricted information.</i> | |
| | | Senate approved the proposed appointments. | |
| 8.0 | Discontinuation of External Examiner's Appointment | | |
| | | <i>Some restricted information.</i> | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| | | Senate approved the proposed discontinuation. | |
| 9.0 | Direct Entry from Bachelor to PhD | | |
| | | AV presented the direct entry from Bachelor to PhD on behalf of MAS. The applicant has a bachelor's degree in biotechnology with a CGPA of 3.75. The applicant has gone through the internal assessment process at the school level and has demonstrated significant research aptitude and student leadership. The department/school and URDC have recommended a direct entry for Senate approval. Senate approved direct entry. | |
| 10.0 | 2026 Academic Calendar | | |
| | | <p>AV informed Senate that the planning of the academic calendar involves an iterative process with representatives from marketing and academic departments including the Registry to ensure various considerations. One of the first considerations is to align it to the various entrance examinations to maximize the student enrolment. In addition, we have also aligned the academic calendar this year and included the American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP). This is important because courses can now be offered across the board to all programmes. The diversity and inclusion of all the major festival holiday is also considered. Finally, the time needed for the marking of examination papers at the end of every semester is also considered.</p> <p>The academic calendar for 2026 includes all undergraduate programmes except the nursing and medical degree programmes because of the nature of these programmes. Postgraduate programmes fall into 6 blocks with 1 week break in between. Intakes for PG programmes are not a concern because of the rolling intakes. The January 2026 intake will start a little earlier with registration and orientation on 29th and 30th January 2026. However, there are 3 festival holidays in the short semester. CLC will be working with the Deputy Deans to work on assignment-based assessments unless the programme standards require a final examination. Replacement classes will be organized to ensure that the learning hours are not compromised. We may need to have the same format for the January semester moving forward and this would mean that programmes will need to choose the subjects offered in the January semester to suit the assessment. The published calendar will also reflect this appropriately so that students and parents are kept informed.</p> <p>The calendar for the long semesters is straight forward except that a public holiday (Maulidur Rasul) falls during the examination period for the April semester. This means that there will be a need to have exams on a Saturday. The September semester will also have a public holiday during the examination period and again scheduling exams on Saturday will be unavoidable. This is necessary to ensure that most students do not have more than 1 exam a day/on consecutive days.</p> | |

| Section B: Matters for Discussion | | |
|---|--|--|
| 11.0 | Analysis of March 2025 Exam Cycle Results and Approval of Awards Confirmed by Programme Assessment Boards | |
| | <p>AV presented the analysis of the results of the March 2025 exam cycle. A total of 639 students from the School of Architecture and Design, School of Film and Performing Arts, and the School Hospitality and Tourism Management registered for the diploma programme subjects of which 592 passed all subjects. A comparison with the March 2024 exam cycle showed a slightly improved pass rate.</p> <p>The undergraduate programmes had a total of 4914 students registered for the exams out of which 95.7% passed all subjects. It was noted that the School of Computing and Artificial Intelligence had a high number of students failing. It is important for the school to review this and take remedial action. A comparison with the March 2024 exam cycle showed a decrease in the pass rate but this could be because in the past years more MPU subjects were offered in the short semester instead of core subjects.</p> <p>A total of 67 students have completed the diploma programmes with 13 students qualifying for a Distinction and 45 for High Merit awards. For the undergraduate programmes, a total of 330 students completed their programme of study. The analysis showed 89 qualified for Class I, while 173 qualified for Class II (1), 59 for Class II(2) and 9 Class III.</p> <p>Six students completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Care for Elderly with 2 distinctions, 3 merit and 1 pass.</p> <p>There were 27 Master awards from various schools with 10 qualifying for Distinction, 6 Merit and 5 Pass awards. One student qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science.</p> <p>Senate approved the awards</p> | |
| Section C: Reports Received for Noting | | |
| 12.0 | Approval of Awards by Senate Chair's Action - 3 awards approved on 19 Mar. 2025 | |
| | <p>AV reported that 3 postgraduate awards were approved by the Chair's action on 19 Mar. 2025. This included 2 PhD awards (a Doctor of Philosophy in Hospitality and Tourism and a Doctor of Philosophy (Business), and 1 Master of Computer Science (By Research).</p> <p>Senate noted the above awards that were approved by Chair's action.</p> | |
| 13.0 | Direct Entry from Bachelor to PhD | |
| | <p>AV reported that 2 applications for direct entry to PhD were approved by Chair's action due to the urgency on 19 Mar. and 7 Apr. 2025 respectively. The first candidate was for PhD in</p> | |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--|------|
| | | Psychology while the second candidate was for PhD in Biology. Both applicants have gone through the internal assessment process at the school level and were recommended by the respective schools and URDC. Senate noted the above direct entry approvals. | |
| 14.0 | Academic Senate – Revised Terms of Reference (TOR) | | |
| | | NBL informed Senate that the changes reflect the corrections in the standing and sub committees discussed the last meeting. The TOR is presented for noting. | Info |
| 15.0 | Status of Programme Approval and Accreditation | | |
| | | <i>Some restricted information.</i> | |
| | | The Doctor of Philosophy in Hospitality and Tourism programme has obtained full accreditation. | |
| 16.0 | Academic Senate Sub and Standing Committee Reports | | |
| | 16.1 | Senate noted the following Reports of Award Classifications Confirmed by Programme Assessment Boards (PAB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Faculty of Engineering and Technology - Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences - Sunway Business School - School of Hospitality and Tourism Management - School of Mathematical Sciences | |
| | 16.2 | Senate noted the following School Board of Studies reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School of American Education – Meeting held on 13 Dec. 2024 - Sunway Business School – Meetings held in Mar. and Apr. 2025 - School of Education – Meeting held on 14 Mar. 2025 - Faculty of Engineering and Technology – Meeting held on 13 Mar. 2025 - School of Hospitality and Tourism Management – Meeting held on 27 Nov. 2024 - School of Mathematical Sciences – Meeting held on 26 Mar. 2025 | |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | 16.3 | Senate noted the report from the Institutional Review Board held on 4 Mar. 2025. | |
| | 16.4 | Senate noted the report from the Library Committee Meeting held on 4 Mar. 2025. | |
| | 16.5 | Senate noted the report from the University Employability and Alumni Committee (UEAC) Meeting held on 13 Feb. 2025 and 29 Nov. 2024. | |
| | 16.6 | Senate noted the report from the University Research Degrees Committee (URDC) . | |
| 17.0 | Any Other Business | | |
| | | The Chair informed Senate that the University has received an endowment from Tan Sri Azman Hashim that is significant because it is our fourth endowment. It is also significant because it is the first endowment from a Malay Malaysian, and it can be considered as a vote of approval from the community. We need to communicate the endowments so that others can get inspired. Hopefully we can see more endowments coming in this year and in the period of growth till 2030. He encouraged Senate members to share this with other philanthropists to inform them that the university is open to endowments. | |

The meeting ended at 4.45pm with a note of thanks from the Chair. The next meeting is scheduled for 2nd May 2025.

Minutes confirmed by:

.....
Chair

Date: