

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

Meeting held on Friday 21 November 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. Angela Amphawan	AA
5	Prof. Angela Lee Siew Hoong	LSH
6	Prof. Arkendu Sen	AS
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 Fitjerald Henry	FH
13	Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlin Bin Mokhtar	MM
14	Prof. Faridah Mohd Nor	FMN
15	Prof. Felicia Chung Fei Lei	CFL
16	Prof. Goh Bey Hing	GBH
17	Prof. Ho Chee Kit	HCK
18	Prof. Ho Weang Kee	HWK
19	Prof. Ir. Mo Kim Hung	MKH
20	Prof. Ir. Ong Hwai Chyuan	OHC
21	Prof. Ir. Rosdiadee Nordin	RN
22	Prof. Ir. Suzana Yusup	SY
23	Prof. Ir. Ts. Yap Kian Meng	YKM
24	Prof. Kenneth Anthony Cafferkey	KAC
25	Prof. Ker Pin Jern	KPJ
26	Prof. Keshab Man Shrestha	KMS
27	Prof. Khatijah Lim Abdullah	KA
28	Prof. Liew Chee Sun	LCS
29	Prof. Lin Mei-Hua	LMH
30	Prof. Low Teck Yew	LTY
31	Prof. M A Hannan	MAH
32	Prof. Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair	MSN
33	Prof. Malissa Maria Mahmud	MMM
34	Prof. Mayco Axel Santaella	MAS
35	Prof. Mayeen Uddin Khandaker	MUK
36	Prof. Mochamad Subhan Zein	MSZ
37	Prof. Nishanth Gopalakrishnan Chemmangattuvalappil	NGC
38	Prof. Patrick Siau Chi Yin	SCY
39	Prof. Pervaiz K Ahmed	PKA
40	Prof. Roslina Binti Abdul Manap	RAM
41	Prof. Saidur Rahman	SR
42	Prof. Serge Demidenko	SD
43	Prof. Shandre Mugan Thangavelu	SMT
44	Prof. Ts. Dr. -Ing. Lau Sian Lun	LSL
45	Prof. Veronica Ng Foong Peng	NFP
46	Prof. Vetriselvan Subramaniyan	VS
47	Prof. Yuka Fujimoto	YF
48	Assoc. Prof. Dr Woo Pei Jun	WPJ

By Invitation

1	Prof. Jonathan Peter Ivy	JPI
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr Astri Yulia	AY
3	Assoc. Prof. Dr Catherine Lee Cheng Ean	LCE
4	Assoc. Prof. Dr Chew Jactty	CJ
5	Assoc. Prof. Dr Joaquim Dias Soeiro	JDS
6	Assoc. Prof. Dr Katta Ramesh	KT
7	Assoc. Prof. Dr Majid Ghasemy	MG
8	Assoc. Prof. Dr Nicholas Lee Boon Kheng	LBK
9	Assoc. Prof. Dr Padma Priya Pillai	PPP
10	Assoc. Prof. Dr Selina Low Yeh Ching	LYC
11	Assoc. Prof. Dr Zaheer Anwer	ZAI
12	Assoc. Prof. Dr Zuhaili Akmal Ismail	ZAI
13	Dr Cheong Huey Tyng	CHT
14	Dr Stella Ong Kim Yoke	OKY
15	Izah Isa	II
16	Kevin Tan Tee Liang	TTL
17	President of Student Council	PSC
18	Su Postgraduate Student Council	SUPSC

Absent with Apologies

1	Prof. Alvin Ng Lai Oon	NLO
2	Prof. Datin Dr Chia Yook Chin	CYC
3	Prof. Dato' Elizabeth Lee	EL
4	Prof. Ir. Denny Ng Kok Sum	NKS
5	Prof. Ir. Satesh Narayana Namasivayam	SNN
6	Prof. Kavita Reginald	KR
7	Prof. Keng Shian-Ling	KSL
8	Prof. Khoo Gaik Cheng	KGC
9	Prof. Leong Yuen Yoong	LYY
10	Prof. Lim Weng Marc	LWM
11	Prof. Long Chiau Ming	LCM
12	Prof. Motoki Watabe	MW
13	Prof. Pradeep Nair	PN
14	Prof. Raja Affendi Raja Ali	RA
15	Prof. Rebecca Wong Shin Yee	WSY
16	Prof. Santha Vaithilingam	SV
17	Prof. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood	JM
18	Prof. Tan Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur	NA
19	Prof. Teo Ee Sing	TES
20	Prof. Teo Kok Lay	TKL
21	Prof. Ts. Lee Chien Sing	LCS
22	Prof. Wong Chin Huat	WCH
23	Prof. Yeah Kim Leng	YKL
24	Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniel Chong Ka Leong	CKL
25	Assoc. Prof. Dr Hassan M. M. Abuhassna	HMA
26	Assoc. Prof. Dr Jane Teh Kimm Lii	TKL
27	Dr Ang Siew Ling	ASL
28	Dr Rita Lo	RL

Ex-Officio

1	Ms Ng Beng Lean	NBL
2	Mr Ng Kok Cheng	NKC
3	Ms Chan Yong Yee	CYY

In Attendance

1	Dr Sukhdev Singh	SS
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The meeting commenced with a note of welcome from the Chair.

Item		Action
1.0	Introductions and Apologies	
	<p>The Chair expressed deep sadness at the loss of Professor Shakila, who had joined the University slightly over a year ago and had since made a profound impact on the academic community. She was remembered as a remarkable academic whose wisdom, kindness and compassion touched many. She served as a mentor, guide, and source of strength to colleagues and students alike. Her legacy will endure through the students she inspired, the ideas she championed, and the humanity she brought to every conversation and classroom. She strongly believed in uplifting others, and her warmth and generosity will continue to be cherished.</p> <p>The Senate observed a moment of silence in honour of Professor Shakila Yakub.</p> <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 26 September 2025 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.	Info
3.0	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	Nil	
4.0	Consideration of the Agenda:	
4.1	<p>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.</p> <p>There was no request for any item to be moved to Section B for full discussion.</p>	Info
5.0	Comments from the Chair:	
5.1	<p>Establishment of the School of Computing and AI</p> <p>The Chair announced the launch of the new School of Computing and Artificial Intelligence, which was formally established and well celebrated. Senate members conveyed their congratulations to the School.</p>	Info
5.2	<p>Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings</p> <p>The University recorded a significant rise in the THE rankings, moving from 480 to 303, surpassing the earlier estimate of reaching around 320. The growth was primarily driven by strong research quality scores. To progress further, the University will focus on improving reputation, which remains the key challenge.</p>	Info
5.3	<p>Reputation-Building Efforts</p> <p>The Chair emphasised that enhancing reputation will be a major priority in the coming year. Staff are encouraged to be highly visible at conferences, aim for best presentation and best poster awards, and engage actively with delegates to increase awareness of Sunway University. The University will also work closely with THE and QS to secure regular visibility on their platforms through</p>	Info

		strategic agreements, similar to other institutions frequently featured online. The Chair noted that the University is operating on a strong positive budget for both the current and upcoming year, enabling such strategic investments, which are essential to attract student enrolment.							
5.4	QS Asia University Rankings	The University improved its position from 74 to 55, placing Sunway within the Top 1% in Asia. The University aims to break into the Top 50 next year.	Info						
5.5	QS Sustainability Ranking	Sunway moved from 480 to 338, an improvement of over 100 places. Although this ranking is not the primary focus, the data feeds into the overall QS rankings and thus contributes meaningfully to future performance.	Info						
5.6	Shanghai (ARWU) Subject Rankings	The Vice-Chancellor highlighted several achievements in the 2025 subject rankings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Administration: Improved from 51–75, now ranked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #1 in Malaysia ○ #2 in ASEAN (equal with NTU, behind NUS) ○ #5 in Asia, with only two Chinese universities, NUS, and one additional institution ahead. • Economics: Improved to 200–300, ranked #1 in Malaysia. • Energy Science and Engineering: Improved to 200–300, ranked #2 in Malaysia, with potential to advance further. These improvements were attributed to research output, which heavily influences ARWU rankings. 	Info						
5.7	Upcoming Events and Engagements	The Vice-Chancellor informed Senate of the following key events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success Coach Programme: Commencing on 25 November 2025, with Mr Evan Cheah as the keynote speaker. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah KBE AO will also serve as one of the success coaches. • Applied HE Conference: To be hosted by Sunway University on the 27th and 28th of November 2025. This year’s ranking will expand to Asia. While Sunway does not expect to be #1 in Asia, the University aims to retain its position as #1 in ASEAN. • Sunway Education Group Staff Dinner: Scheduled for 26 November 2025. 	Info						
Section A: Recommendations from Steering Committee for Confirmation									
6.0	Appointment of External Examiners								
	CLC presented the following to obtain Academic Senate’s approval on the appointment of the following external examiners, which were approved by the University Examination Committee (UEC) at its meeting on 8 October 2025:		Info						
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">Name</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Programme</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Term</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><i>Some restricted information.</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Programme	Term	<i>Some restricted information.</i>			
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7.0	Proposal for the Establishment of Sunway University Online													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV briefed on the University’s Online and Distance Learning (ODL) developments. Sunway University has steadily expanded its ODL offerings, both independently and through its partnership with Keypath and now has nearly 800 students across seven (7) programmes. • It was noted that ODL growth has been largely School-driven, with strong coordination led by Prof. Malissa Maria Mahmud. With improved processes and renewed agreements with Keypath, the University is now better positioned to scale its online programmes. • An ODL Growth Strategy has been developed, targeting 1,000 students by 2026 and 5,000 students by 2030. Achieving these goals will require stronger digital marketing efforts and a broader ODL portfolio. • Two key challenges were highlighted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the need for a more centralised support structure to replace the current decentralised, coordinator-dependent model; and 2) improved management of external partners to ensure governance, delivery, and clear milestones. • To address this, the Senate considered a proposal to establish Sunway University Online, a new central unit under the Chancellery, led by a Director appointed through an open recruitment process. The unit will oversee business development, partnership management, internal coordination, and centralised instructional design and delivery support. <p>Senate approved the proposal.</p>	Info												
8.0	Proposal Changes in Entity: Future Cities Research Institute													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV briefed on a proposal to position the Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI) within the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET). The mission of FCRI remains unchanged as a flagship initiative focused on smart and sustainable cities. • With Prof. Ir. Rosdiadee Nordin now appointed as Co-Director of the joint Sunway–Lancaster institute, the University aims to optimise resources by leveraging School-level operational capacity instead of expanding central administration. The Institute will maintain its interdisciplinary focus. • To ensure alignment with the University’s research strategy, the FCRI Director/Co-Director will serve on the University Research Committee. • The proposal has been positively supported by Lancaster University in line with the Lancaster–Sunway Strategic Plan 2024–2030. <p>Senate approved the proposal.</p>	Info												
9.0	Proposed Academic Senate Meeting Dates for 2026													
	<p>NBL presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2026 as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Meeting</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Agenda items due by Friday 5:00 PM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Steering Committee meeting on Friday 10:30 AM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Academic Senate meeting on Friday 3:30 PM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1/2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23 January 2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30 January 2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 February 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2/2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24 April 2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30 April 2026</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 May 2026</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Meeting	Agenda items due by Friday 5:00 PM	Steering Committee meeting on Friday 10:30 AM	Academic Senate meeting on Friday 3:30 PM	1/2026	23 January 2026	30 January 2026	6 February 2026	2/2026	24 April 2026	30 April 2026	8 May 2026	Info
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1/2026	23 January 2026	30 January 2026	6 February 2026											
2/2026	24 April 2026	30 April 2026	8 May 2026											

			(Thursday)		
	3/2026	26 June 2026	3 July 2026	10 July 2026	
	4/2026	18 September 2026	25 September 2026	2 October 2026	
	5/2026	13 November 2026	20 November 2026	27 November 2026	
<p>It was noted that, unlike the usual pattern, the second Steering Committee meeting will not fall on a Friday and will instead be held on the first day of the meeting cycle. All other Steering Committee and Academic Senate meetings will continue to be held on Fridays. The selected dates take into account key operational requirements, including timelines for programme accreditation and PAB result submissions.</p> <p>Senate noted the schedule.</p>					
Section B: Matters for Discussion					
10.0	Approval of Awards Confirmed by Programme Assessment Boards and URDC				
	AV reported the summary of award recommendations for students who were out of sync with the usual award cycles due to resits and repeats.				
10.1	Diploma Programmes – 7 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma in Culinary Arts: 1 Merit • Diploma in Events Management: 5 students (1 Distinction, 3 High Merits, 1 Merit) • Diploma in Hotel Management: 1 High Merit 				Info
10.2	Undergraduate Programmes – 52 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 4 • Class II Upper: 18 • Class II Lower: 25 • Class III: 5 				Info
10.3	Master’s Programmes – 118 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinction: 50 • Merit: 48 • Pass: 20 (Students who failed are not listed as they do not qualify for awards.)				Info
10.4	PhD – 14 students Graduates from Business (3), Hospitality & Tourism (1), Mathematical Sciences (1), Psychology (2), Sustainability Science & Technology (2), Computing (3), Creative Arts & Media (1), and Biology (1).				Info
10.5	AV also expressed appreciation to all staff involved for managing the short processing cycles, with special thanks to the Registry team (Ms Beng Lean and Dr Sukhdev Singh) for their support.				Info
Section C: Reports Received for Noting					
11.0	Status of Programme Approval and Accreditation				
11.1	NBL reported the following updates: Provisional Accreditation (PA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 programmes have been approved by MQA and are awaiting MOHE approval. 				Info

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 programmes received MQA approval this week. • 7 programmes remain under MQA review; 1 has been visited and the outcome is pending. <p>Full Accreditation (FA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 programmes were submitted in October. • Panel visits were conducted recently, including two visits in October 2025. Another visit is scheduled on 12 and 13 January 2026. • The University is awaiting the panel reports and outcomes. <p>Renewal of Programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 programmes were submitted for renewal in October and November 2025. <p>Senate noted the report.</p>	
12.0	Academic Senate Sub and Standing Committee Reports	
12.1	<p>Senate noted the following School Board of Studies reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Engineering and Technology – Meeting held on 12 June 2025 and 14 August 2025 • Sunway Business School – Meeting held on October 2025 • School of Education – Meeting held on 12 September 2025 • School of Hospitality and Tourism Management – Meeting held on 2 August 2025 	Info
12.2	Senate noted the report from the Institutional Review Board meeting held on 16 October 2025.	Info
12.3	Senate noted the report from the University Research Degrees Committee (URDC) meeting held on 15 October 2025 and 17 November 2025 (via Chair’s Action).	Info
13.0	Any Other Business	
13.1	<p>Language of Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBL highlighted on recent changes to the Ministry’s approval for the language of instruction. Previously, programmes were allowed to use English or Malay under a blanket approval. • This blanket approval was removed in late 2023, requiring institutions to apply individually. Sunway University received the required approval. • In October 2025, new approval letters showed a key change: the wording shifted from “atau” (or) to “dan” (and), indicating that teaching and examinations must now be conducted in both English and Malay. • Thesis or dissertation writing may still be done in either language. • Members were reminded to check their programme approval letters carefully, as older approvals (before October 2025) still use “or” and remain valid. • AV has raised this matter with the Director-General, who will arrange a town hall to clarify implementation requirements and timelines. Schools were advised not to be alarmed, as the University will seek clarification and negotiate where necessary. 	Info

13.2	<p>Upcoming Convocation – January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBL informed of the upcoming Sunway University Convocation, which will take place earlier than usual, now scheduled in January instead of February. The Convocation will be held from Tuesday, 20 January to Friday, 23 January 2026. <p>Members were asked to note the pairing of Schools/Faculties with their respective ceremony days and to take note of the updated schedule.</p>	Info
13.3	<p>Research & Sustainability Strategy Update</p> <p>MSN briefed members on the completion of the Senate-approved three-year Research Strategy (2022–2025), which was introduced in 2021 to build Sunway University’s foundational research ecosystem. The presentation highlighted achievements, alignment with the mission-driven 5th Generation University vision, and the next phase of the strategy.</p> <p>1) Research Strategy Outcomes (2022–2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 80% of targets achieved. MIRA rating projected to reach 5-Star. Research grants increased from <RM10m to RM24.96m, with an additional USD 1m grant awarded recently. Significant growth in publications, with Sunway expected to surpass 2,000 publications in 2025. Strong performance in Q1/Q2 papers, citations, and international collaborations. Growth in postgraduate research students, now totalling 389, including 252 PhD candidates. Increased number of postdoctoral fellows in strategic areas. <p>2) High Impact Projects & Policy Influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major interdisciplinary initiatives in sustainability, social sciences, and industry transformation. Strong policy impact, including contributions to the national Triple Ten Framework and 13th Malaysia Plan. Flagship projects such as Net Zero, community development programmes, and large-scale industry capability building. <p>3) Community Engagement for Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work at Desa Mentari, recognised by the Prime Minister at the SDG Council meeting. Initiatives supporting health, education, skills training, and community-based research. Upcoming community health clinic on 29 November 2025, open to staff participation. <p>4) Next Phase (2026 Onwards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued focus on research excellence, talent development (including funded PhDs), and strengthening infrastructure and databases. Expansion of European Union grant participation, multidisciplinary collaboration, and global partnerships. Emphasis on high-impact, policy-relevant research, increased visibility, and aligned contributions to national and regional priorities. 	Info

The meeting ended at 4.45 pm with a note of thanks from the Chair. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 February 2026.

Minutes confirmed by:

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Chair

Date: