

**AGENDA ITEM 5
Report of the Chair**

5.1 Report on Senate Matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 February 2007

Senate, at its meeting on 5 February 2007, on the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 13 December 2006:

- (1) noted the report on the following items:
 - (a) Minor course amendments
 - (b) Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk
 - (c) Research Principles
 - (d) Research-enhanced Learning and Teaching
 - (e) Draft Charter of Academic Freedom
 - (f) 2007 Semester and Vacation Dates

Recommendation

The Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 5 February 2007.

5.2 Honours and Distinctions

I am pleased to report the following honours and distinctions and recommend the Academic Board extend its congratulations to the recipients:

Professor Alan Dupont, Faculty of Economics and Business

Presented with a Commendation by the Government of Japan for work that has helped build understanding between Japan and Australia.

Professor Sid Gray, Faculty of Economics and Business

Elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia.

Professor David Hensher, Faculty of Economics and Business

Awarded the 2006 Engineers Australia Transport Medal.

Professor Richard Waterhouse, Faculty of Arts

Elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia.

Professor Albert Zomaya, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies

Honoured by the American Association for Computing Machinery.

Associate Professor Alan Fekete, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies

Honoured by the American Association for Computing Machinery.

Associate Professor Anthony Welch, Faculty of Education & Social Work

Awarded a Fulbright New Century Scholarship for 2007/2008.

Dr Christopher Hilliard, Faculty of Arts

Awarded the Max Crawford Medal by the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Australia Day Awards 2007:

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Ms Julie Christine DUNSMORE, Faculty of Medicine (RNSH)

For service to the community as a grief counsellor, to families of the victims of the 2002 Bali bombing, to youth and to raising awareness of mental health issues.

Professor David John GILLETT, Faculty of Medicine

For service to medicine, particularly in the field of breast cancer research and education, to the development of multidisciplinary systems of care for patients, and as a surgeon.

Professor Clive Gordon HARPER, Faculty of Medicine

For service to medicine in the field of neuroscience, particularly research into the neuropathological consequences of alcohol-related brain damage, and through contributions to public health policy.

Professor John Preston HARRIS, Faculty of Medicine

For service to medicine, particularly through the advancement of vascular surgery and ultrasound procedures and techniques, to medical education and curriculum development, and to public health administration.

MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Dr Peter Deane BARNARD, Faculty of Dentistry

For service to the community in the areas of preventive and public health dentistry in Australia and the Pacific Rim, through dental epidemiological studies, and to education.

Associate Professor Norton Archie DUCKMANTON, Faculty of Dentistry

For service to veterans and their families and to dentistry as a practitioner and educator in the area of prosthodontics.

Dr Raymond KEARNEY, Faculty of Medicine

For service to the environment and public health, particularly through raising awareness of the health effects of motor vehicle pollution, and to the community of Lane Cove.

Dr Lesley Anne MUIR, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery

For service to recording and preserving local history, particularly in the Canterbury District.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on the honours and distinctions and congratulate the recipients, as set out in the report presented.

5.3 General Report

5.3.1 Self-Review of the Academic Board

The Chair will provide an oral report regarding a self-review of the Academic Board's performance and activities, to be conducted in 2007.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board relating to the Self-Review of the Academic Board, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.2 Student Appeals

The Chair will provide an update to members on the formation and training of the new Student Appeals Panel.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on student appeals, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.3 Students At Risk Policy

The Chair will provide an update to members on the implementation of the new Students at Risk policy.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the Students at Risk policy, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.4 Actions taken under Delegated Authority

The Chair has taken the following actions on behalf of the Academic Board since the Board's meeting of 13 December 2006:

(1) Amendment to Faculty Resolutions

Under delegated authority, the Chair has approved amendments to the Faculty resolutions for the Bachelor of Arts (Advanced)(Honours)/ Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Medical Science/ Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. Students in these degrees are currently required to maintain a YAM of 80 or above in each of the first three years of the relevant program.

The Faculty has noted concern amongst enrolling students that the progression requirements are quite high. The Faculty believes that the students admitted to these programs would be more than capable of achieving this progression rate, but is concerned that the bald manner in which it is currently expressed may unnecessarily deter students from applying for admission. As a result the Faculty approached the Chair of the Academic Board seeking approval to replace this criterion with the more generally worded "complete their studies in the minimum time and to a standard to the satisfaction of the relevant Dean".

This change will apply only to the cohort admitted in 2007, and will be subject to ratification via the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

(2) Early Submission of PhD Theses

The Chair has approved the early submission of PhD theses by the following candidates:

- Faculty of Arts – Mehravar Soroush Kaboli (SID 200132482)
- Faculty of Science – Sunguk Jang (SID 199949065)

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on actions taken under delegated authority since the Academic Board meeting of 13 December 2006, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.5 Academic Board Membership

The Chair nominates Professor Robyn Overall for membership of the Academic Board under clause 5 (4)(f) of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* for a term expiring 31 December 2007.

Professor Overall was appointed to the Academic Board as of 1 January 2006 as a non-professorial academic staff member of the College of Sciences and Technology for a term of two years. As noted in the General Business section of the agenda, she has been promoted to Level E, thus losing her non-professorial status and ceasing to be a member of the Academic Board.

It is recommended that Professor Overall be appointed to the Academic Board so that she may continue in her position as Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board endorse the Chair's nomination of Professor Robyn Overall to membership of the Academic Board under clause 5(4)(f) of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007.