

AGENDA ITEM 10**Report of the Graduate Studies Committee****10.2 Report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007**

The Committee met on 13 February 2007 when there were present: The Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum) presiding, Professors M Behnia, R Overall and B Sutton, Associate Professors J Thistlethwaite, Drs J Bobis, M Boughton, M Collins, M Jones and K Nelson, and Ms J Coleman and Mr S Newman. Dr F Salzgeber and Ms M Kemmis were in attendance.

10.2.1 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty**(1) Faculty of Arts**

The Graduate Studies Committee, on the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts, reviewed the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate and the Faculty. The amendments include revising the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty relating to the Faculty's postgraduate courses to bring them in line with Academic Board and Senate requirements. The changes recommended by the Faculty do not have significant impact on the academic content of the courses.

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends the Academic Board approve and recommends Senate approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty, with effect from 1 January, 2007. This date is recommended given that there will be no impact on currently enrolled students.

The full set of Senate and Faculty Resolutions for the Faculty of Arts were originally circulated to Graduate Studies Committee members in December 2006 and are available on the website at:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/committees/GSC/2006.html>

Recommendation

That the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate approve:*
 - (a) *the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Arts, and*
 - (b) *the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
 - (2) *note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and*
 - (3) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, specially designated streams and award of the degree,*
- with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.*

(2) Faculty of Economics and Business

The Graduate Studies Committee, on the recommendation of the Faculty of Economics and Business, reviewed the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate and the Faculty. The amendments include revising the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty relating to the Faculty's postgraduate courses to bring them in line with Academic Board and Senate requirements. The changes recommended by the Faculty do not have significant impact on the academic content of the courses.

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends the Academic Board approve and recommends Senate approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty, with effect from 1 January, 2007. This date is recommended given that there will be no impact on currently enrolled students.

The full set of Senate and Faculty Resolutions for the Faculty of Economics and Business were originally circulated to Graduate Studies Committee members in December 2006 and are available on the website at:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/committees/GSC/2006.html>

Recommendation

That the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate approve:*
 - (a) *the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business, and*
 - (b) *the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
 - (2) *note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and*
 - (3) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, specially designated streams and award of the degree,*
- with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.*

10.2.2 Report from Faculties

(1) Faculty of Health Sciences : Units of Study

The Faculty of Health Sciences advises that changes to a Unit of Study will be introduced in the postgraduate courses. The purpose of the proposal is to advise the Academic Board that the Unit of Study BACH 5327 – Internet Research is currently undergoing a review to ensure it is economically viable for the Faculty.

The report and full list of Unit of Study changes were originally circulated to Graduate Studies Committee members in December 2006 and are available on the website at:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/committees/GSC/2006.html>

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the unit of study information supplied by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

(1) Report of the Chair

The Chair reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- Review of Postgraduate English Language Requirements policy: a working party will be established to review this policy;
- Postgraduate handbook: the handbook is currently under review;
- Report on Review of Postgraduate Coursework: the report of the review was currently being completed and would be referred to the Committee in the near future.

(2) Pricing of Postgraduate Courses

The Committee noted a presentation from Dr Florian Salzgeber outlining a model for the pricing of postgraduate courses. A summary of his presentation follows:

The Strategy Implementation and Sustainability Planning Office has investigated current course pricing practices and developed some potential models taking into account other universities' pricing practices, the actual costs associated with course delivery, relevant legislation and student demand.

Based on economic viability, the University's current course offerings fall into one of two broad categories: those that make a surplus, and those that make a loss. Of those that make a loss, there are three major factors involved: high costs (usually associated with a high number of new or exclusive units of study), small student numbers or fees set below the industry average. Only a few courses fall into this last category, and fee increases in such courses would be phased in over the next year or two.

A review of courses making a loss due to high costs or low student numbers has led to two general rules of thumb for price setting. The first is that load (where load is equivalent to EFTSU) should exceed the number of credit points in the course; e.g. a course with 96 credit points needs 100 EFTSU to avoid making a loss. The second rule relates to the number of new and/or exclusive units of study in many courses. In general the number of new and/or exclusive units of study should be no more than 1/8th of the total credit point valued of the course; e.g. in a 48 credit point course there should be no more than 6 new and/or exclusive units of study (an "exclusive" unit of study is defined as having 90% or more of its load coming from one course).

(3) Other Matters

Other matters considered by the Committee included:

- Committee membership: Dr Maureen Boughton was co-opted to the Committee and made its Deputy Chair;
- Faculty of Education and Social Work Coursework Review: the Committee noted the Faculty's report on the coursework review conducted in 2005; and
- Commercialisation Training Scheme: the Committee noted a report from the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding the implementation of the Commercialisation Training Scheme for Semester 1, 2007.