



The University of Sydney

Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 28 February 2007 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), the Deputy Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professor C Murphy, Associate Professors R Ewing and R Overall), Professors D Armstrong, C Armour, M Behnia, A Boyd, L Copeland, D Day, S Garton, P Gay, G Hancock, G Llewellyn, R Mason, D Nutbeam, I Ramzan, C Russell, J Trehwella, K Trigwell and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, A Bashford, R Drynan, W Evans, W Julian, A F Masters and S West, Drs M Boughton, C Campbell, M Collier, J Cox, S Cumming, A Dong, M Edmond, J Hanrahan, K Jolliffe, P Knight, A Molev, K Nelson, M-A Schnabel, J Shaw and R Stanton, Mr P Ball, Ms J Coleman, Ms J Henderson and Mr J Shipp.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Ms J Russell).

In attendance: Ms M Kemmis (Executive Officer to the Academic Board).

★ 1. Apologies

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors A Aspromourgos, A Brewer, A Coats, D Grant, J Lawler, G Murray, P Parkinson, C Rhodes, R Tiffen and K Walker, Associate Professors B Buckley, E Cowley, R Ewing, T Gerzina, S Kable, S Williams and P Wynn, Drs A Campbell, J Hughes, J Kelly, C Taylor and A van Schaik, Mr M Goldberg, Ms J Leong, Mr S Lojewski and Mr C Ritchie.

★ 2. Arrangement of agenda

2.1 Starring of items

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items.

The following additional item was starred: 9.2.2 (2)

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 01/07

That the Academic Board resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

3. Minutes of previous meeting
3.1 Meeting of 13 December 2006

Resolution 02/07

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 December 2006, as a true record.

4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)
There was no business arising from the minutes.

★ **5. Report of the Chair**

5.1 General Report

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 February 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 5 February 2007.

Resolution 03/07

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

5.2 Honours and Distinctions

The Board noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions, as set out in the agenda.

Resolution 04/07

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.

Action: Chair of the Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.

5.3 General Report

5.3.1 Self-Review of the Academic Board

The Chair reminded members that the Academic Board had previously conducted a self-review in 2004, which essentially consisted of a questionnaire sent to all members. He invited members to forward their suggestions and ideas regarding the next review of the Board which the Chair would develop into a proposal. He noted that there was scope for external reviewers in the next review.

Resolution 05/07

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 advised members that the new *University of Sydney (Student Appeals) Rule 2006* was now in effect. A full panel of students and staff had been appointed, and a briefing had been held on 20 February. The briefing had covered the new rule and associated legislation and policies with the main focus on ensuring that panel members could ascertain whether or not due academic process has been followed. The Chair

noted that two matters had already been heard by the new panel.

Resolution 06/07

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

5.3.3 Students at Risk

The Chair reminded members that the final version of the policy had been approved by the Academic Board in December 2006. He noted that some faculties had expressed concerns regarding the implementation of the policy, although only two faculties had provided specific comment. The Chair advised members that he was happy to discuss issues with faculties, but pointed out that there would be training sessions and further information provided to faculties during Semester 1 this year.

Resolution 07/07

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 advised members of the actions he had taken under delegated authority since the Academic Board's last meeting in December 2006. He noted that there was a follow-up item under the Undergraduate Studies Committee's report regarding the progression requirements for the combined medicine degrees which had been starred for further discussion.

Resolution 08/07

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 advised members that he was seeking to continue Professor Overall's membership of the Academic Board. He pointed out that she was originally appointed to the Board as a non-professorial academic staff member of the College of Sciences and Technology, and her promotion had effectively caused her membership of the Board to cease.

Members approved the appointment of Professor Overall to membership of the Board.

A query was raised regarding the continued membership of the other non-professorial academic staff members of colleges. The Chair proposed that the Academic Board endorse such members as existing members of the Academic Board for the remaining period of their membership, i.e. until 31 December 2007.

The Academic Board endorsed this proposal.

Resolution 09/07

That the Academic Board endorse:

- (1) 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; and
- (2) the continued membership of those Academic Board members appointed as non-professorial academic staff representatives of the Colleges for the remainder of their term of membership, which expires 31 December 2007.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the membership list.

(File 2004/1728)

5.3.6 Academic Board Membership - Students

The Chair noted that there continued to be difficulties in finding sufficient student representatives for both the faculty boards and the Academic Board. He advised that he would bring this issue back to the Board for further discussion.

Members endorsed the four nominated students for membership of the Academic Board.

Resolution 10/07

That the Academic Board endorse the nomination of Mr Christopher Ritchie, Mr Vafa Ghazavi, Ms Carmen Jarrett and Mr Charles Ekwebelam to membership of the Academic Board under clause 34(2)(b)(ii) of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the membership list.

(File 2004/1728)

5.3.7 Review of Off-Shore Health Science Programs

The Chair noted that this item had been withdrawn from the Board's last meeting to allow further discussions with the Faculty of Health Sciences. He recommended that the Board accept the revised version as circulated with this agenda.

Members agreed to accept the report on the review of off-shore health science programs

Resolution 11/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Academic Board review of off-shore Health Science programs, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.8 Social Sciences Review

The Chair invited the Provost to provide an update to the Academic Board on the Social Sciences Review. Professor Nutbeam advised members that he wanted to update the

Academic Board on the status of the review and future actions arising from the review. He acknowledged the work of Professor Tom Kvan in steering the review in 2006.

The purpose of the review was to identify how the teaching and research activities of the social science disciplines could be better integrated to provide greater opportunities for students and researchers. Professor Kvan had developed a website for the review, held a number of fora and had invited both public and confidential submissions on the matter before submitting a draft report. The report had also been the subject of further meetings and comment prior to the submission of the final report. The Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Queensland and the Deputy Provost of the University of California (Berkeley) had also provided comment on the report.

Professor Nutbeam advised that he had held some informal discussions with the faculties involved in the review and that he had asked Professor Garton to oversee the implementation of the report's recommendations. This would involve developing terms of reference for the implementation (which would be published on the review website), investigating the feasibility of each recommendation and developing processes for implementing the recommendations. He stressed that there would be ongoing consultation with students and staff on these matters.

Resolution 12/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Provost on the Social Sciences Review, as set out in the report presented.

★ 6. **Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal**

6.1 Report on Senate Matters

6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 February 2007

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the most significant item at this meeting had been the Chancellor's announcement that he would not stand for re-election in 2007. This has initiated a search for a new Chancellor, with an election to be held in May.

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted items from the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) report on 2007 admissions. He noted that his comments would be circumspect, as the University was bound to not reveal any information regarding other institutions. Points of interest included:

- 60% of students who received offers from the University of Sydney in the first round had UAI's over 90 (the Vice-Chancellor noted that, while this was pleasing in some respects, it highlighted the rationing of places in the higher education system); and
- amongst recent school leavers, the University had the most first preferences of any institution in the state, irrespective of the students' UAI's.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed concern at the growing trend for other institutions to admit students below the published UAI cut-off. In one course at another institution, roughly 75% of the candidature was admitted with UAIs under the published cut-off. A similar course at the University of Sydney allowed 15% of the candidature to enrol with a UAI under the published cut-off, and these students were all processed via one of the University's published access and equity admission schemes. The Vice-Chancellor has recommended to Senate that the University ask the UAC to amend the UAI cut-off for any course where significant numbers of students are admitted below the published UAI.

Resolution 13/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 5 February 2007.

6.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that Senate had held its annual retreat early in the week. One of the major issues of discussion was the status of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), and the proposal to replace the AVCC with a new body to be called Universities Australia. This body would provide membership to institutions, rather than office holders (i.e. the Vice-Chancellor or Chancellor), although each institution would be represented by its Vice-Chancellor. It was unclear whether or not Vice-Chancellors could nominate a Deputy Vice-Chancellor to attend in their place. The role of the Vice-Chancellor as official representative of the institution also raised the potential for Senates and Councils to instruct their Vice-Chancellors on how they should participate at Universities Australia meetings. The University of Sydney Senate was unconvinced that the proposed Universities Australia constitution addressed the issues and concerns identified about the AVCC's role as a representative group for the sector.

The Hon. Stephen Smith, Opposition spokesman on Education, had addressed Senate and given a presentation on the ALP's higher education policy. While Mr Smith had agreed that the sector required more funding, the ALP was interested in providing targeted, rather than sector-wide increases in funding. The ALP does not appear to have current plans to repeal the VSU legislation if it wins the federal election.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised members that the Premier of New South Wales had opened the third stage of the Brain and Mind Research Institute earlier that day, and had promised a further \$10 million in funding for the next stage of development.

Resolution 14/07

That the Academic Board note the general report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

★ 7. **Question time**

The following questions were raised:

The Vice-Chancellor was asked to comment on whether the University of Sydney should introduce preferential standing to its own graduates for entry into the Graduate Medical program, a system which other universities have adopted.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that such a scheme might need to be considered if widely adopted by other institutions, and if the University were to be disadvantaged if it did not adopt such a system. He advised the Academic Board that Senate, at its retreat, had discussed the development of alternative pathways to entry via the proposed University College Sydney. Senate had agreed that such pathways would need to contain clear indications of the level of performance required for entry to the University of Sydney, and that while such pathways could differ from those already in existence, they must not be easier than existing pathways.

A member commented that the University should not be overly concerned about admitting students whose UAIs fall short of the cut-off marks. In the presence of a potent teaching program and an effective “value-adding” learning process, such students could potentially emerge as reasonable performers. Recent research in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources supported this proposition and indicated that students in the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics degree program perform better than would be expected, based on entry characteristics (including the UAI, which is generally lower than for comparable degrees such as the Bachelor of Economics and the Bachelor of Commerce – see Nolan, E and Ahmadi-Esfahani, F (2007). Predicting performance in undergraduate agricultural economics, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics 51, 1-15).

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed these comments and clarified that his concern was with institutions publishing entry scores, but then admitting students on a different basis. He pointed out that students were making their choices for admission on what institutions published, not on the processes actually used in some cases.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies further commented that there was potential for legal challenges if students were admitted on the basis of criteria that weren't published, or where decisions were not made in a robust and transparent manner. He noted that the Universities Admissions Centre effectively protected universities from these sorts of legal challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor agreed, but noted that there were some disciplines that legitimately used criteria other than the UAI to assist in making admission offers. However he stressed that it was vital that the University have published procedures for all admission schemes which clearly state how and why students are admitted.

Resolution 15/07

That the Academic Board note the questions and responses provided.

★ 8. **Review of Honours at the University of Sydney**

The Chair invited the Deputy Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Dr Jennie Shaw, to present the report on the Review of Honours to the Academic Board. He pointed out that there was currently a number of working parties meeting, and that as each developed recommendations they would be reported to the Academic Board.

Dr Shaw advised members that the full report of the working party was in the agenda, and that a number of Academic Board members had been on the working party. She acknowledged Associate Professor Scott Kable's work in preparing the report and the presentation.

Dr Shaw stressed the importance of the honours experience at the University of Sydney as a key component in the research training experience for students. She noted that the working party's review had considered the current state of honours across the University, as well as benchmarking with other Group of Eight universities. The Working Party had noted that the University of Queensland was the only other Group of Eight institution to have a university-wide statement on honours. The report also outlined the consultation process and provided the major recommendations from the working party. Dr Shaw pointed out that the working party was preparing a further report on merit degrees.

Associate Professor McCallum raised a number of suggested amendments to the recommendations as follows:

- On page D2, under summary of Recommendations, the last statement of the page reads "that the mark ranges for entry and Honours grades are a minimum standard. Faculties may set high standards, but the reason should be clearly defined, and approved by the Board." This statement does not apply to appended honours, and this should be clarified in the amended policy.
- Marks for integrated honours. On page D10, paragraph 5 of the policy, the marks are expressed as "greater than". In each case the sign should be "greater than or equal to" as set out in the white paper.
- Page D10 - the wording should be amended slightly so that that it is clear in the policy itself, as it is in the white paper, that faculties may set higher cut-offs if they wish. The following statement is to be inserted after the table of marks:

"These are minimum grades. Faculties may set higher cut-off marks if deemed appropriate."
- It has been pointed out that implementing the policy will require changes to degree resolutions. It is therefore appropriate to insert a statement on transitional arrangements for students who enrol prior to 2008 as follows (to be inserted in the Policy after the Definitions):

Transitional arrangements: This policy will apply to all students who commenced their degree during or after 2008. Students who commenced prior to 2008 may complete their degree, including any honours component according to the faculty resolutions in force at the time of commencement.

Members made the following comments in discussion:

- The recommendation to exclude first year units from WAM calculations was queried, and Dr Shaw advised that the working party felt students required a transitional period in first year, which should not affect their potential to enrol for honours;

- The Provost queried the need for higher cut-offs for some integrated honours degrees and asked if this indicated a need to review assessment practices across the University. It was noted that this was likely to be addressed by the Assessment Working Party, which would also look at related issues such as scaling;
- It was noted that faculties were to be reminded that reports on award of honours were due to the Undergraduate Studies Committee;
- A query was raised regarding the recommendation that the identifiable honours component consist of at least 12 credit points with separate unit of study codes. Dr Shaw advised that this was not related to APA calculations but was to ensure that the honours component could be easily identified; and
- Members noted that the Faculty of Medicine would be reviewing the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees, including a review of the honours program.

Members particularly raised concerns about the definition of a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) for use in determining honours grades, the selection of credit points for inclusion in the calculation and what additional weighting could or should be given to the honours components. Dr Shaw pointed out that faculties could currently make these decisions for themselves, and that the working party had not recommended any alteration to current arrangements, other than specifying that first year units should not be included in WAM calculations. It was suggested that the WAM requirement be broadened to allow faculties to grade honours on the basis of the honours component or thesis alone.

Members agreed that the issues raised in discussion should be referred back to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for consideration and comment.

Resolution 16/07

That the Academic Board refer the queries raised regarding the review of honours at the University of Sydney to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for response.

9. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (Associate Professor Scott Kable)

★

9.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Deputy Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Dr Jennie Shaw, advised members that in addition to item 9.2.2(2) there had been some discussion about redefining the combined law and medicine degrees as double degrees, however this matter would be referred back to the relevant faculties for further information.

Resolution 17/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

9.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 February 2007

9.2.1 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Academic Board: Admission to Undergraduate Courses: English Language Requirements

Resolution 18/07

That the Academic Board amend Schedule 1 (Faculty-specific English Language Requirements), Section 13 (English Language Requirements) of the Resolutions of the Academic Board relating to Admission to Undergraduate Courses, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the English language requirements relating to undergraduate degrees in the faculty.

(File P23)

9.2.2 Amendment of Faculty Resolutions

9.2.2.1 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Science, Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Clinical Vision Sciences, Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Health Information Management, Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Rehabilitation Counselling

Resolution 19/07

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the table of units of study for the Bachelor of Health Sciences degree and associated combined degrees, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Health Sciences and associated combined degrees in the Faculty.

(File 2001/1050)

★ **9.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine: 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, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**

Dr Shaw advised members that an issue had been identified by the interview panels for these degrees (applicants are required to sit an interview as part of the admissions process). Applicants had pointed out that the progression requirements for the first degree in the

program were quite high, and had expressed concern at their own ability to meet these requirements.

The members of the interview panels and relevant Faculty staff are adamant that the students admitted to these degrees will be able to meet the progression requirements. However, it was suggested that the wording of the requirements be amended to soften the message to prospective students while maintaining the same high standard. Dr Shaw pointed out that both the Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) (Honours) and the Bachelor of Science (Advanced) already stipulate a credit average for progression within those degrees (irrespective of whether the student is continuing on to study Medicine).

Members, including the Dean of Science, expressed concern that the proposed amended wording for progression requirements would not address the concern of applicants, i.e. students would still be informed that they would be required to maintain a high level of performance in order to enter the Medicine program. Professor Day pointed out that these applicants were concerned that they were not guaranteed entry to Medicine, and that they had the option of applying to other institutions which offered undergraduate admission to Medicine.

It was agreed that this issue would be referred back to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for further consideration.

Resolution 20/07

That the Academic Board refer the queries raised regarding the proposed amendments to progression in the combined MBBS degrees to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for response.

9.2.3 Publication of Senate and Faculty Resolutions: Master Versions of Resolutions

Resolution 21/07

That the Academic Board endorse the classification of resolutions stored in the Content Management System (CMS) as the master version of such resolutions, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Publications Office to note the Academic Board's endorsement of the classification of resolutions stored in the Content Management System (CMS) as the master version of such resolutions.

(File TBA)

9.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 22/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 20 February 2007, as set out in the report presented.

10. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

(Associate Professor Peter McCallum)

★

10.1 Oral report of the Chair

Associate Professor McCallum highlighted the presentation given by Dr Florian Salzgeber on the pricing of postgraduate courses, and in particular the two rules of thumb developed by Dr Salzgeber regarding minimum student numbers and the maximum number of new and exclusive units of study that should be in a course if it is to break even or return a surplus.

Resolution 23/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 13 February 2007

10.2.1 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty

- (1) **Faculty of Arts: Master of Letters, Master of Media Practice, Master of Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies**

Resolution 24/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate approve:
 - (a) the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master of Letters, Master of Media Practice, Master of Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies 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.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master of Letters, Master of Media Practice, Master of Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies in the Faculty of Arts and the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Faculty resolutions for the Master of Letters, Master of Media Practice, Master of Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies in the Faculty of Arts.

(File 003/0015/00026)

(2) Faculty of Economics and Business

Resolution 25/07

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.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Faculty resolutions for the postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business.

(File 2004/7915)

10.2.2 Report from Faculties

(1) Faculty of Health Sciences : Units of Study

Resolution 26/07

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

10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 27/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee (Associate Professor Robyn Ewing)

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11.1 Oral report of the Chair

In the absence of the Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee, Professor Sutton drew members' attention to concerns raised regarding the alignment of the Board's faculty reviews with professional accreditation reviews. He asked faculties to provide advice on their accreditation cycles to Secretariat as soon as possible.

Resolution 28/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 13 February 2007

11.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews

(1) Faculty Progress Reports

Resolution 29/07

The Academic Board note the Faculty Progress Reports from the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning and the Sydney College of the Arts, as set out in the report presented.

(2) Timing of Board Faculty Reviews and Professional Accreditation Reviews

Resolution 30/07

That the Academic Board note the value of aligning Academic Board Faculty Reviews and professional accreditation reviews.

11.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 31/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007, as set out in the report presented.

12. Report of the Research Committee

(Associate Professor Robyn Overall)

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12.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Research Committee, Associate Professor Robyn Overall, advised members that this had been the first meeting of the Research and Research Training Committee. She highlighted some of the issues to be looked at in future meetings, including the research component of the next round of the Academic Board faculty reviews and PhD completion rates.

Resolution 32/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Research Committee.

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 6 February 2007

12.2.1 PhD Award Sub-Committee: Terms of Reference

Resolution 33/07

That the Academic Board amend the terms of reference for the PhD Award Sub-Committee to replace specific references to the Doctor of Education and the Doctor of Juridical Studies with a more general reference to research doctorates within the University, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Secretary to the PhD Award Sub-Committee to amend its terms of reference.

(File 2004/1818)

12.2.2 Commercialisation Training Scheme

Resolution 34/07

That the Academic Board note the report on the Commercialisation Training Scheme, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 35/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 5 February 2007, as set out in the report presented.

13. Report of the Academic Staffing Committee (Professor Chris Murphy)

★

13.1 Oral report of the Chair

Professor Murphy advised members that the Committee had considered a report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) regarding the eligibility of NHMRC fellows to participate in the University's promotion rounds. He also raised the issue of the recruitment of senior academic staff, and the role of academics and Academic Board nominees in this process.

The Chair advised that these processes were currently under review and invited the Provost to comment further. Professor Nutbeam advised members that the Director of Sydney Recruitment, Mr John Hackett had been encouraged to strengthen the unit's capabilities in dealing with processing senior academic applications.

Resolution 36/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee.

13.2 Report of the meeting held on 14 February 2007

13.2.1 Recruitment and Selection of Academic Staff

Resolution 37/07

That the Academic Board note:

- (1) the Academic Staffing Committee's concerns regarding current recruitment practices for academic positions; and
- (2) that the Chair of the Academic Board will in turn raise these concerns with the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

13.2.2 Promotion of NH&MRC and ARC Fellows

Resolution 38/07

That the Academic Board recommend to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor that nothing in the promotion policy should be interpreted as preventing NH&MRC and ARC Fellows from participating in the existing University promotion procedures, as set out in the report presented.

13.2.3 Terms of Reference

Resolution 39/07

That the Academic Board approve the amended terms of reference for the Academic Staffing Committee, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Secretary to the Academic Staffing Committee to amend its terms of reference.

(File TBA)

13.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 40/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 14 February 2007, as set out in the report presented.

14. General Business

14.1 Report of the Level E Promotions Committee

Resolution 41/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Level E Promotions Committee, as set out in the report presented.

14.2 Appointment of members of the Student Proctorial Panel

Resolution 42/07

That the Academic Board note the report on the appointment of members of the Student Proctorial Panel.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date