



## Academic Board Agenda

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### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA for the meeting on Wednesday 29 August 2007

Pages

- ★ 1. **Apologies**  
Apologies have been received from:  
Professors A Boyd, P Gay, D Grant, R Mason, R Tiffen, Associate Professors  
C Roberts, Drs A Campbell, A Dong, J Hanrahan and K Jolliffe, and Ms J  
Gavan and Mr C Ritchie.
- ★ 6. **Report of the Chair**  
6.3 **General Report**  
6.3.1 **University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003  
(as amended)**  
6.3.1.1 **Student Membership** 2, 4-7
- Recommendation*  
*That the Academic Board recommend Senate approve the amendments to the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended) relating to student membership, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.*
- 6.3.1.2 **Terms of Membership** 2, 8-9
- Recommendation*  
*That the Academic Board recommend Senate approve the amendments to the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended) relating to terms of membership, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.*
- 6.3.2 **Membership of the Academic Board** 2-3
- Recommendation*  
*That the Academic Board endorse the Chair's proposal to:*  
(1) *co-opt Associate Professor Greg Ryan to membership of the Academic Board under clause 5.1.7 of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007; and*  
(2) *appoint Associate Professor Greg Ryan as Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee under clause 9.5 of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007.*

## AGENDA ITEM 6 Report of the Chair

### 6.3 General Report

#### 6.3.1 *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended)*

##### 6.3.1.1 Student Membership

4-7

A number of amendments are proposed to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended)* regarding the elected student membership of the Academic Board. These amendments are detailed in the attached report.

##### **Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board recommend Senate approve the amendments to the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended) relating to student membership, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.*

##### 6.3.1.2 Terms of Membership

8-9

A number of amendments are proposed to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended)* with regard to the terms of office of elected members. These amendments are detailed in the attached report.

##### **Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board recommend Senate approve the amendments to the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended) relating to terms of membership, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.*

#### 6.3.2 Membership of the Academic Board

Since the last meeting of the Academic Board, the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work has been appointed to the position of Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor in a full-time capacity. This has led to Associate Professor Robyn Ewing's appointment as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work. With this appointment, she becomes ineligible to act in the role of Chair of the Board's Learning and Teaching Committee.

The Deputy Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee, Associate Professor Greg Ryan from the Faculty of Pharmacy, has agreed to act in the capacity of Chair of the Committee until the end of this year. While he has been elected to serve as a representative of the Faculty of Pharmacy on the Academic Board for 2008 and 2009, he is not currently a member of the Academic Board.

The Chair proposes that Associate Professor Ryan be co-opted to the Academic Board until 31 December 2007 to allow him to act as Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee for this period.

##### **Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board endorse the Chair's proposal to:*

- (1) *co-opt Associate Professor Greg Ryan to membership of the Academic Board under clause 5.1.7 of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007; and*
- (2) *appoint Associate Professor Greg Ryan as Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee under clause 9.5 of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 for a term expiring 31 December 2007.*



## Student Membership of the Academic Board

### **Background**

In 2001, the Academic Board undertook a major external review of its operations, which led to the formation of the current Academic Board under the terms of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended). Among the amendments made to the structure of the Academic Board, was a major increase in the number of elected student representatives from one undergraduate and one postgraduate student to six undergraduate students, three postgraduate coursework students and three postgraduate research students. When the *Academic Governance Rule* was first drafted, this extended membership was expressed in terms of representing one of the three (then existing) Colleges.

An unintended consequence of this change was to make the process for electing students more complicated and more restrictive than had previously been the case. There have been unfilled vacancies in student membership since the introduction of the *Academic Governance Rule* as a result.

In 2006, following the dissolution of the Colleges, the definition of the student membership of the Academic Board was revised to remove the reference to the Colleges. Amendments were also made to simplify the processes for electing students.

It is now proposed that a further amendment be made to the definition of student membership to allow for the election of one student representative from each faculty and the Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies. This will see a further increase in the number of elected student members on the Academic Board from twelve to seventeen. It will also more closely align the election of student members to the Academic Board to the election of student members of faculties and boards of studies.

In addition to these proposed amendments to the *Academic Governance Rule* it is also proposed that amendments be made to the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Student Membership of the Faculties, College Boards and Boards of Studies. These amendments will provide for faculty elections to be held as early as possible in Semester 2 of each year, and for any vacancies following the elections to be filled as rapidly as possible. The current processes allow vacancies to exist until the end of March in the year following the election, which has a deleterious effect on the conduct of elections of student representatives to the Academic Board.

Lastly, there are some numbering errors in the existing document, and it is proposed that these also be amended.

### *Proposed amendments*

It is proposed that Section 5.1.5 of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended) which states:

- 5.1.5 the following elected student members:
  - 5.1.5.1 three postgraduate coursework students elected by and from the postgraduate coursework student members of the Faculties and Boards of Studies with no more than one from any faculty;
  - 5.1.5.2 three postgraduate research students elected by and from the postgraduate research student members of the Faculties and Boards of Studies with no more than one from any faculty; and
  - 5.1.5.3 six undergraduate students elected by and from the undergraduate student members of the Faculties and Boards of Studies with no more than one from any faculty;

be replaced with the following wording:

- 5.1.5 the following elected student members:
- 5.1.5.1 one representative of each faculty, college and board of studies, elected by and from the student members of the relevant faculty, college and board of studies (as per the electorates defined in the Resolutions of Senate: "Student membership of the faculties, college boards and boards of studies");

In addition, section 19.1.5 is to be amended as follows:

19.1.5 In the case of nominations for election as an ~~undergraduate, postgraduate coursework or postgraduate research~~ a student member, it is acceptable for ~~either one or both of the nominators~~ must ~~to~~ be enrolled as a student at the University of Sydney, ~~but otherwise ineligible for election, provided that the nominator is enrolled in the same faculty, college or board of studies as the nominee.:~~

~~19.1.5.1 as an undergraduate student if nominating an undergraduate candidate,~~

~~19.1.5.2 as a postgraduate coursework student if nominating a postgraduate coursework candidate, and~~

~~19.1.5.3 as a postgraduate research student if nominating a postgraduate research candidate.~~

and section 34.2 is to be amended as follows:

34.2.1 If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of any elected student member, then that vacancy must be filled by the candidate at the immediately preceding election who was the last candidate to be excluded, and who remains eligible to be elected.

34.2.2 If:

34.2.2.1 a casual vacancy cannot be filled according to Rule 34.2.1; or  
34.2.2.2 there are no insufficient nominations for ~~any category of student members,~~

then that vacancy or position must be filled by a student, who is not already a member of the Academic Board, on the nomination of the relevant dean or chair of the board of studies ~~Provost~~, who may ~~must~~ first consult with the Presidents of ~~(as the case may be)~~ the Students' Representative Council ~~or~~ and the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association.

34.2.3 If a casual vacancy or position cannot be filled according to Rule 34.2.2, then the position shall remain vacant until it can be filled for the remainder of the term according to Rule 34.2.1 or 34.2.2 [as the case may be].

*Explanatory note:* This Sub-Rule is designed to enable more than one attempt to fill a casual vacancy or position while the relevant term of office remains current.

A new section 14 is to be inserted as follows, with the existing clauses 14 to 34 to be renumbered:

### **13. Procedural requirements**

All elections to the Academic Board and for the Chair must be carried out according to the procedure set out in this Part 5.

### **14. Timing of elections**

#### **14.1 Elected academic staff members**

The election of the elected academic staff members of each faculty and college board to the Academic Board shall be held in second semester of every alternate year (i.e. the last semester prior to the end of the term of office

of such members), and will normally be scheduled to run in conjunction with the election of elected student members of each faculty, college board and board of studies (as per the Resolutions of Senate: "Student membership of the faculties, college boards and boards of studies").

#### **14.2 Student members**

The election of the elected student member of each faculty, college board and board of studies to the Academic Board shall be held in second semester of each year, following the election of students to faculties, college boards and boards of studies (as per the Resolutions of Senate: "Student membership of the faculties, college boards and boards of studies").

#### **14.3 Chair of the Academic Board**

The election of the Chair of the Academic Board shall be held in second semester of every alternate year (i.e. the last semester prior to the end of the term of office of the Chair of the Academic Board), following the election of the academic staff members and the student members of the Academic Board as per sections 14.1 and 14.2 above.

#### *Student Membership of the Faculties, College Boards and Boards of Studies*

The following amendments are to be made to the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Student Membership of the Faculties, College Boards and Boards of Studies:

#### **Timing of elections**

**2.1** Except as provided in section 3.2, the election of the elected student members of each Faculty, College Board and Board of Studies shall be held in second semester of each year, and the notice of election will be given by the end of Week 4 of the second semester at the latest.

**2.2** The Registrar may, at his or her discretion, allow elections to be run at a later date in second semester than that given in section 2.1.

#### **Insufficient nominations**

6.1 Where an insufficient number of nominations has been received for a position of elected student member of a faculty, college board or a board of studies that position may be filled by appointment by the dean of the faculty, director of the college or the chairperson of the board of studies concerned of a duly qualified student after consultation with any other students who have been elected or appointed to that faculty, college board or board of studies for the term of office in question and, where such exists, the council, committee or executive of the society or association representative of the students enrolled in that faculty or college or under that board of studies.

6.2 Where the appointment of a student member of a faculty, college board or board of studies following the provisions for consultation prescribed in section 6.1 has not been made before 31 ~~October~~ March, the dean, director or chairperson at his or her discretion may appoint a duly qualified student or direct that the position remain vacant.

## Associated Amendments

The following amendments to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended) are proposed to correct numbering and other errors in the current document:

### 5.3 When membership ceases

A person ceases to be a member of the Academic Board if that person at any time during their term of office:

- 5.3.1 resigns from the Academic Board;
- 5.3.2 in the case of a member holding office under Rule 5.1.1, 5.1.2 or 5.1.3, no longer holds the relevant position;
- 5.3.3 in the case of an academic staff member elected under Rule 5.1.4 ~~or 5.1.5~~, ceases to be:
  - 5.3.3.1 an academic staff member; or
  - 5.3.3.2 an academic staff member in the category for which that person was elected (for example, if that person transfers to another Faculty);
- 5.3.4 in the case of a student member elected under Rule 5.1.5~~6~~, is no longer enrolled as a student;
- 5.3.5 is absent from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Academic Board and is not, within 6 weeks of the last of those meetings, excused for his or her absence; or
- 5.3.6 dies.

## 6. Terms of office

### 6.1 Elected academic staff members

All academic staff members elected pursuant to Rule 5.1.4 ~~and 5.1.5~~ hold office for a term of 2 years from 1 January in the year immediately following the year of their election.

### 6.2 Student members

All student members elected pursuant to Rule 5.1.5~~6~~ hold office for a term of 1 year from 1 January in the year immediately following the year of their election.

## 34.1 Elected Academic Staff members

34.1.1 If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of any elected academic staff member of the Academic Board [other than in the office of the Chair], then that vacancy must be filled by the candidate at the immediately preceding election who was the last candidate to be excluded, and who remains eligible to be elected.

34.1.2 If:

- 34.1.2.1 a casual vacancy cannot be filled according to Rule 34.1.1; or
- 34.1.2.2 there are insufficient nominations for any category of academic staff members,

then the Academic Board may fill that vacancy or position by appointing a person from the relevant Faculty who is eligible to be elected to that category of members, after first consulting with the relevant Dean ~~or Pro-Vice-Chancellor (as the case may be)~~.

## Terms of Office

### Background

The *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended) replaced the *Rules relating to the Academic Board, 1996* (as amended) in 2003. The current rule retained the existing terms of office for elected academic staff members and student members, including the provision that an elected academic staff member or student member could not serve more than two full, consecutive terms in the same category of membership.

The election of academic staff from faculties to the Academic Board currently being held is the first occasion on which this provision has come into effect for such members under the current Rule, and its application has raised some issues which suggest it may be timely to review this part of the Rule with the aim of extending the number of concurrent terms an academic staff member or student member may serve.

The issues that the Academic Board may wish to consider include:

- the increasing complexity of, and professional demands on, the positions of Chair of the Academic Board and Chairs of the Standing Committees vis a vis impact on academic careers; and
- succession planning to develop appropriate experience and professional skills in potential office holders.

### Proposed amendments

It is proposed that the following amendments be made to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended) to extend the number of consecutive terms that may be served by any one member from two to three, and to make provision for members serving as Chairs of standing committees to serve for longer periods so as to both gain and provide benefits to the Board from their experience:

## 6. Terms of office

### 6.5 Re-election in the same category

Elected members of the Academic Board are eligible for re-election in the same category, on the conditions that they:

- 6.5.1 are, at the time of their nomination, eligible for membership in that category; and
- 6.5.2 do not serve more than ~~2~~ three full, consecutive terms as a member in that category.
- 6.5.3 A period of service as a Chair of one of the Academic Board's Standing Committees will not count towards calculating the term of membership referred to in clause 6.5.2.

## Part 3 – Chair, Deputy Chair and Chairs of Standing Committees

### 7. Chair of the Academic Board

#### 7.3 Re-election

A person elected as Chair is eligible for re-election, so long as that person does not serve more than ~~two~~ three full, consecutive terms as Chair.

### 8. Deputy Chair of the Academic Board

#### 8.3 Re-appointment

A person appointed as a Deputy Chair is eligible for re-appointment, so long as that person does not serve more than ~~two~~ three full, consecutive terms as Deputy Chair.

### 9. Chairs of Standing Committees

#### 9.2 Re-appointment

A person appointed as Chair of a Standing Committee is eligible for re-appointment, so long as that person does not serve more than ~~2~~ three full, consecutive terms as Chair of that Standing Committee.

