



# 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 18 April 2007 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor D Nutbeam), the Deputy Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professor C Murphy, Associate Professors R Ewing and S Kable), Professors A Aspromourgos, M Behnia, A Brewer, L Copeland, D Day, B Freedman, G Hancock, R Mason, R McCallum, I Ramzan, E Schwarz, R Tiffen, J Trehwella, Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, B Bennett, B Buckley, W Evans, H Irving, W Julian, R Magnusson, A F Masters and S West, Drs M Boughton, C Campbell, M Collier, S Cumming, J Hanrahan, J Hughes, K Jolliffe, J Kelly, I Maxwell, P McGreevy, A Molev, J Shaw R Stanton, A Van Schaik and K-C Wong, Ms J Henderson, Ms C Jarrett, Ms J Leong, Mr A McFarland, Mr C Riley and Mr J Shipp.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Dr M Edmond).

Present as observers: Ms D Alis and Ms S Paynter.

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

#### ★ 1. Apologies

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors C Armour, D Armstrong, A Boyd, G Brown, M Field, G Gallop, P Gay, D Grant, J Lawler, G Llewellyn, C Mellis, G Murray, R Overall, B Roufogalis, C Russell, K Trigwell and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors A Bashford, E Cowley, R Drynan, C Roberts, A Rubbo and P Wynn, Drs T Anthony, A Campbell, J Cox, A Dong, P Knight, K Nelson, M-A Schnabel and C Taylor and Mr P Ball, Mr V Ghazavi 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 items were starred: 10.2.3, 10.2.4(2) and 10.2.5

## 2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

### Resolution 43/07

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

## 3. Minutes of previous meeting

### 3.1 Meeting of 28 February 2007

#### Resolution 44/07

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 February 2007, as a true record.

## 4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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## 5. Report of the Chair

### 5.1 General Report

#### 5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 March 2007 and adjourned meeting of 2 April 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 19 March 2007. He noted that Senate was continuing the process of electing a new Chancellor and selecting a new Vice-Chancellor. With regard to the recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor the Chair noted that staff could submit names of potential candidates to the selection committee via the Registrar.

#### Resolution 45/07

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 19 March 2007 and the adjourned meeting of 2 April 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 46/07

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 University College Sydney Academic Planning Committee

The Chair reminded members that the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community) had made a presentation to the Academic Board in late 2006 regarding the possible establishment of a separate institution to be called University College Sydney. The Planning Committee for this institution was being led by Professor Ann Brewer. Senate, at its meeting on 19 March 2007, approved further steps in the process of evaluating the potential of the new institution. The Chair advised that, as the College would not be self-

accrediting, the term “University” could not be used in the title, and another name would need to be developed.

The Chair advised that further work would need to be done on the financial projections for the College, as well as the potential financial and reputational risk factors. Senate had also resolved the programs to be offered by the College would initially be qualifications below the level of degree. Development of these courses would be undertaken by a joint working party of the Academic Board and the College Planning Committee. The draft terms of reference for this group had been discussed with the College Planning Committee and had been distributed with the Academic Board agenda. The membership would include the deans of relevant faculties, Associate Professor Peter McCallum (representing the Graduate Studies Committee) and Professor Charles Areni (representing the Undergraduate Studies Committee). The Chair invited members to contact him with expressions of interest if they wished to join the committee.

The President of the SRC asked if any thought had been given to including student representation on the Committee. The Chair advised that the Committee’s membership would be expanded in the future, once the client groups of the College were defined.

Members approved the terms of reference for the University College Sydney Academic Planning Committee.

**Resolution 47/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the terms of reference for the University College Sydney Academic Planning Committee; and
- (2) note the Chair’s report on the University College Sydney Academic Planning Committee

as set out in the report presented.

**5.3.2 Role of the Academic Board within the University’s Structure**

The Chair noted that the Academic Board has an important role within the University, but that the environment in which the Board operates had changed dramatically in the past twelve to eighteen months. He emphasised the Academic Board’s role as a conduit between the academic community and senior management at the University, and advised that he had, since his election in 2006, developed informal working relationships with members of senior management to assist in exchanging information between the Board and management.

He advised members that it would be timely to conduct a debate on the role of the Academic Board and how the work of the Board could be broadened to involve the entire membership. He noted that the full-time role of the Chair made it easy for the Chair to become the Academic Board *de facto*, which was not desirable. The Chair should be able to represent the Board, but needs to be well-informed on the Board’s values and principles.

He asked members to look closely at the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* before the Board's next meeting, and advised that he would distribute a briefing paper before the that meeting. He also undertook to circulate a paper on the role of Academic Boards which had been developed by Professor Anthony Dooley (Chair of the Academic Board at the University of NSW).

**Resolution 48/07**

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the Academic Board's role within the University's structure, as set out in the report presented.

**5.3.3 Update on Academic Board Reviews**

The Chair reminded members that draft guidelines for the Phase 3 Academic Board Faculty reviews had been approved at the Academic Board meeting in November 2006. Since that meeting, the Chair had been considering how best to implement the reviews. The timetable had been renegotiated with some faculties to take into account conflicting accreditation reviews, while ensuring that the full process could be completed by the end of 2009 and prior to the University's second AUQA review in 2010. A training session for review panel members had been held, but more training could be scheduled.

The Chair advised members that, since the November meeting, he had discussed the guidelines broadly with various academic and administrative staff. As a result of these discussions he now wished to submit a revised set of guidelines for the reviews. The purpose of the reviews was unchanged and the process would still involve a self-review by the faculty, with the Academic Board review team focussing on testing the strength and validity of the findings in the self-review. The revised guidelines would alter the structure and focus of the self-reviews to take into account the major changes to the reporting environment of faculties and concentrate the self-reviews on the processes used by faculties to obtain specific outcomes.

The Chair advised members that his research into international quality assurance methods had led him to the Baldrige system. The new review guidelines referred to a revised version of this system with much of the managerial criteria removed and replaced with research and research training criteria, and a stronger emphasis on core academic issues. The Chair stressed that the Baldrige system was internationally recognised and would align well with the processes for the next AUQA review. It would also provide the framework for faculties to perform other self-reviews separate to those related to the Academic Board Faculty reviews. The intention was for the Academic Board to work actively with faculties as they developed their self-review reports, and guidelines would be developed on how the reports would be interpreted by the review panels.

The revised guidelines had been discussed with deans at the Provost's Academic Strategy Group and it had been agreed that the elaborations on the twenty questions included in the self-review outline would be scaled back. There were also some other reporting processes which needed to be taken into account.

The Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Professor Ramzan) asked if the Chair could comment on how the use of the Baldrige system would fit into an Australian (as opposed to an international) context, and what other supplementary data from other reports could be worked into the self-review reports. The Chair stated that he was talking to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning) about cross-referencing with the KPI system as well as investigating other sources of data. In terms of the national standing of the Baldrige system, he noted that other tertiary institutions were using their own individual systems, with no coherent approach across the sector. He stated that the credentials for Baldrige were very widely accepted, making it a good system to adapt. Professor Ramzan pointed out the concerns raised about the workload involved with the new self-review guidelines, and the Chair agreed that he would look at reducing the workload as much as possible.

The Acting Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Design asked the Chair to outline the process after a faculty submitted its self-review report. The Chair advised that a review panel would be formed to consider the report, critique it and develop a set of questions for the review visit.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor noted that concerns had been raised at the Provost's Academic Strategy Group about the financial cost associated with the revised review guidelines, as well as the cost in terms of time and effort. He countered that there was a cost to not performing thorough and regular reviews and expressed his support for the revised guidelines, noting that the Chair of the Academic Board would accommodate the concerns and comments of the deans as much as possible.

The President of SUPRA asked whether or not the guidelines, once further revised, would be resubmitted to the Academic Board. The Chair stated that he would be happy to circulate the amended guidelines to members but stressed that it was important to issue the guidelines as soon as possible to those faculties to be reviewed later this year.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies expressed concern that his Faculty would be undertaking the self-review at the same time as it ran case studies for the Research Quality Framework. The Chair undertook to discuss this matter further with the Faculty.

Associate Professor Ahmadi-Esfahani noted that one way of assisting deans to convince staff to embrace the new self-review guidelines would be to outline the benefits of using the

new system. This could build on the benefits that had arisen from the first two review cycles.

Associate Professor Masters asked if criteria would be developed to assess the success of the Phase 3 reviews, and assist in developing the Phase 4 reviews. The Chair acknowledged that this would be the case.

The Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry expressed support for the new review guidelines and asked that the elaborations to the questions be maintained as suggested guidelines, rather than deleted all together.

**Resolution 49/07**

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the Phase 3 Academic Board Reviews, as set out in the report presented.

**5.3.4 2006 Annual Report of Academic Board Activities**

The Chair drew members' attention to the reformatting of the annual report of Academic Board activities. He pointed out that the report was now framed in the context of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003*.

**Resolution 50/07**

That the Academic Board note the 2006 Annual Report of Academic Board activities, as set out in the report presented.

**5.3.5 CMS Workflow Procedures for Course Resolutions**

The Chair drew members' attention to a procedural change which is currently being implemented across the University. The Publications Office has successfully transferred the compilation and publishing of the Faculty handbooks and the University Calendar to CMS (Content Management System) and the faculty and Senate resolutions for all courses are now contained in this system (there is now only one master copy of these resolutions). Future proposals relating to the creation, deletion or variation of courses and course resolutions will require creation or amendment of faculty and Senate resolutions in CMS. More detailed information on this new system will be presented to both the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Committees and advice will be sent out to all faculties.

The Chair pointed out that CMS will contain the single, master copy of each set of resolutions (Senate and faculty) for both stand-alone and combined degrees. Amendments would not be available for inclusion in faculty handbooks, websites or the University Calendar until they had been approved by the faculty, Academic Board and Senate (as appropriate, depending on the level of approval required). The formatting of resolutions would automatically occur within CMS, so faculties need only focus on the content of the resolutions.

**Resolution 51/07**

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on CMS workflow procedures for course resolutions, as set out in the report presented.

### **5.3.6 Carrick Citations**

The Chair advised members that he had recently been involved with the assessment of applications for Carrick Citations. He noted that only four applications had been received this year. In comparison, the University had been able to shortlist 10 applications from the field of applicants in 2006. He advised members that the Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor was writing to all faculties and asking deans to encourage their staff to apply for the citations. In addition, the internal closing date has been extended to Thursday 3 May 2007. The Chair stressed the importance of the Carrick Citations as an indicator of the University's commitment to quality in learning and teaching.

#### **Resolution 52/07**

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

### **5.3.7 Academic Board Nominees**

Professor Chris Murphy, Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee, raised the issue of exempting selection committees from including an Academic Board nominee, and moved that the Academic Board delegate such powers of exemption to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Academic Board and the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee.

The Chair noted that the University's current policy on recruitment and selection of academic staff requires an Academic Board nominee to be a member of each selection committee, but also allows a committee to convene if a nominee is not available. He advised members that he was currently working with the Director of SydneyPeople to review the role of the Academic Board in these processes and that any recommendations to amend the current policy would be referred to the Academic Staffing Committee.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies noted that the task of finding a nominee for a selection committee had historically been dealt with by staff within the relevant faculty. This was no longer the case, and it was becoming far more common for SydneyRecruitment to advise faculties that a nominee could not be found. He expressed support for Professor Murphy's motion.

The Chair advised members that that panel of Academic Board nominees had been expanded and that discussions were being held with SydneyRecruitment to ensure that nominees were given enough notice of forthcoming selection committee dates. He noted that there were instances of less than a week's notice being given to nominees, and that discussions were being held to ensure this did not occur in future.

Associate Professor Masters requested that, if such delegated powers were approved, the Academic Board receive regular reports on any exemptions granted. Professor Murphy agreed that such reporting should occur.

Associate Professor Ahmadi-Esfahani spoke against the motion. He urged the continued use of the Academic Board nominees on selection committees to ensure that the criteria of fairness and equity are adhered to. He also argued against the decision being put to the Academic Board at such short notice. Associate Professor Kable also spoke against the motion and stated that the role of Academic Board nominees was crucial in the University's selection and promotion processes.

The Chair agreed to withdraw the motion and undertook to work further with the Director of SydneyPeople on reviewing the selection and recruitment policy.

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

6.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 March 2007 and adjourned meeting of 2 April 2007**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor noted that the major items from these meetings related to the election of a new Chancellor and the selection of a new Vice-Chancellor.

The President of SUPRA asked that the association's concerns be noted regarding the proposal to replace the current Senate liaison committees (with the SRC and SUPRA) with a single, more broadly based student association liaison committee. Ms Leong stressed the importance of the role of all the student organisations and expressed concern that this position would be weakened by the Senate proposal.

**Resolution 54/07**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 March 2007 and the adjourned meeting of 2 April 2007.

6.2 **General report**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised members that there were two issues in particular he wished to address. The first was the recent launch by the University of Melbourne of their new coursework model. Professor Nutbeam advised members that he had been contacted by "The Australian" to comment on this model and, while his comments were not included in the resulting article, he wanted to share them with the members of the Academic Board. Melbourne's move to graduate and postgraduate entry was some years behind the University of Sydney (which, for example, had been one of the first institutions in Australia to introduce a graduate-entry medical degree) and it would be at least three to five years before they matched Sydney's current graduate-entry student numbers. He stressed that the University of Sydney did not support a "one size fits all" approach to coursework design, but intended to continue taking into account factors such as student demand, the requirements of the various professions and the teaching principles underpinning our courses. The University's commitment to flexibility in course delivery would be

maintained together with regular and thorough reviews of coursework structures and curriculum design.

As part of the launch of the “Melbourne model” the University of Melbourne had announced that there would be a \$100 million package commitment to scholarships over a three year period.. Professor Nutbeam pointed out that the University of Sydney dispersed \$55 million in University-wide scholarships in the past year, with further funds dispersed via scholarships offered by the various faculties, residential colleges and other groups. The University’s current scholarship schemes provided targeted support to students in terms of attracting and retaining talented students and supporting financially-disadvantaged students. He acknowledged that more should be done in this area and noted that a proposal for scholarships for international PhD students was under consideration. Associate Professor Masters asked that acknowledgement also be given to the scholarships offered by the University of Sydney Union, the Sports Union and the student associations.

Professor Nutbeam also pointed out that the curriculum model adopted by the University of Melbourne had the potential to devalue the role of undergraduate students in the University community. He stated that the University of Sydney was justifiably proud of attracting the highest proportion of the brightest students in New South Wales into our undergraduate courses.

On another issue, Professor Nutbeam advised members that material was currently being circulated amongst students regarding the new US Studies Centre and stated that there were a number of misconceptions in this material that he would like to address. He stressed that the University’s relationship with the Centre was governed by the University’s host agreement (while this document was commercial-in-confidence, it had been available to Fellows of Senate). While the Centre had been established in co-operation with the American Australian Association, the terms of the agreement were such that the Association had no right of veto on academic activities performed by the Centre, let alone by the University. The academic staff of the Centre would be employed by the University and seconded to the Centre, and would be subject to the University’s policies (including the University’s selection and recruitment processes and the policy regarding intellectual property, although he pointed out that material developed on behalf of the Centre would be owned by the Centre). The Centre would form an academic committee to ensure the quality of its academic activities, and an interim committee had been established, chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, which had already developed a proposal for a Graduate Diploma and Masters of US Studies. Work was also underway to host a regional forum on US Studies at the Centre in early December this year.

The President of SUPRA asked if there was scope for student representation on the Centre’s academic committee. She also reiterated student concerns regarding the potential influence of the American Australian Association on the political position of the Centre. Professor Nutbeam responded that both the University and the Association would have equal representation on the Centre’s board and that neither party would have a right of veto. Professor Murphy pointed out that the academic staff of the Centre would, like all other

staff at the University, be covered by the new Charter of Academic Freedom. Associate Professor Ahmadi-Esfahani suggested that there was a lack of information amongst staff and students regarding the Centre which could be addressed by circulating an information paper.

Professor Nutbeam was asked whether any further action had been taken on the recommendations from the recent Social Sciences Review. He advised that the Dean of the Faculty of Arts would be consulting with staff regarding these recommendations. The implementation team had been asked to complete their work by the end of the year, but would be giving more urgent attention to the future of the Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Resolution 55/07**

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

- ★ 7. **Question time**  
No questions were asked.

★ 8. **Presentation: SCEQ Results**

The Chair invited the Dean of Graduate Studies to present the report on SCEQ results. Professor Behnia reminded members that in October 2006 he had presented an overview of Student Research Experience Questionnaire (SREQ) data from the past five years and had advised that a similar report on Student Coursework Evaluation Questionnaire (SCEQ) data would be submitted in the near future.

Professor Behnia noted that the SCEQ had been in use since 1999 for undergraduate students and its use was expanded in 2000 to include postgraduate coursework students. The report being presented focussed on the postgraduate coursework data from the period 2000 to 2005. While there was a small, but significant, improvement in students' overall satisfaction with degree quality, a number of scales were not improving, such as appropriate workload. The data had been assessed at the faculty-level and the University-level and had also been assessed using the previous college groupings. With regard to the latter groupings, there had been little change in the results for Health Sciences and Sciences & Technology, but a marked improvement over the five years for Humanities and Social Sciences (overall satisfaction had increased from 62% to 75%). Across the University as a whole there had been small but statistically significant improvements in all the scales with the exception of appropriate workload and appropriate assessment. Postgraduate coursework students were substantially less positive about the quality of teaching, clarity of goals and standards, extent of the learning community and appropriateness of workload than other aspects of their experience, such as the appropriateness of assessment or the development of generic skills.

Professor Behnia advised members that detailed analysis of the data would be presented to the Graduate Studies Committee for consideration and discussion, and student focus groups would be formed to drill down on selected issues (such as the appropriateness of assessment and workload). He stressed the need for more rigorous reviews of the University's postgraduate coursework courses, the identification of best practice and

benchmarking across the faculties, and the development of KPIs, faculty goals and University goals for the improvement of postgraduate coursework.

Associate Professor McCallum thanked Professor Behnia for the report. He commented on the fact that the University's overall satisfaction rating was slightly higher for postgraduate coursework courses than for undergraduate courses, but noted that in comparison with other universities the overall satisfaction rating was not that good: the University of Sydney scored an average of 72%, compared with 76% for the University of NSW and 82% for the ANU. Professor Behnia pointed out that the University of Sydney had experienced a much stronger growth in postgraduate courses than the other two universities.

The President of SUPRA stressed the need for consideration of the items which could be improved. She commented that the previous report on SREQ results had led to a series of successful forums on research, and she hoped that the same commitment would be shown to improving coursework outcomes, given that the majority of the University's postgraduate students were involved in coursework study.

The Chair encouraged members to send comments on the report to Professor Behnia.

#### **Resolution 56/07**

That the Academic Board note the presentation of the Dean of Graduate Studies on SCEQ results.

### **9. Reports of Faculties and Boards**

#### **9.1 Report of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

##### **9.1.1 Amendment of the Resolutions of Senate: Constitution of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

#### **Resolution 57/07**

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate amend the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Schools within the Faculty, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Schools within the Faculty.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to note the Academic Board's endorsement of the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Schools within the Faculty.

(File xx)

## 10. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

(Associate Professor Scott Kable)

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### 10.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee noted that he would speak to the three items starred for consideration.

#### Resolution 58/07

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

### 10.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 March 2007

#### 10.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses

##### (1) Faculties of Arts and Law: Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications)/Bachelor of Laws

#### Resolution 59/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculties of Arts and Law for the introduction of a new combined degree, the Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) and Bachelor of Laws;
- (2) recommend that Senate:
  - (i) endorse the introduction of the new combined degree course, and
  - (ii) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and Degrees and Graduate Diplomas in the Faculty of Law to reflect the introduction of the new combined course;
  - (iii) approve the new Resolutions of Senate relating to the course; and
- (3) note the introduction of the new Faculty Resolutions relating to the course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended), and approve the Faculty requirements relating to units of study, and the award of the degrees at pass and honours levels, from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) and Bachelor of Laws in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law, the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and Degrees and Graduate Diplomas in the Faculty of Law and the introduction of Resolutions of the Senate relating to the course.

The Deans and Faculty Managers of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law to note the

Academic Board's approval of the new course, the Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) and Bachelor of Laws and the related faculty resolutions.

(File xx)

### 10.2.2 Amendment to Resolutions of Senate

#### (1) Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies

##### Resolution 60/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies for the amendment of Senate and Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Engineering degree and combined Engineering degree courses to reflect the amalgamation of the School of Information Technologies, together with the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees, with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies;
- (2) recommend that Senate approve:
  - (a) the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, and
  - (b) the replacement of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Engineering by new Resolutions relating to the Undergraduate Degrees of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies,
- (3) note the introduction of amended Faculty Resolutions relating to the courses, and approve the Faculty requirements relating to the award of honours and progression

from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies for the amendment of Senate and Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Engineering degree and combined Engineering degree courses to reflect the amalgamation of the School of Information Technologies, together with the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science

and Technology degrees, with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the replacement of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Engineering by new Resolutions relating to the Undergraduate Degrees of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies for the amendment of Senate and Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Engineering degree and combined Engineering degree courses to reflect the amalgamation of the School of Information Technologies, together with the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees, with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the introduction of amended Faculty Resolutions relating to the courses.

(File xx)

**(2) Faculty of Science**

**Resolution 61/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degrees offered by the Faculty of Science to reflect the transfer of the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees from the supervision of the Faculty of Science to that of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies;
- (2) recommend that Senate approve:
  - (a) the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Degrees, Graduate Diplomas and Graduate Certificates in the Faculty of Science to delete the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees from the list of offerings, and
  - (b) the deletion of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees in the Faculty of Science,

from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degrees offered by the Faculty of Science to reflect the transfer of the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees from the supervision of the Faculty of Science to that of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Science and the deletion of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees in the Faculty of Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degrees offered by the Faculty of Science to reflect the transfer of the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology degrees from the supervision of the Faculty of Science to that of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

(File xx)

★ **10.2.3 Report of the Honours Working Party**

Associate Professor Kable advised members that the report from the Honours Working Party had been further revised to incorporate suggestions received at, and since, the previous Academic Board meeting. He reiterated the Working Party's recommendation that the units of study for inclusion in calculating the HWAM not be stipulated in the Honours policy but be a matter for individual faculties to determine.

Members accepted the revised report and approved the amendments to the Academic Board Policy on Award with Honours.

**Resolution 62/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the recommendations arising from the review of honours at the University of Sydney; and
- (2) approve the amendment of the Academic Board Policy on Award with Honours

with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board Policy on Award with Honours.

(File xx)

#### 10.2.4 Amendment of Faculty Resolutions

##### (1) Faculty of Arts: Bachelor of Arts

###### **Resolution 63/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the change of name of the “Aboriginal Studies” major to that of “Indigenous Australian Studies”; and
- (2) approve the amendment of Section 2.3.1 in Part A of the General Faculty Resolutions relating to Undergraduate degrees and combined degrees, to provide for this change of nomenclature, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board’s approval of the change of name of the “Aboriginal Studies” major to that of “Indigenous Australian Studies”.

(File TBA)

##### ★ (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

Associate Professor Kable advised members that the supplementary agenda outlined revisions to the amended resolutions for the combined medicine degrees (listed above). These revisions related to reinstating the number of SMTP units for each degree as five (three core and two elective), pending the submission of a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to reduce the number of these units to three. He noted a further revision (not included in the supplementary agenda) to Clause 4.1 in the resolutions for the Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery to state that the number of Music-Medicine Transition Program units of study is five, not three.

Members approved the amended resolutions as further revised in the supplementary agenda.

**Resolution 64/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the progression requirements prescribed for the Bachelor of 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
  - (a) by deleting for all four combined courses the current provision that students be required to maintain an AAM of 80 or above in each of the first three years, and
  - (b) by adding instead the new provision that students be required to maintain a Credit average or above in the first three years and fulfil the other conditions specified; and
- (2) approve the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended);  
with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended progression requirements prescribed for the Bachelor of 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.

(File TBA)

★ **10.2.5 Honours Working Party: Awards with Merit**

Associate Professor Kable advised members that the Honours Working Party had considered the issue of awarding degrees with merit. The supplementary agenda contained an extract from the notes of the Working Party's most recent meeting, which outlined the discussion on the number of such merit degrees that might be awarded and the sorts of suffixes that might be used. He advised members that the Working Party was currently seeking data from faculties to assist in developing suggested cut-off marks for the awarding of merit degrees.

**Resolution 65/07**

That the Academic Board note the report on the discussions of the Honours Working Party regarding Award with Merit.

**10.2.6 Proceedings of the Committee**

**Resolution 66/07**

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

At this point the meeting was declared inquorate.

**11. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee**  
(Associate Professor Peter McCallum)

★ **11.1 Oral report of the Chair**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**11.2 Report of the meeting held on 27 March 2007**

**11.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses**

**11.2.1.1 Faculty of Arts**

**(1) Master of Liberal Studies, Graduate Diploma in Liberal Studies, Graduate Certificate in Liberal Studies**

**Resolution 67/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Liberal Studies, Graduate Diploma in Liberal Studies and Graduate Certificate in Liberal Studies
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
  - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
  - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and relating to the courses;
  - (c) approve the deletion of Senate Resolutions relating to the courses; and
- (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree, diploma and certificate; with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Liberal Studies, Graduate Diploma in Liberal Studies and Graduate Certificate in Liberal Studies, the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in

the Faculty of Arts and the deletion of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Master of Liberal Studies, Graduate Diploma in Liberal Studies and Graduate Certificate in Liberal Studies.

(File xx)

**(2) Master of Medical Humanities, Graduate Diploma in Medical Humanities, Graduate Certificate in Medical Humanities**

**Resolution 68/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Medical Humanities, Graduate Diploma in Medical Humanities and Graduate Certificate in Medical Humanities
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
  - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
  - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and relating to the courses;
  - (c) approve the deletion of Senate Resolutions relating to the courses; and
- (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree, diploma and certificate; with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Medical Humanities, Graduate Diploma in Medical Humanities and Graduate Certificate in Medical Humanities, the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and the deletion of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Master of Medical Humanities, Graduate Diploma in

Medical Humanities and Graduate  
Certificate in Medical Humanities.

(File xx)

**11.2.1.2 Faculty of Dentistry: Master of Dental Science (Community Oral Health and Epidemiology), Master of Dental Science (Endodontics), Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery), Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Advanced Practice), Graduate Diploma in Community Oral Health and Epidemiology**

**Resolution 69/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to delete the Master of Dental Science (Community Oral Health and Epidemiology), Master of Dental Science (Endodontics), Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery), Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Advanced Practice) and Graduate Diploma in Community Oral Health and Epidemiology;
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
  - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
  - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Dentistry;
  - (c) approve the deletion of Senate Resolutions relating to the courses;

with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to delete the Master of Dental Science (Community Oral Health and Epidemiology), Master of Dental Science (Endodontics), Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery), Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Advanced Practice) and Graduate Diploma in Community Oral Health and Epidemiology, the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Dentistry and the deletion of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Dentistry to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Master of Dental Science (Community Oral Health and Epidemiology), Master of Dental

Science (Endodontics), Master of Dental Science (Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery), Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Advanced Practice) and Graduate Diploma in Community Oral Health and Epidemiology.

(File xx)

**11.2.1.3 Faculty of Science: Master of Applied Nuclear Science and Graduate Diploma in Applied Nuclear Science**

**Resolution 70/07**

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to introduce the Master of Applied Nuclear Science and Graduate Diploma in Applied Nuclear Science;
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
  - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
  - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Science;
  - (c) approve the introduction of Senate Resolutions relating to the courses;

with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to introduce the Master of Applied Nuclear Science and Graduate Diploma in Applied Nuclear Science, the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Science and the introduction of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Master of Applied Nuclear Science and Graduate Diploma in Applied Nuclear Science.

(File xx)

### **11.2.2 Report from Faculties**

#### **11.2.2.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning – English Language Requirements**

##### **Resolution 71/07**

That the Academic Board amend Appendix 1 of the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements”, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements”.

(File xx)

#### **11.2.2.2 Faculty of Dentistry – English Language Requirements**

##### **Resolution 72/07**

That the Academic Board amend Appendix 1 of the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements”, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements”.

(File xx)

### **11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee**

##### **Resolution 73/07**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 27 March 2007, as set out in the report presented.

## **12. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee** (Associate Professor Robyn Ewing)

★

### **12.1 Oral report of the Chair**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **12.2 Report of the meeting held on 27 March 2007**

#### **12.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Reports**

##### **Resolution 74/07**

That the Academic Board note the Phase 2 Progress Reports from the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the Institute for Teaching and Learning and the Koori Centre, as set out in the report presented.

### 12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

#### Resolution 75/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 27 March 2007, as set out in the report presented.

### 13. Report of the Research Committee (Associate Professor Robyn Overall)

★

#### 13.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### 13.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 March 2007

##### 13.2.1 Proceedings of the Committee

#### Resolution 76/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 20 March 2007, as set out in the report presented.

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

★

#### 14.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### 14.2 Report of the meeting held on 28 March 2007

##### 14.2.1 Charter of Academic Freedom

#### Resolution 77/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) endorse the Charter of Academic Freedom and
- (2) recommend that Senate also endorse the Charter of Academic Freedom.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the Charter of Academic Freedom.

(File xx)

### 14.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

#### Resolution 78/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 March 2007, as set out in the report presented.

### 15. General Business

#### 15.1 Appointment of members of the Student Proctorial Panel

#### Resolution 79/07

That the Academic Board appoint members of the Student Proctorial Panel, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting closed at 3.51 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

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*Chair*

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Date