



Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 10 October 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 Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professors C Murphy and R Overall, Associate Professors S Kable, P McCallum and G Ryan), Professors C Benrimoj, A Boyd, A Brewer, A Coats, M Crossley, D Day, M J Field, G Hancock, J Hearn, G Llewellyn, R Mason, I Ramzan, E Schwarz, G Triggs, K Trigwell, K Walker and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, B Bennett, E Cowley, R Drynan, W Evans, R Ewing, W Julian, A F Masters, R Magnusson and A Rubbo, Drs C Campbell, S Cumming, A Dong, M Edmond, J Hanrahan, J Hughes, K Jolliffe, A Molev, K Nelson, M-A Schnabel, J Shaw and K-C Wong, Ms K Barnsley, Ms J Henderson, Ms C Jarrett, Mr A McFarland, Mr C Riley and Mr J Shipp.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Dr W A Adams).

Present as observers: Ms J Brown, Ms J Chambers and Ms M Theobald (Community Portfolio) and Ms A Griffiths and Ms J Russell (Secretariat).

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 Aspromourgos, M Behnia, G Brown, P Gay, D Grant, R Jeremy, J Lawler, C Mellis, G Murray, B Roufogalis and J Trehwella, Associate Professors A Bashford, B Buckley, H Irving and S West, Drs T Anthony, A Campbell, M Collier, J Cox, P Knight, R Stanton, C Taylor and P Wynn, and Mr P Ball (Mr C Riley attending in his place), Ms L Brown, Mr C Ekwebelam, Ms J Gavan, Mr V Ghazavi, Mr M Goldberg, Mr B Kotic, Ms J Mooney 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. No additional items were starred.

2.2 **Adoption of unstarred items**

Resolution 238/07

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting
3.1 Meeting of 29 August 2007

Resolution 239/07

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 August 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.

Before proceeding to the main business of the meeting, the Chair took the opportunity to welcome Professor Gillian Triggs, the newly appointed Dean of Law, as the Board's newest member. He also welcomed Professor Simon Chapman, Ms Juli Brown, Ms Jas Chambers and Ms Marion Theobald to the meeting.

★ **5. Focus Topics**

5.1 University Branding Project

The Chair invited Professor Coats to speak to the meeting regarding the University Branding Project. Professor Coats advised members that the project had commenced in September, and that following an extensive tendering process the University had chosen the Chicago-based consultants Lipman Hearne Inc. as consultants to the project. Lipman Hearne has extensive global experience in marketing and communications in the higher education sector. They have previously worked with the University in 2003 and 2004 on an audit of its communications, and have worked with major universities such as Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, MIT and Princeton.

The Branding Project is aimed at developing the University's distinctive identity and helping to position it nationally and internationally as Australia's premier university. Expected outcomes from the project include enhancing the University's ability to attract top students, top staff and researchers, research funds and donations. Professor Coats pointed out that the University's current approach to marketing and branding was very disparate, with over 400 logos used on the University's suite of websites. The formation of the Community portfolio will provide co-ordination of some of these functions, particularly with the creation of a central postgraduate marketing unit and the appointment of a Director of Marketing and Communications.

Professor Coats noted that the University had underinvested in the areas of marketing and presentation, and could obtain better results for its current marketing expenditure, e.g. the practice of different sections of the University placing unrelated advertisements in the same publication. A more focussed brand and sense of the University's identity would provide a host of positive outcomes for prospective and current students, staff, alumni and the wider community with which the University engages.

The University Branding Project would progress in two phases as follows:

- Phase 1, Brand Assessment – this would involve situational analysis and market research, featuring interviews and focus groups with staff and students. Market research would be conducted with prospective students, alumni, donors, significant partners (corporate, Government, educational agents, etc.) and

media. A Brand Committee with 30 members representing internal stake holders would also be established, and the findings from Phase 1 would be presented to the University in late January 2008; and

- Phase 2, Brand Strategy – a statement of brand values would be developed, and concepts would be tested in January and February 2008. Once an umbrella brand was established, brand architecture and a style guide would also be developed. The aim was to conclude the project by April 2008.

The final section of the project was the development of a comprehensive internal communications strategy which would support the University Branding Project. A website was currently being developed, and regular briefing sessions (including a regular, fortnightly lunch) would be held.

The Chair invited members to discuss the presentation. The following comments were raised:

- Professor Coats was asked to comment on whether changes should be made to the University's postgraduate marketing processes before or after the University Branding project was completed. He replied that the two issues would be addressed in parallel;
- in response to a request for information about student representation on the project, Ms Chambers advised that the President of the University Union and three students from the Faculties of Arts, Law and Medicine were included on the focus group;
- Professor Coats reassured members that the project would attempt to ensure some flexibility across the University, acknowledging both the size and complexity of the organisation;
- a member asked if the project would also cover the branding of buildings and environments, to which Professor Coats responded it was not formally part of the project's brief, but was an issue being investigated by Campus Infrastructure;
- the SRC noted that Senate had approved the introduction of signage to recognise the traditional owners of the lands used by the University and asked if this would be addressed by the Project. Professor Coats advised that there were a number of ways this could be addressed, including signage and via the nomenclature committee (to determine the appropriate use of names for buildings and precincts);
- another member commented that the University's signage at its entrances were reasonably modest compared with other institutions. Ms Theobald advised that Campus Infrastructure has commissioned a company to review the University's entrance signs;
- the Chair asked if the project was looking at the general notion of the University of Sydney as a brand. Professor Coats advised that there had been an attempt to value the University brand, and the figure calculated had been in the billions. He agreed that it was important to support, maintain and protect the University brand;
- a query was raised regarding the number of staff involved in marketing across the University. Ms Theobald advised that a survey had been conducted in 2004 on the University's marketing expenditure which indicated that \$70 million (including staff salaries) was being spent across the University on marketing;

- a member commented that the University filled a number of different roles (e.g. it was a public university with public responsibilities, an elite institution providing leadership, etc.) and asked whether the project would emphasise one role over another. Professor Coats advised that the University was a variety of things to different sectors, and that its connection with the city of Sydney should also be acknowledged; and
- another member commented that the University had historically presented itself with a degree of understatement, which would hopefully be maintained. Professor Coats acknowledged this comment.

The Chair thanked Professor Coats for his presentation.

Resolution 240/07

That the Academic Board note the report on the University Branding Project.

5.2 The Academic User's Guide to Ethical Entrepreneurialism

The Chair advised members that the University Branding Project had raised the general issue of the University's reputation. This had led to discussions with the Provost about working ethically in a complex environment. He invited the Provost to discuss the topic.

Professor Nutbeam advised members that there had been vigorous discussion for some time across the University community regarding the sources of funding for some of the University's activities (e.g. the US Studies Centre, the proposed Institute of Nuclear Science, the Rio Tinto Centre for Mine Automation, various sponsored chairs, etc.). There had also been debate regarding the conditions under which the University accepts industry-related research grants, such as restrictions on the ownership of intellectual property, deferring publication of results, etc.

He commented that the University currently worked with a disparate range of policies and procedures relating to these matters, which had the potential to create confusion for staff. He also stressed the importance of the University's relations with both the public and private sectors if it was to contribute effectively to social and economic development of Australia.

Professor Nutbeam proposed that it would be an opportune time for the University to develop a single statement on these issues, including how it should deal with the associated real and perceived risks. He invited members to put forward their views on the range of issues such a statement could cover, noting that this information would feed into the development of terms of reference for a working party to develop the statement.

The Chair highlighted the second document issued in support of this topic, noting that it gathered together all of the University's policies in this area. He invited members to raise their own concerns, and members commented as follows:

- Professor Hancock commented on his own experiences as the holder of a sponsored Chair (Bluescope Steel Professor of Steel Structures, originally sponsored by BHP Steel) since 1990. He admitted that the sponsorship of the Chair had presented some

- interesting challenges, but also pointed out that it was the subject of regular scrutiny by the media. He supported the move to develop a single, overarching statement on these issues, and also expressed support for the creation of endowed positions. Professor Hancock stressed the importance of maintaining individual and corporate academic independence at the University;
- SUPRA expressed support for the creation of the statement and asked that it cover the University's relationships with external bodies, as well as the interaction of individual staff members with such bodies. The responsibilities of the University as a whole should also be highlighted in the new document;
 - Professor Murphy raised the issue of the codicil added by Senate to the Charter of Academic Freedom, and expressed his concern that it weakened the document. The Chair advised that he would be speaking with the Chancellor on this matter;
 - the SRC also expressed support for the proposed statement, and stressed the need for the University to protect its reputation. It was suggested that the statement should cover the activities of Sydnovate. SRC particularly applauded the student forums held to give background information on some of the recent partnerships entered into by the University and asked that these continue. There should also be student representation on the Working Party to develop the statement;
 - Associate Professor Masters spoke of his experience as the University's representative on the boards of a number of external organisations. He commented particularly on the lack of training provided to staff regarding students' intellectual property rights. He also noted that the entrepreneurial skills of staff varied widely, and students' exposure to such issues was highly dependent on which staff members they trained with. He recommended that more be done to share such skills with staff and students across the University; and
 - other members spoke in support of the initiative highlighting the need to maintain academic independence and to openly declare conflicts of interest where they occurred. A stronger emphasis on ethics was encouraged, as well as support for staff to actively participate in public discourse in their areas of expertise.

Professor Nutbeam asked if there were circumstances under which the University should accept funding that included conditions such as limiting how and when data is published, or organisations from which the University should never accept funding. He also asked if members thought there were circumstances under which the University should prevent public disclosure or public speaking by members of staff. Professor Chapman referred to the University's policy on tobacco industry funding, and noted that it was implicit that there would be other groups with which the University would not have dealings. He supported approaching these issues on the basis of principles, rather than listing specific industries or organisations.

With regard to accepting funding which limited the publication of data, Professor Crossley noted that there had been attempts to remove the phrase "not unreasonably hold up publication" from standard funding contracts, but this had not been welcomed by industry groups. He stated that a single policy statement for the entire University would help address this issue. Associate Professor Bennett agreed that it was critical to ensure contracts were correctly worded and that there

was a co-ordinated University-wide approach to such matters. A firm, University-wide policy would dramatically alter the current bargaining position for many staff, who would no longer feel that they were bargaining as individuals but with the backing of strong University policy.

The Chair asked members to comment on what the University's reaction would be to a staff member making a controversial statement, using the case of Associate Professor Andrew Fraser at Macquarie University as an example. Members in general responded that allowing such comments was the price of academic freedom. The broader community of the University might not agree with such statements but it should uphold the right of individuals to make such comments. It was also noted that University policy was quite clear about staff obligations not to injure the reputations of third parties, it was not clear what support the University would provide to staff where the situation was reversed.

Professor Nutbeam thanked members for supporting the proposal to develop the statement. The Chair also thanked members for their comments and encouraged them to contact him if they had further thoughts on the matter.

Resolution 241/07

That the Academic Board note the report titled "the Academic User's Guide to Ethical Entrepreneurialism".

★ 6. **Report of the Chair**

6.1 **General Report**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 17 September 2007**

The Chair asked that members note this report.

Resolution 242/07

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 17 September 2007.

6.2 **Honours and Distinctions**

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

Resolution 243/07

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.

6.3 **General Report**

6.3.1 **Semester and Vacation Dates for 2011 and 2012**

Members approved the semester and vacation dates for 2011 and 2012.

Resolution 244/07

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for 2011 and 2012, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to update “Semester and Vacation Dates – Academic Board Resolutions” on Policy OnLine.

File No. (2001/29)

6.3.2 Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards ACT & NSW

The Chair advised members that the Committee of Chairs of Academic Board in ACT and NSW had met at the University of Newcastle on 30 August 2007. Major issues covered at this meeting included:

- AUQA Cycle 2 – Professor Kevin McConkey (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle and an AUQA reviewer) spoke to the committee about the features of the second cycle of these reviews, highlighting in particular the shift from “fitness *for* purpose” to “fitness *of* purpose”;
- HSC Admissions and Bonus Points – there was general discussion regarding the UNSW *HSC Plus* admissions scheme which will be introduced for 2008. Other universities, including the University of Newcastle and the University of Technology Sydney, will be using a similar scheme for some courses

The Chair noted that the *HSC Plus* admissions scheme was contentious. The scheme would, for specific degrees, provide bonus points to students who performed well in one or more specific HSC subjects, and would effectively increase the student’s UAI by up to five points. The readjusted UAI would be used as the basis for admission. Concern had been expressed at the meeting that this was a *de facto* reintroduction of prerequisites.

He advised that the Admissions Sub-Committee would be monitoring the scheme and that he was liaising with the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies (given that undergraduate Engineering admissions would be a focus of these new admission schemes). Professor Hancock advised that early indications showed that the University had increased its first preferences for Engineering by about 3% for 2008. The Chair commented that prospective students used the published UAI cut-offs as a guide for admissions, and that the new admission schemes would make students’ choices more complicated. He also noted that those universities with declining enrolments were more likely to adopt the new admissions processes.

Associate Professor Drynan queried whether there was any difference between these new admission schemes and the University’s current practice of providing extra points under some admission schemes (e.g. Rural and Regional entry, the Broadway Scheme, etc). The Chair advised that the University’s admission processes did not alter the student’s existing UAI or the University’s advertised cut-off, but allowed flexible entry to students with UAIs up to five points below the

advertised cut-off. In comparison, *HSC Plus* would involve the UAC processing the bonus marks for UNSW and adding them to the student's UAI.

Associate Professor Masters advised members that he is on the board of the UAC, which would meet in the next week. He invited members to contact him if they had any comments regarding the *HSC Plus* scheme.

Resolution 245/07

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the August meeting of the Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards ACT & NSW.

6.3.3 Senate Focus Topic: Role and function of the Academic Board

The Chair advised members that the annual national meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards would be held before the end of the month, and would include discussion of a number of issues including recognition of prior learning, advanced standing and the role of Academic Boards. He noted that there was a growing interest in the role and function of Academic Boards, and advised that he had presented a focus topic on this issue at Senate's last meeting. He further noted that the paper circulated with the agenda was based on his presentation to the Academic Board in May, and that it had been expanded to include further information on the Board's processes.

Resolution 246/07

That the Academic Board note the paper submitted by the Chair to Senate on the role and function of the Academic Board.

6.3.4 Actions taken on behalf of the Academic Board

The Chair advised members that he had approved the following requests on behalf of the Academic Board:

- approval of a request from the Faculty of Medicine to allow the early submission of a PhD thesis; and
- approval of a request from the Sydney College of the Arts to grant twelve months credit to a PhD candidate based on their previous research studies at another university.

Associate Professor Drynan pointed out that the recommendation was incorrectly worded, as the Academic Board need only note the Chair's actions with regard to the early submission of the PhD thesis. Members approved the revised recommendation and approved the Chair's approval of the request to grant credit for previous research studies.

Resolution 247/07

That the Academic Board:

- (i) note the Chair's approval of a request from the Faculty of Medicine to allow the early submission of a PhD thesis, and
- (ii) approve the Chair's approval of a request from the Sydney College of the Arts to grant twelve months

credit to a PhD candidate based on their previous research studies at another university, as set out in the report presented.

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

7.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

7.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 17 September 2007**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor asked members to note the report of the Senate meeting on 17 September 2007.

Resolution 248/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 17 September 2007.

7.2 **General report**

Professor Nutbeam advised members the University had done very well in the recent round of ARC and NHMRC grants, with over \$58.8 million received in ARC grants and over \$55 million received in NHMRC grants. The University continued to lead the sector in ARC grants, and was second only to the University of Melbourne in NHMRC grants. He congratulated all the successful grant recipients, and encouraged members to investigate the NHMRC grant schemes, noting that while the funds available via the ARC were essentially static, the funds in the NHMRC continued to grow.

Professor Nutbeam advised that the University had also done well in the 2007 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, and had improved on its 2006 standing. The University was ranked in the top eight for 2007 and had received more funding than all other universities with the exception of Monash University. The awarding of funds under this scheme had created some controversy, with some major shifts in ranking of universities between 2006 and 2007.

Finally, the Federal Government had announced a \$3.5 million funding grant to support the development of infrastructure for the Faculty of Dentistry.

Members publicly acknowledged the work of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Director of the Research Office, the Director of Research Development and the staff of the Research Office for their work in obtaining ARC and NHMRC funding for the University.

Resolution 249/07

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

Action: Chair of the Academic Board to write to the Director, Research Office, thanking him and his staff for their work on the 2007 ARC and NHMRC grant applications.

★ 8. **Question time**

Associate Professor McCallum submitted the following question to the Chair and the Vice-Chancellor:

My question is directed to the Chair of the Academic Board and to the Vice Chancellor since both have responsibilities for policies in this area. In the light of recent reports in the press, public concerns by the SRC and documents in the public domain, do you have confidence that the University's policies on plagiarism and academic honesty can currently be implemented throughout the University without hypocrisy or without the reasonable perception of hypocrisy? I ask this question because it would be a matter of concern to this Board if the documents, left unexplained, caused student confusion about the University's expectations, or ended up providing an avenue of defence for students caught up in charges of plagiarism.

The Chair responded as follows:

If it is not addressed, plagiarism can have a corrosive impact on our University life. It can literally eat away at the academic integrity of the institution. If not addressed, plagiarism can devalue the academic achievement of students and staff of the University, and undermines public confidence in the University, and in the qualifications of its graduates.

It is for these reasons that the University takes plagiarism so seriously. This is reflected in the University policy on student plagiarism, the Academic Board policy on academic honesty, and the University staff code of conduct, as well as individual faculty policy and practices to prevent and detect plagiarism. From these policies it will be obvious that we have high expectations of students, and equally high expectations that staff will provide leadership by example.

Plagiarism can take many forms. The University policy on plagiarism is clear on this, distinguishing between plagiarism that occurs as a result of carelessness, laziness or other forms of academic negligence, and plagiarism that occurs as a result of a more deliberate intent to represent the work of others as your own.

In all cases where plagiarism is suspected or alleged, it is important that the matter is properly considered on an individual case by case basis, and that individuals have the opportunity to respond to any allegations of plagiarism that are made against them. These principles apply to all members of the academic community.

Similarly, all members of the academic community have the right to expect that such considerations will remain confidential.

It is for these reasons that I am only able to comment that the University takes the issue of plagiarism very seriously and that its policies are applied consistently.

The Chair sought the support of members to present the following statement to Senate:

The Academic Board wishes to re-affirm to Senate its commitment to the following statement of academic values in Strategic Directions 2006-2010:

"We will dedicate our individual talents and the available resources of the University to uphold and advance:

- freedom to pursue critical and open inquiry in a responsible manner;
- recognition of the importance of ideas and ideals;
- tolerance, honesty, respect and ethical behaviour; and
- understanding of the needs of those we serve.”

Because academic honesty is a core value of the University of Sydney, the Academic Board also wishes to re-affirm to Senate its commitment to the principle that the University’s approach to suspected cases of academic dishonesty should be:

- Equitable;
- Consistent;
- Procedurally fair;
- Timely; and
- Effective.

The Chair opened the matter for discussion, and the following points were raised:

- Associate Professor Drynan referred to Professor Murphy’s earlier comments regarding the Charter of Academic Freedom. He supported the statement as proposed by the Chair of the Academic Board but noted that the Charter had been passed by Senate subject to a codicil and expressed a hope that Senate would reconsider this alteration of the Charter in light of the proposed statement from the Chair; and
- Associate Professor Masters also expressed support for the statement but stressed the need for caution with regard to some of the content. He particularly highlighted the potential for the Academic Board to be seen as hypocritical if it focussed on the need for confidentiality in this particular case without also expressing concern about the unauthorised release of documents into the public domain.

The Chair invited members to vote in support of the statement, and the statement was endorsed unanimously.

Associate Professor Masters noted the recent criticisms of University of Sydney researchers made in the media by Federal Ministers Hockey and Costello. Given that the criticisms were directed at the researchers rather than the research, and referring back to the discussions on the University Brand Project, he asked if the Acting Vice-Chancellor believed that Government funding was becoming more politicised.

Professor Nutbeam agreed that there were concerns about this matter, given that the current Federal Government had attempted to influence the outcome of research grant distribution processes. He also advised that he was seeking the advice of the General Counsel as to how the University can defend staff in similar circumstances to the one mentioned.

Associate Professor Julian asked if there were any plans to improve the furnishings in the Professorial Board Room. The Chair advised that he had raised the matter with the Chief Operating Officer, and that he was currently working with the University architects on a refurbishment proposal.

Resolution 250/07

That the Academic Board:

- (i) present to Senate the statement of its re-affirmed commitment to academic values; and
- (ii) note the questions and responses provided.

9. Reports of Faculties and Boards

9.1 Report of the Faculty of Education and Social Work

9.1.1 Semester and Vacation Dates 2008

Resolution 251/07

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Education and Social Work for the year 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Education and Social Work to note the Academic Board's approval of the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty for the year 2008.

File No. (2001/29)

9.2 Report of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery

9.2.1 Semester and Vacation Dates 2008

Resolution 252/07

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery for the year 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty for the year 2008.

File No. (2001/29)

9.3 Report of the Faculty of Medicine

9.3.1 Semester and Vacation Dates 2008

Resolution 253/07

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Medicine for the year 2008, 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 semester and vacation dates for the Faculty for the year 2008.

File No. (2001/29)

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 advised members that the Honours Working Party was currently investigating the awarding of degrees with merits, and that a discussion paper had been circulated to faculties for comment. A report on this issue would be made to the Academic Board before the end of the year.

Resolution 254/07

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

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 18 September 2007

10.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses

10.2.1.1 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health)

Resolution 255/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to delete the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health),
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete this course; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, and the rescission of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course,
- (3) approve the deletion of the Faculty Resolutions relating to the course with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and the rescission of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health).

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health).

File No. (2002/4489)

10.2.2 Amendment to Faculty Resolutions

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning

(1) Bachelor of Design in Architecture

Resolution 256/07

That the Academic Board approve the amended Faculty Resolutions from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning for the Bachelor of Design in Architecture and approve the Faculty requirements related to the pass degree, with effect from 1 January 2008, 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 the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

File No. (003/0014/00007)

(2) Bachelor of Design Computing

Resolution 257/07

That the Academic Board approve the amended Faculty Resolutions from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning for the Bachelor of Design Computing and approve the Faculty requirements related to the pass degree, with effect from 1 January 2008, 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 the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Design Computing.

File No. (003/0014/00008)

10.2.3 Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee Meeting held on 21 August 2007

10.2.3.1 English Language Requirements

Resolution 258/07

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the policy "Admission to Undergraduate Courses" as set out in the report.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the policy "Admission to Undergraduate Courses" on Policy OnLine.

File No. (P23)

10.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 259/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 18 September 2007, as set out in the report presented.

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

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11.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee advised that the Provost's Working Group on Postgraduate Coursework had met for a second time and was currently developing a discussion paper which would be circulated in the near future.

Resolution 260/07

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

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 11 September 2007

11.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses

11.2.1.1 Faculty of Arts: Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, Graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies, Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies

Resolution 261/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to amend the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, the Graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies,
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the amendment of these courses, noting that there are no amendments to the related Resolutions of Senate, and
- (3) note the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to these courses, and approve the faculty requirements relating to distance education

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

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the proposal to amend the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, the Graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies in the Faculty of Arts.

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

File No. (TBA)

11.2.1.2 Faculty of Economics and Business: Master of Commerce/Master of Professional Accounting

Resolution 262/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce the Master of Commerce/Master of Professional Accounting combined degree,
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal;
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates

- in the Faculty of Economics and Business; and
- (c) approve the introduction of Resolutions of Senate relating to the course; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the combined degree;
- with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the amendment of Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business, the introduction of Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Commerce/Master of Professional Accounting and the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Commerce and the Master of Professional Accounting.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Master of Commerce/Master of Professional Accounting combined degree.

File No. (003/0017/00008, 2007/8502)

11.2.2 Amendments to Resolutions of Senate

11.2.2.1 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Surgery and Graduate Diploma in Surgery

Resolution 263/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Surgery and Graduate Diploma in Surgery,
- (2) note the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to these courses, and approve the faculty requirements relating to admission

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

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Surgery and Graduate Diploma in Surgery.

File No. (2003/5088, 2003/5089)

11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 264/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 11 September 2007, as set out in the report presented.

12. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee

(Associate Professor Greg Ryan)

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12.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee advised members that he had nothing further to add to what was in the report.

Resolution 265/07

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

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 11 September 2007

12.2.1 Use of Bonus Marks

Resolution 266/07

That the Academic Board note the report on the use of Bonus Marks.

12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 267/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 11 September 2007, as set out in the report presented.

13. Report of the Research and Research Training Committee

(Professor Robyn Overall)

★

13.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee reminded members the report of the Doctoral Theses Examination Working Party had been held over from the last meeting of the Academic Board to allow time for Associate Professor Kril and Associate Professor Masters to confer. A number of amendments had been made to the recommendations in the report as a result, and these were detailed in the supplementary agenda. An action plan would be developed for the implementation of the changes outlined in the report, including the development of a manual of best practice and workshops for postgraduate co-ordinators.

Professor Overall also advised members that the new Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research had recently been published. She proposed liaising with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) to review the University's policies against the new Code.

Resolution 268/07

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

13.2 Item held over from the Report of the meeting held on 7 August 2007

13.2.1 Report of the Doctoral Theses Examination Working Party

Resolution 269/07

That the Academic Board note the report of the Doctoral Theses Examination Working Party and approve the following

recommendations of the Working Party, as set out in the report presented:

- (1) using the current system of a primary supervisor and one or more associate supervisors faculties should be encouraged to:
 - (a) explore ways of increasing the pool of supervisors by including members of their profession/discipline from outside the University as associate supervisors;
 - (b) view the inclusion of junior members of academic staff, postdoctoral research fellows, and similarly qualified persons as associate supervisors as an opportunity for mentoring less experienced supervisors and contributing to the career development of those staff; and
 - (c) ensure that associate supervisors are active participants in the supervisory process;
- (2) formalise the procedures for annual review to include content review by supervisory panel as well as broader review by faculty/school; and
 - (a) revise the annual report forms to include evaluation of the "milestones" for each stage of candidacy in addition to the resource and supervision aspects of candidacy covered in the existing forms;
 - (b) develop a manual of "best practice" with respect to the administration and monitoring of RHD candidacies for distribution to faculties; and
 - (c) develop a training program for postgraduate coordinators and others responsible for monitoring candidacies and conducting annual reviews.
- (3) establish a working party to examine ways to facilitate the participation of RHD candidates in existing short courses and units of study;
- (4) require supervisors to attest to the prima facie worthiness of a thesis for examination prior to it being sent for examination;
- (5) change the examiners report form and instructions to better reflect the differences between the recommendations;
- (6) maintain the current practice of three examiners, at least two of whom must be external to the University;
- (7) remove the provision for examiners to consult prior to submission of their report.
- (8) alter the appointment of examiners form to include a statement that the examiner's report is to be an independent assessment and to more clearly articulate the requirements for appointment as examiner;
- (9) form clusters of administrative units for doctoral research candidates; and
- (10) adopt a universal definition of examination times to facilitate proper analysis and comparison of performance.

Action: The Executive Officer to confer with the Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee and the Chair of the PhD Award Sub-Committee to develop an implementation plan.

(File 2003/2364, P17)

13.3.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses

13.3.1.1 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Master of Philosophy (Nursing)

Resolution 270/07

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Philosophy(Nursing);
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the rescission of the existing Resolutions of Senate relating to the course and the insertion of new Resolutions of Senate; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements related to the Master of Philosophy (Nursing) with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the rescission of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Philosophy (Nursing) in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and the introduction of new Resolutions of Senate relating to the course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Philosophy (Nursing).

File No. (2002/3752)

13.3.2 Amendments to Faculty Requirements

13.3.2.1 Faculty of Pharmacy: Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy

Resolution 271/07

That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Pharmacy to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Pharmacy to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy.

File No. (2003/5095)

13.3.3 Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 28 August 2007

13.3.3.1 Conferral of Examiners

Resolution 272/07

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the resolutions relating to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board resolutions relating to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy on Policy OnLine.

File No. (P17)

13.3.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 273/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 18 September 2007, as set out in the report presented.

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

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14.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee advised members that he had no further matters on which to report.

Resolution 274/07

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

14.2 Report of the meeting held on 8 August 2007

14.2.1 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 275/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 8 August 2007, as set out in the report presented.

14.3 Report of the meeting held on 12 September 2007

14.3.1 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 276/07

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 12 September 2007, as set out in the report presented.

15. General Business

There were no items of general business.

The meeting closed at 3:40 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date