

## AGENDA ITEM 13

## Report of the Research and Research Training Committee

**13.2 Report of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 19 March 2008**

The Committee met on 19 March 2008 when there were present: The Chair (Professor J Trehwella) presiding, Professors M Behnia, J Christodoulou, E Cowley, T Hambley, A Masri, K Refshauge, J Stubbs and B Sutton, Associate Professors J Bobis, P McCallum and A Mitchell, Drs A Ammit, D Cabrera, J Clegg and H McKenzie, and Mr W Dawson and Ms M Fairskye. Ms M Kemmis was in attendance.

**13.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses****13.2.1.1 Faculty of Law: Doctor of Juridical Studies** *pages G4-G6*

The PhD Award Sub-Committee has asked the Faculty of Law to review and amend the faculty requirements relating to the appointment of examiners for the Doctor of Juridical Studies. The Faculty has provided the attached report outlining the amendment to this clause, which now aligns with the Federal Government's requirements with respect to higher research degrees, i.e. both examiners are to be external to the University.

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board:*

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to amend the Doctor of Juridical Studies; and*
- (2) *approve the faculty requirements relating to the appointment of examiners*

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

**13.2.2 Academic Board Resolutions: Student appeals against academic decisions**

*pages B2, B5-B16*

The Academic Board Resolutions relating to Student Appeals against Academic Decisions outline the procedures to be followed by students and staff when dealing with appeals at the local and faculty level. These resolutions have undergone a major review following the introduction and implementation of the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006*. The full report on these changes can be found on pages B2 and B5-B16 of the Report of the Chair of the Academic Board.

The Research and Research Training Committee specifically reviewed the section on appeals by postgraduate research students and supported the proposed changes subject to some minor amendments.

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board approve the amended Academic Board Resolutions relating to student appeals against academic decisions, as set out in the report presented.*

**13.2.3 Academic Board Phase Three Faculty Review Reports**

*pages F1-F2, F8-F64*

The Academic Board commenced Phase Three of its Faculty Reviews in late 2007. The reports of these reviews will be submitted to the Academic Board via the Learning & Teaching Committee, and also via the Research and Research Training Committee. The full copies of the reports have been enclosed with the report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting of 19 March 2008 (see pages F1-F2 and F8-F64).

The Research and Research Training Committee considered the recommendations in the following Faculty Review Reports which related to research issues.

### 13.2.3.1 Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Phase Three Academic Board Faculty Review of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.*

### 13.2.3.2 Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Phase Three Academic Board Faculty Review of the Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies.*

### 13.2.3.3 Faculty of Science

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Phase Three Academic Board Faculty Review of the Faculty of Science.*

### 13.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

**(1) Policy on Supporting Postgraduate Research Students**

The Committee had noted a draft policy from SUPRA on the issue of supporting postgraduate research students at its meeting of 6 February 2008. The policy was further discussed at the Committee's March meeting and it was agreed that Professor Bruce Sutton would chair a working party to review the draft policy, comprising himself, Professor Trevor Hambley, Professor Kathryn Refshauge and Associate Professor Peter McCallum. The group would seek input and advice from SUPRA, the deans and faculties and other units with a view to redrafting the existing document as a policy on the minimum resource requirements for postgraduate student research, with the draft document to be submitted to the Committee and the Academic Board. A statement of aspirational goals might also be developed but would not necessarily be part of the policy. The revised policy would look at balancing student demand with resource availability and distribution across the University.

**(2) Research Management Program: Roll-out of Research Information Management System (RIMS)**

The Director of the Research Office made a presentation to the Committee regarding the introduction of the Research Information Management System (RIMS). It was noted that the Research Office would be establishing a website to provide further advice about the system to staff of the University.

The Director also reported to the Committee regarding the recent round of ARC and NHMRC grant applications.

**(3) Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- the approval of the award of the Doctor of Medicine to a higher doctorate candidate in the Faculty of Medicine; and
- the appointment of Associate Professor Jillian Kril as Deputy Chair of the Research & Research Training Committee.

**(4) Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies**

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- a Postgraduate Induction evening was successfully held on 12 March 2008; and
- the successful trial in 2007 of the single-list process for allocation of Australian Postgraduate Awards (APAs) and University Postgraduate Awards (UPAs).

**(5) Other Reports**

The Committee also noted:

- the reports of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meetings held on 22 January 2008 and by circulation in February 2008; and
- the report of the Academic Board meeting of 27 February 2008.

## Resolutions of the Faculty

### Faculty of Law

Clause 5.2 in the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Doctor of Juridical Studies in the Faculty of Law is amended, with effect from 1 January 2008, as follows (additions indicated by underlined, deletions indicated by strikethrough):

### Doctor of Juridical Studies

#### 1. Admission

1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature shall:

1.1.1 lodge an application with the Faculty; and

1.1.2 submit with the application an outline of the proposed course of advanced study and research, including both the area of the proposed thesis and proposals for related coursework units of study.

1.2 An application for admission to part-time candidature shall submit with the application a written undertaking that the applicant will:

1.2.1 have sufficient time available to complete the requirements for the degree in accordance with section 7.2 and within the maximum period prescribed in section 7.2.2 of these resolutions; and

1.2.2 be able to attend at the University at such times and on such occasions for purposes of consultation and participation in departmental activities, as may be required on the recommendation of the head of department concerned or the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research).

1.3 The Postgraduate Research Committee of the Faculty (hereafter referred to as the Committee) may admit an applicant to candidature for the degree if:

1.3.1 the candidate's application complies with section 1.1 and 1.2, and

1.3.2 (except as provided in section 1.4 of these resolutions) the applicant holds or has fulfilled the requirements for:

1.3.2.1 the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) of the University of Sydney with First or Second Class Honours, or

1.3.2.2 the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) of the University of Sydney by coursework at a level of attainment prescribed by the resolution of the Postgraduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Law.

1.4 On the recommendation of the Faculty, the Academic Board may admit to candidature for the degree an applicant whose application complies with section 1.1 and 1.2, and who:

1.4.1.1 is either a law graduate of another university or college of advanced education; or

1.4.1.2 a person accepted by the Faculty and by the Academic Board as having standing equivalent to that required of a law graduate of the University who is qualified for admission to candidature for the degree; and

1.4.1.3 is recommended by the Faculty as being suitably prepared in the particular field of study in which the applicant proposes to be a candidate.

#### 2. Requirements for the SJD

2.1 Candidates shall pursue an approved course of advanced study and research comprising:

2.1.1 three postgraduate coursework units of study offered for the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) at the University of Sydney which relate to the thesis referred to in 4.1.2 below and completed in accordance with the resolutions relating to that degree;

2.1.2 three postgraduate research units of study which until the Faculty otherwise prescribes shall be:

2.1.2.1 Legal Research 1

2.1.2.2 Legal Research 2

2.1.2.3 Legal Research 3; and

2.1.3 a thesis.

2.2 With the approval of the Committee a candidate may complete up to two of the postgraduate coursework units of study referred to in section

2.1.1 in another faculty of this University or at another University, provided that:

2.2.1 no unit of study for which credit is granted is the basis for the award of any other degree;

2.2.2 the unit or units of study are passed at a level, or with such additional assessment or other requirements, as may be determined by the Committee in each case.

2.3 With the approval of the Committee a candidate may in exceptional circumstances complete one unit of study referred to in section 2.1.1 in either an undergraduate course offered by this Faculty or in another faculty of this University or at another university, provided that:

2.3.1 no unit of study for which credit is granted is the basis for the award of any other degree;

2.3.2 the unit of study is passed at a level, or with such additional assessment or other requirements, as may be determined by the Committee in each case.

2.4 The Committee may approve a variation in a candidate's course of study and research.

### **3. Credit for previous studies**

#### *3.1 Coursework degrees*

3.1.1 The Committee may grant a candidate credit for:

3.1.1.1 up to three postgraduate coursework units of study completed for the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) in this Faculty; or

3.1.1.2 up to two postgraduate coursework units of study in respect of units of study completed in another faculty of this University or at another university, provided that:

3.1.1.2.1 no unit of study for which credit is granted has been a basis for the award of any other degree;

3.1.1.2.2 the units of study were passed at a level or with such additional assessment or other requirements as may be determined by the Board in each case;

3.1.1.2.3 the units of study were completed within six years immediately preceding the commencement of candidature for the degree of Doctor of Juridical Studies (SJD); and

3.1.1.2.4 each unit of study falls within the scope of the approved course of study and research under section 4.

#### *3.2 Research degrees*

3.2.1 The Board may grant credit for the whole or any part of a period of candidature undertaken for the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) by thesis or the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in this Faculty provided that the candidate has abandoned candidature for the degree for which credit is sought and the period of candidature for which credit is sought:

3.2.1.1 involved a course of advanced study and research related to the candidate's proposed course of advanced study and research for the degree of Doctor of Juridical Studies (SJD); and

3.2.1.2 was taken within six years immediately preceding the commencement of the degree of Doctor of Juridical Studies (SJD).

### **4. The thesis**

4.1 The candidate for the SJD shall present a thesis which is a substantially original contribution to the subject concerned.

4.2 The thesis shall have an upper limit of 75,000 words of text that may be exceeded only with permission from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research).

4.3 The candidate shall state:

4.3.1 the sources from which the information is derived;

4.3.2 the extent to which the work of others has been made use of; and

4.3.3 the portion of the work the candidate claims as original.

4.4 The topic of the thesis shall be approved by the Committee.

4.5.1 The Committee on the recommendation of the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research) shall appoint a supervisor who shall be a member of the academic staff of the Faculty.

4.5.2 In appropriate cases the Committee may appoint an associate supervisor.

4.6 A candidate may not present as the thesis any work which has been presented for a degree at this or another university, but the candidate will not be precluded from incorporating such work in the thesis, provided that, in presenting the thesis, the candidate indicates the part of the work which has been so incorporated.

4.7 A candidate shall submit to the Faculty three copies of the thesis in a form prescribed by the Committee.

4.8 The thesis shall be accompanied by a certificate from the supervisor stating whether, in the supervisor's opinion, the form of presentation of the thesis is satisfactory.

4.9 When the degree has been awarded, a copy of the thesis incorporating any required emendations and revisions shall be lodged in the University Library.

## **5. Appointment of examiners**

5.1 On receiving the thesis and having considered the certificate of the supervisor, the Committee shall, if it thinks fit, appoint examiners.

5.2 If the Committee resolves to appoint examiners it shall appoint at least two external examiners, ~~one of whom shall be external.~~

5.3 The Committee shall report the names of the examiners appointed to the Academic Board, which may appoint one or more additional examiners.

5.4 In any case where the Committee, having received the thesis and having considered the report of the supervisor, resolves not to appoint examiners, it shall report the circumstances for its decision to the Academic Board.

## **6. Degree result**

6.1 Upon completion of the coursework at the level prescribed by the Board and after consideration of the reports of the examiners on the thesis, the Committee shall submit the reports, together with a recommendation concerning the award of the degree, to the Academic Board which shall determine the result of the candidature.

## **7. Time limits**

7.1 Subject to section 7.2 a candidate may proceed either on a full-time or part-time basis.

7.2 Except in special circumstances and with the approval of the Committee:

7.2.1 the maximum length of candidature for a full time candidate shall be eight semesters (excluding any period of approved suspended candidature);

7.2.2 the maximum length of part time candidature shall be 16 semesters (excluding any period of approved suspended candidature).

7.3 A candidate shall prepare annually, before enrolment, a statement of the work done by the candidate towards completion of the requirements for the degree and submit it to the appointed supervisor.

7.4 The supervisor shall also prepare annually a report on the work done by the candidate, which shall be shown to the candidate for comment, and the candidate shall sign the report as having sighted the contents.

7.5 Both reports shall then be forwarded to the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research).

7.6 Where, in the opinion of the Committee, a candidate has not made satisfactory progress towards completing the requirements for the degree, the Committee may call upon the candidate to show cause why the candidature should not be terminated for lack of satisfactory progress.

## **8. Suspension of Candidature**

8.1 The Postgraduate Research Committee, or the Committee's nominee, may on written application by a candidate suspend the candidature on the grounds and conditions the Committee or its nominee thinks fit.

8.1.1 Any period of suspension does not count towards any period which the course of study would otherwise have been required to be completed.

8.2 The Postgraduate Research Committee, or the Committee's nominee, may on written application by a candidate permit a candidate who has been admitted to candidature but has not enrolled for a first time to defer enrolment for one year.

## **9. Satisfactory progress**

9.1 The Postgraduate Research Committee, or the Committee's nominee, may require a candidate to show cause why the candidature should not be terminated for unsatisfactory progress, in any of the following circumstances:

9.1.1 a candidate has not completed all the requirements of the degree within the time specified in seven of these resolutions: or

9.1.2 the candidate has obtained failures in any two units of study or two failures in one unit of study.

9.2 If the Postgraduate Research Committee considers that the candidate has not shown good cause why the candidature should not be terminated, the Committee may terminate the candidature.