



Academic Board Agenda

Executive Officer: Megan Kemmis

Secretariat, Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9351 3306; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: admin@academicboard.usyd.edu.au

Web site: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab>

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA for the meeting on Wednesday 10 December 2008

Pages

★ 1. **Apologies**

Apologies have been received from:

Professors M Adams, A Boyd, D Day, S Garton, C Rhodes, J Trehwella (Professor J Kril attending in her stead) and J White, Associate Professors T Gerzina, A Holland, I Odeh, N O'Dwyer and A Twomey, Drs S Cox, K Cramer, S Mansfield, L Scanlon, M-A Schnabel and B Winter, and Mr A McLeod and Mr D Trembath.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

3.1 **Meeting of 12 November 2008**

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Recommendation

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2008, as amended, as a true record.

★ 6. **Report of the Chair**

6.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 1 December 2008**

Please note that this item will be held over to the February 2009 meeting.

6.2 **Honours and Distinctions**

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Recommendation

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.

6.3.7 **Eulogy – Professor Hans Freeman**

Associate Professor Tony Masters, of the Faculty of Science, will present a eulogy to Professor H Freeman.

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

7.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

7.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 1 December 2008**

Please note that this item will be held over to the February 2009 meeting.

12. **Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee**
(Associate Professor Simon Barrie)

Appendix G

Corrected recommendation:

12.2.3 Retiring Members of the Committee

G1-G2

Recommendation

That the Academic Board recognise and thank Associate Professors Greg Ryan and David Airey and Dr Diane Collins for their exemplary service on the Learning and Teaching Committee.

14. **Report of the Academic Staffing Committee**
(Professor Belinda Bennett)

★ 14.1 **Oral report of the Chair**

Recommendation

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

14.2 **Report of the meeting held on 3 December 2008**

14.2.1 **Membership of the Committee**

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Recommendation

That the Academic Board approve the co-option of Ms Anderson as a member of the Academic Staffing Committee.

14.2.2 **Proceedings of the Committee**

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Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 3 December 2008, as set out in the report presented.

AGENDA ITEM 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Meeting of 12 November 2008

Members are asked to note the following amendment to the minutes with regard to Item 8:

Professor Masters advised members that he had been on the Senate/Sports Union Liaison Committee responsible for Elite Athlete scholarships for a number of years. That Committee received regular summary reports on the aggregated academic progress of Elite Athlete scholarship holders. He expressed concern that ~~these scholarship holders as a group did not achieve as well as the general cohort~~ while these students achieved very good marks overall their mark distributions were below those expected, and individually they often did not do as well as would be indicated by their UAs. He noted that the University was not as successful in bringing the best out of these students academically as it was in promoting their sporting achievements and suggested that the Academic Board liaise with Sydney University Sports to look at ways to improve such students' academic performance. He added that any systems or processes resulting from such investigations could potentially assist other groups of ~~under-performing students~~ to realise their full potential. The Chair agreed to look into this issue.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2008, as amended, as a true record.

AGENDA ITEM 6
Report of the Chair

6.2 Honours and Distinctions

I am pleased to report the following honours and distinctions and recommend the Academic Board extend its congratulations to the recipients:

Professor Nalini Joshi, Faculty of Science

Elected as President of the Australian Mathematical Society.

Dr Ali Abbas and Mr S. Mostafa Nowee, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies

Winner of the 2008 Process Systems Enterprise Model-Based Innovation Prize (together with Professor J Romagnoli, Louisiana State University).

Recommendation

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.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report of the Academic Staffing Committee

14.2 Report of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 3 December 2008

The Committee met on 3 December 2008 when there were present: The Chair (Professor B Bennett) presiding, Professors D Armstrong, G Barnes, D Day, G Hancock, C Murphy, D Nutbeam and I Ramzan, Associate Professors G Sullivan and P McCallum, and Mr S Malcolm and Mr C Streeter. Ms B Anderson and Ms M Kemmis was in attendance.

14.2.1 Membership of the Committee

The Academic Staffing Committee would like to co-opt the Senior Policy Officer, Sydney People (Ms Beth Anderson) to membership of the Committee. Ms Anderson is the key officer involved in the development and review of the University's personnel policies and would

Recommendation

That the Academic Board approve the co-optation of Ms Anderson as a member of the Academic Staffing Committee.

14.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

(1) Partner Hiring

The Committee noted an article on the growing issue of partner hiring, or spousal appointments. It was noted that this issue was common amongst most universities, and was likely to be amongst the issues considered under the Work Slate's Human Resources projects.

(2) Academic Promotions

The Committee noted the development of an on-line system for academic promotions which would be introduced for the 2009 promotions round. The Committee also further discussed the use of the title "Emeritus Professor", noting that the Australian National University had recently introduced a policy of allowing retired professors to continue using the title "Professor" without the "Emeritus" qualifier. It was noted that this was only in cases where the staff members remained active within the University. The Committee agreed to consider this matter further in early 2009.

(3) Survey of Teaching Support Staff

The Committee noted the considerable work undertaken by SydneyPeople to identify and classify the variety of ancillary and teaching support staff currently involved with the University. It was agreed that SydneyPeople would undertake a survey of staff (other than permanent, fixed-term and casual employees) engaged in teaching across a number of faculties. This information would then be referred back to the Committee for further consideration and recommendation.

(4) Other Reports

The Committee also noted:

- the schedule of meeting dates for 2009; and
- the report of the Academic Board meeting of 12 November 2008.