



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 27 August 2008 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Dr M Spence), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professor B Bennett, Associate Professors P McCallum and G Ryan, Dr J Hanrahan), Professors C Armour, D Armstrong, A Brewer, E Cowley, M Crossley, D Day, S Garton, G Hancock, W Julian, D Nutbeam, C Rhodes, E Schwarz, G Triggs, K Trigwell, K Walker and J White, Associate Professors M Boughton, C Collyer, R Ewing, M Halliwell, T Masters, R Magnusson, M Thompson (for Professor G Llewellyn), A Twomey and M Walton, Drs T Anthony, D Auld, J Callen, S Cox, K Cramer, S Cumming, L Cutcher, M Fisher, R Gibson, N Gurr, B Jones, G Macdonald, P Marks, K Nelson, I Odeh, L Scanlon, T Schofield, J Slapeta and R Stanton, Mr P Ball, Ms M Fairskye, Ms A Freimund (for Ms S Tolerton), Mr S Greenland, Ms J Henderson, Ms P Kamvounias, Ms K Laing, Ms R Santos, Ms L-M Syron, Mr R Walpole and Mr N Ware.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Mr T Robinson, Acting Registrar).

Present as observers: Ms A Griffiths (Secretariat), Ms S Paynter (Provost's Office) and Mr W Chan (Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning).

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

BS: Welcome to Dr Spence and Mr Robinson (Acting Registrar)

★ 1. Apologies

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors M Adams, A Aspromourgos, A Boyd, J-A Brien, A Coats, R Jeremy, S Kable, G Llewellyn (Associate Professor M Thompson attending in her stead), B Paltridge, B Robinson, J Trehella and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors A Bashford, A Fekete, A Jamalipour, S Newberry and S Willcock, Drs V Barrs, F Collyer, M Edmond, C Grupen, D Higgins, S Ronaldson, M-A Schnabel and C Taylor, and Ms C Blomley, Mr J Conomos, Ms A Freeborn, Mr A McLeod, Ms C McNally, Ms J Mooney, Ms S Tolerton (Ms A Freimund attending in her stead), Mr D Trembath and Mr G Weary.

★ 2. Arrangement of agenda

★ 2.1 Starring of items

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items. The following items were starred: 7.1 and 9.2.2.3.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 189/08

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 190/08

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2008, as a true record.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes.

★ 5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Report on Senate matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 4 August 2008

Members noted that this item would be held over to the next meeting.

5.2 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. He particularly highlighted the large number of Australian Learning and Teaching Council awards won by University staff.

Resolution 191/08

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 Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk

The Chair recommended to the Academic Board that it approve a slight, but important, modification to the Board's policy "Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk". He noted that there were likely to be further modifications to the policy later in the year following the review of the policy and its implementation by Professor Jocalyn Lawler. However he highlighted that there was a major inconsistency in nomenclature between the University's existing rules and policies and the "Students at Risk" policy, namely the use of the term "degree courses" rather than the more widely used, and more accurate, term "award courses".

Mr Greenland (Co-President of SUPRA) asked if the amendment would have the effect of extending the application of the policy to postgraduate research students. The Chair pointed out that the policy already states that it covers postgraduate research students, but added that this was a matter that required review.

Members approved the proposed amendments to the policy.

Associate Professor Masters noted that the policy had been in place since the beginning of 2007 and asked if it would be possible

to have a report on its effectiveness. The Chair advised that Professor Lawler's review would cover some of these issues, and that statistics on the number of students to whom the policy has been applied were being collated.

Resolution 192/08

That the Academic Board amend the Academic Board Resolutions regarding Student Appeals against Academic Decisions, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board policy "Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk" on Policy OnLine.

5.3.2 Applications for Early Submission of PhD Theses

The Chair asked members to note that he had approved the early submission of two PhD theses.

Resolution 193/08

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board regarding his approval of applications for early submission of PhD theses, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.3 NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards & Senates

The Chair advised members that the University had hosted the August meeting of the NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates. He added that this Committee is a formal standing committee of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Conference with delegated responsibility to oversee the Technical Scaling Committee for the Universities Admissions Index.

The Committee had spent some time comparing the roles of Boards and Chairs at their various universities. The Chair noted that the current round of AUQA reviews was focussing on how universities used their Boards to maintain standards. Another topic of discussion had been the distinction courses and UDBECs (university-developed, Board-endorsed courses) which were introduced some time ago, but have fallen into disfavour. In contrast, programs to attract the top secondary students were currently being offered in other states, e.g. the University of Melbourne allows high school students access to its first year units of study, with students able to count two such units towards their final secondary results.

The Committee also discussed the current interest in promoting cross-institutional schemes such as the co-operative language venture currently run by the Universities of Newcastle and New England and the Southern Cross University. There was also interest in comparing academic standards across institutions, particularly with regard to the current round of AUQA reviews and the Bradley review of higher education.

Resolution 194/08

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on the meeting of the NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates, as set out in the report presented.

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

6.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 4 August 2008**

Members noted that this item would be held over to the next meeting.

6.2 **General report**

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that he wished to speak with them regarding two main issues: the minor restructuring of the senior executive and related changes to the decision-making processes at the University, and the University's response to the Bradley Review on Higher Education (documents on both issues had previously been distributed to staff and students via the Vice-Chancellor's website).

With regard to the University's senior executive and its decision-making processes, he advised that the planned changes to the Senior Executive Group (SEG) were detailed in the paper on his website. The first major task for the revised group will be to develop a work slate for the next six to twelve months. He noted that the University was continually being presented with different issues and ideas to which it was expected to respond. There was currently a range of projects occurring at different levels and in different units, with some overlap, and he expressed the hope that the University as a group could agree on the projects to be worked on as priority items. He added that he hoped to present the proposed work slate to the Board in the next couple of months.

In terms of the relationship between this work slate and the Academic Board, he pointed out that the Board has ultimate responsibility for academic quality at the University and that the management of the University should bring to the Board those things that fall within the Board's jurisdiction. If a new policy is being proposed, the Board should be consulted early in the process, and the matter should then come back when more fully formulated for the Board's agreement or approval. He added that there would be times when management and the Board might not be in agreement, but robust debate on major issues was healthy.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the Academic Board played a crucial role as the academic conscience of the University. Its size and representational structure also allowed it play a tribunal role, and to provide a voice for all the faculties, regardless of their individual sizes. He reiterated his invitation for all staff to comment on and contribute to decision-making at the University and added that he was looking forward to working with the Academic Board.

With regard to the Bradley Review of Higher Education, Dr Spence advised members the review was critical for a number of reasons. He stated that the position of Australian universities was both impressive and fragile, and that the work undertaken by the University was incredible, but relied heavily on the good will and passion of its staff, which was not a sustainable model. He advised that he and the Provost had met with Professor Bradley, and she had accepted this point. He added that he had also spoken in these terms with the Alumni Council, and had received a great deal of positive feedback, including three new bequests. The Vice-Chancellor concluded his talk by saying he wanted more participation from staff and students in decision-making at the University.

The Chair asked the Vice-Chancellor to outline his view of the University's major challenges. The Vice-Chancellor responded that, apart from the

challenges of the current funding model and without anticipating the discussions on the work slate, there were major issues related to international students, postgraduate research, and academic staff progression and career development. Many of the tasks to be considered for inclusion on the work slate would need to be broken into components, and the list as a whole would need to be prioritised. He added that his immediate challenge was to ensure the revised SEG operated effectively, and to get agreement on a prioritised list of tasks.

Associate Professor McCallum asked if the Vice-Chancellor could comment on the Provost's Academic Reform Program, to which the Vice-Chancellor replied that the program's recommendations was definitely on the list of items for inclusion on the work slate. He noted that there were a number of projects across the University that required alignment, either by amalgamation or restructuring, however the Academic Reform Program was important. He added that any academic contributing to a working group or project should expect that the results of that work will be given a fair hearing and feel that their contributions have been worthwhile.

Ms Santos asked the Vice-Chancellor to clarify how projects would be prioritised (i.e. what criteria would be used for this process) and to advise the timeline for finalising the work slate. He responded that the restructured SEG would meet tomorrow, and by its second meeting he intended to present a draft list for consideration. Members of SEG would come back with information on resources for these projects, and the list would then come to Academic Board for discussion and agreement. In terms of prioritising the items, the major criteria would be urgency and financial and academic impact. He added that the University needed to develop a capital projects prioritisation process which included academic priorities.

Associate Professor Collyer expressed support for developing a closer working relationship between senior executive and the Academic Board, noting that a number of key decisions had been made over the past few years without any consultation with the Board. As an example, he mentioned that a new model for the allocation of teaching resources was under discussion but noted that no advice had been presented to the Board. He stressed the need for the Academic Board to have input into management decisions which affected the teaching and research standards of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the Chair of the Academic Board will be on the revised membership of SEG, while he, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and the deans were members of the Board, which should ensure a two-way flow of information. He added that he expected the Chair of the Academic Board to advise SEG on which issues should be referred to the Board. With regard to the resourcing of the University's core functions he acknowledged that the University's economic model required some work and expressed the hope that a model could be developed which would be understandable to all academic staff. He added that the complexities of the current model were an unfortunate effect of the current funding model and the rapid growth of the University.

Professor Hancock noted the creation of the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and asked the Vice-Chancellor to outline his vision for this position, how the role would interact with the Board and when an appointment was likely to be made. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the creation of this new role was linked to his understanding of the Provost's

role. He described the Provost as having general responsibility for the faculties, with a related range of administrative and academic responsibilities, adding that he and the Provost intended to work closely together in discharging each of their responsibilities. The new position would provide a senior executive member with responsibility for the University's teaching and learning activities, particularly for ensuring the quality of these activities, together with student management and welfare. The Academic Board would ultimately be responsible for quality assurance at the University, so this new position would work closely with the Board and its Chair. He stressed that teaching and research were both vital activities for the University, but teaching needed to have a stronger place within the University's management team. In terms of timing, he advised that the position was currently being advertised with the goal of having an appointment by April 2009 at the latest.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Crossley, referred back to Associate Professor Collyer's statement. He noted that a meeting had been held to discuss both the new teaching formula and the research grant allocation. He added that one of the deans had objected to the new teaching formula and that, to the best of his knowledge, the new formula had been put on hold as a result. He noted that some deans were better than others at communicating the results of such meetings across their faculties and highlighted the need to address communication within the University. The Vice-Chancellor added that some of the current gaps in communication should be addressed by the new structure of SEG and by improving communication lines between senior executive and the Academic Board. He reiterated that some of the problems currently encountered by the University were a product of its rapid growth over the past twenty years.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his presentation, noting that the Academic Board would welcome the opportunity to participate more widely in the life of the University.

Resolution 195/08

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

★ 7. **Question time**

Associate Professor Peter McCallum noted that in recent meetings the Board had noted the contributions of several long-standing retiring members of the Board and he asked to add to that list, the contribution of the outgoing Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Masud Behnia. During his six years as Dean of Graduate Studies, Masud made a vital contribution to two of the Board's the most important responsibilities, postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research and many people around the University benefited from his work and advice. One of the first tasks Masud set himself was educating the University community about the Research Training Scheme. In particular he explained one of the great mysteries of the scheme, the separation pool, as a large water tank with a gaping hole in the back called non-completions from which it was seemingly impossible to obtain water. Masud ensured that Sydney was the first university to offer a program under the Commercialisation Training Scheme (despite late information from the government), established a university-wide postgraduate induction program, promoted close analysis and discussion of results from the SCEQ and SREQ, and chaired the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee for six years. In that latter role, he refined and improved the University's scholarship allocation process greatly, and had the unenviable but important task of moving the University from three college-based merit lists to a single list: a task that required persistent negotiation.

The two important things about Masud's tenure as Dean of Graduate Studies were that he left it in much better condition than he found it, and he initiated reforms that had tangible benefits for students. He also relished the acronym of his position title, Dean of Graduate Studies – DOGS – with grim glee. Professor McCallum asked the Board to join him in thanking Masud for his outstanding contribution, wishing him well in his new role in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, and noting that while this was DOGS' work, it was marvellous in our eyes.

Mr Greenland (Co-President of SUPRA) raised the issue of off-shore courses, noting that the Academic Board had just approved the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-Registration) to be offered in the United Arab Emirates. As the graduates of this, and similar courses, will be members of the University's alumni, he stated that faculties should ensure that equivalent resources are available to students in such courses. He asked whether such budget allocations were being made and if there was any oversight to ensure equivalent resources were made available.

Professor Nutbeam advised that he would be happy to take the question on notice. Professor White (Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery) added that she could provide a brief response, using the Faculty's teaching in Singapore as an example. The Board's policy on "Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk" is applied to students in Singapore and the Faculty would be running information sessions for them. The Faculty had also held discussions with the SRC on how to provide students in the UAE with access to their services in an appropriate manner.

Resolution 196/08

That the Academic Board note the questions and responses provided.

7.1 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Response to Questions without Notice

Associate Professor McCallum noted that the Conservatorium had provided a detailed response to the questions raised by the SRC, but pointed out one issue related to item 9.2.2.3. He noted that there was an internal inconsistency in the hours of tuition, with page 4 giving 14 hours tuition for the Bachelor of Music, and page 9 giving 12 hours. Professor Walker advised that the section on page 9 referred to the course's original structure with twelve individual lessons, which had since been increased to 14 lessons (as outlined on page 4). Ms Laing thanked Professor Walker and the Conservatorium for the response, as did the Chair.

Resolution 197/08

That the Academic Board note the response from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to questions without notice from the Students Representative Council, as set out in the report presented.

8. Reports of Faculties and Boards

8.1 Report of the Faculty of Dentistry

8.1.1 Amendment to Constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry

Resolution 198/08

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Dentistry to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Faculty of Dentistry.

File No. (2001/6516)

9. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

(Dr Jane Hanrahan)

★ 9.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Deputy Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Dr Jane Hanrahan, advised members that this report mainly contained proposals for minor changes to existing courses. She further advised that the Committee had agreed to establish two working parties: one to re-activate the recent discussion paper on awarding pass with merit, and the other to consider the recommendations from the Academic Reform working parties related to undergraduate degrees.

Resolution 199/08

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

9.2 Report of the meeting held on 13 August 2008

9.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

9.2.1.1 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration)

Resolution 200/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to offer the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) offshore as part of a wider project for the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces' School of Medical Services Corps; and
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to offer this course in the United Arab Emirates

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery's proposal to offer the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) in the United Arab Emirates.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the proposal to offer the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) in the United Arab Emirates.

File No. (003/0033/00001)

9.2.2 Reports from Faculties

9.2.2.1 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering combined degrees

Resolution 201/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies regarding amendments to units of study in the Bachelor of Engineering and associated combined degrees.

9.2.2.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Applied Science and the Bachelor of Health Sciences

Resolution 202/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Health Sciences on amendments to units of study in the Bachelor of Applied Science and the Bachelor of Health Sciences.

★ 9.2.2.3 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies, Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery and Diploma of Music

Associate Professor McCallum asked the Academic Board whether it was the assumption of members that all students enrolled in the same unit of study would be taught and assessed in the same manner. If this was the case, he queried whether the model presented in this report would provide such an outcome. He pointed out that there was a wide range of ability levels between students studying to become music teachers and those studying to become performers, and that it would be unfair to assess both groups on the same scale.

The Chair responded that it was the assumption of the Academic Board that all students in the same unit of study share a common set of teaching and assessment. He noted that it was common for advanced students to attend the same lectures as other students in the same subject, but that the advanced students would undertake different tutorials and assessments and would be enrolled under a different unit of study code.

Professor Walker offered to take this question back to the Conservatorium for a more detailed response, but asked why the query had not been made while the units were under review. She pointed out that students at the Conservatorium studied a range of instruments and entered their courses with different levels of skill. The amendments to the units of study were designed to give students greater access to overseas study opportunities, and to provide a flexible curriculum that related to the individual graduate attributes and employment prospects for each student.

The Chair asked that the Conservatorium provide an assurance that all students in any one unit of study will be instructed and assessed equivalently. Associate Professor Masters suggested this be rephrased as “assessed to the same standard”. The Chair agreed to this rewording.

Members voted in favour of noting the report with two votes against from Associate Professor McCallum and Ms Kate Laing (SRC).

Resolution 203/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music on amendments to units of study in the Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies, Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Studies/ Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery and Diploma of Music.

Action: The Sydney Conservatorium of Music to provide an assurance that all students in any one unit of study will be instructed and assessed to the same standard.

File No. (2000/4196, 2000/4197, 2000/4198)

9.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 204/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 13 August 2008, as set out in the report presented.

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

★ 10.1 Oral report of the Chair

Associate Professor McCallum advised members that he had been unable to attend this meeting but would be happy to take questions on notice regarding any matter in the report.

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 13 August 2008

10.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

10.2.1.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning

(1) Master of Architecture

Resolution 205/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Architecture,
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting that there are no associated amendments to Resolutions of Senate, and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the honours degree;

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Architecture, noting that there are no associated amendments to Resolutions of Senate.

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 Master of Architecture and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2007/2407)

(2) Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Resolution 206/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Urban and Regional Planning,
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the courses; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to streams in the degree;

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment to the Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2000/3082)

10.2.1.2 Faculty of Economics and Business: Graduate Diploma in Transport Management and Graduate Certificate in Transport Management

Resolution 207/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to amend the Graduate

- Diploma in Transport Management and Graduate Certificate in Transport Management
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting that there are no associated amendments to Resolutions of Senate, and
 - (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the courses;
- with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to amend the Graduate Diploma in Transport Management and Graduate Certificate in Transport Management.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Graduate Diploma in Transport Management and Graduate Certificate in Transport Management and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

10.2.1.3 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Master of Project Management, Graduate Diploma in Project Management and Graduate Certificate in Project Management

Resolution 208/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Master of Project Management, Graduate Diploma in Project Management and Graduate Certificate in Project Management
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the courses; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the courses;

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Project Management, Graduate Diploma in Project Management and Graduate Certificate in Project Management in 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 amendments to the Master of Project Management, Graduate Diploma in

Project Management and Graduate Certificate in Project Management and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0018/00006, 003/0018/00007,
003/0018/00008)

10.2.1.4 Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Exercise and Sport Science

Resolution 209/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Exercise and Sport Science,
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting that there are no associated amendments to Resolutions of Senate, and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the course;

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Exercise and Sport Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Master of Exercise and Sport Science and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2005/4772)

10.2.2 Reports from Faculties

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts: English Language Requirements - Master of Health Communication, Master of Letters in US Studies, Master of Media Practice, Master of Publishing, Master of Strategic Public Relations, Master of US Studies, Graduate Diploma in Health Communication, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Publishing, Graduate Diploma in Strategic Public Relations, Graduate Diploma in US Studies, Graduate Certificate in Health Communication, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Publishing, Graduate Certificate in Strategic Public Relations and Graduate Certificate in US Studies

Resolution 210/08

That the Academic Board approve the amendment to Schedule 1 of the policy "Postgraduate English Language Requirements" with effect from 1 January 2009, 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 proposal to

amend the English language requirements for various postgraduate courses.

The Executive Officer to amend the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements” on Policy OnLine.

File No. (P24)

10.2.2.2 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Units of Study - Master of Engineering, Master of Information Technology, Master of Information Technology Management and Master of Professional Engineering

Resolution 211/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies regarding amendments to the units of study in the Master of Engineering, Master of Information Technology, Master of Information Technology Management and Master of Professional Engineering, as set out in the report presented.

10.2.2.3 Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Health Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Science and Graduate Certificate in Health Science

Resolution 212/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Health Sciences regarding amendments to the units of study in the Master of Health Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Science and Graduate Certificate in Health Science, as set out in the report presented.

10.2.2.4 Faculty of Law: Master of Business Law, Master of International Law, Master of International Business and Law, Master of Jurisprudence, Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Securities and Finance Law, Graduate Diploma in International Business Law, Graduate Diploma in International Law and Graduate Diploma in Jurisprudence

Resolution 213/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to amend the units of study in the Master of Business Law, Master of International Law, Master of International Business and Law, Master of Jurisprudence, Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Securities and Finance Law, Graduate Diploma in International Business Law, Graduate Diploma in International Law and Graduate Diploma in Jurisprudence; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to the courses;

with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the units of study in the Master of Business Law, Master of International Law, Master of International Business and Law, Master of Jurisprudence, Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Securities and Finance Law, Graduate Diploma in International Business Law, Graduate Diploma in International Law and Graduate Diploma in Jurisprudence and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0019/00008, 003/0019/00013,
003/0019/00014, 003/0019/00015, 2001/5887,
2002/1058, 2002/1059, 2002/1062, 2003/4455)

10.2.2.5 Faculty of Medicine: Graduate Diploma in Medicine (Refractive Surgery)

Resolution 214/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Faculty Resolutions for the Graduate Diploma in Medicine, and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to the course;

with effect from 1 January 2009, 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 proposal to amend the Faculty Resolutions for the Graduate Diploma in Medicine, and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2005/1293)

10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 215/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 13 August 2008, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee (Associate Professor Greg Ryan)

★ 11.1 Oral report of the Chair

Associate Professor Ryan advised members that he had nothing further to add to the report of the Committee but would be happy to take questions from members.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 6 August 2008

11.2.1 Focus Topic: Research-Enhanced Learning and Teaching

Resolution 216/08

That the Academic Board note the report from the Learning and Teaching Committee on Research-Enhanced Learning and Teaching.

11.2.2 Report of the Deputy Provost and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)

Resolution 217/08

That the Academic Board note and congratulate the recipients of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning 2008.

11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 218/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 6 August 2008, as set out in the report presented.

12. Report of the Research and Research Training Committee (Associate Professor Peter McCallum)

★ 12.1 Oral report on behalf of the Chair

Associate Professor McCallum advised members that he had been unable to attend this meeting but would be happy to take questions on notice. The Chair advised members that the Committee had established a PhD Review Working Party to consider the recommendations from the Academic Reform report, and to consider how the student experience of the PhD could be enhanced. He thanked Professor Crossley for having provided some statistical data (from the Australian Bureau of Statistics) which indicated that roughly 56% of research output at universities was provided by research students (compared to 28% from staff).

Associate Professor Collyer advised the Academic Board that the Faculty of Medicine was offering APA scholarships with faculty-funded top ups, which was having an impact on offers made by the Faculty of Science. Professor Crossley advised that he had discussed this issue with the Dean of Graduate Studies, and was aware that inter-faculty competition for students could have negative effects. He pointed out that the Faculty of Medicine was not the only faculty to offer APA scholarships with extra funds, and that Medicine was using this system to attract students from other medical faculties and institutions. He also pointed out that Senator Kim Carr had undertaken to double the number of APAs available to institutions, and that the Federal Government was considering a recommendation to increase the stipend associated with APAs, with both changes (if implemented) likely to diminish the need to offer scholarships with top-ups.

Associate Professor Masters pointed out that topping up of scholarships was routine across the University. He cautioned against any changes that would limit student choice or the University's ability to develop the best and brightest PhD students. The Chair suggested that this matter could be further discussed by the Research and Research Training Committee.

Professor Hancock noted the discussion of the new Intellectual Property Rule by the Committee, noting that it had also been referred to the Provost's Academic Strategy Group. He asked who was co-ordinating the consultation on the Rule and who would have carriage of the Rule. Professor Crossley advised that there had been wide-ranging consultation on the rule with the Provost's group, SUPRA, the Research and Research Training Committee and the Senate Student Associations Liaison Committee, and that the Rule would require approval from Senate. The Vice-Chancellor added that the final version of the new Rule would need to incorporate any findings from the University of Western Australia's appeal against the Federal Court decision to dismiss the University's claim to inventions developed by an employee.

Resolution 219/08

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

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 6 August 2008

12.2.1 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 220/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 6 August 2008, as set out in the report presented.

13. Report of the Academic Staffing Committee

(Professor Bruce Sutton)

★ 13.1 Oral report of the Chair

Professor Bennett advised members that the Committee was continuing to look at academic career pathways and had considered issues relating to research only academics at its most recent meeting. The Chair noted that she had been appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Working Party, which had been established by the Director of SydneyPeople. Professor Bennett advised that any major recommendations from this group would be referred to the Academic Staffing Committee.

Professor Nutbeam queried the recommendation for item 13.2.1. Professor Bennett advised that the Committee was recommending that research only academics be allowed to use the terms "Associate Professor" and "Professor" and that, if applying for promotion during the last year of their research funding, any promotion would be contingent on the staff member receiving further research funding. Professor Nutbeam asked if there was a specific amendment to the Promotions policy being proposed. It was noted that such wording should be developed and it was agreed that this would be brought back to the next meeting of the Board.

Professor Rhodes asked whether the Committee had discussed issues related to research only staff moving between the research only and research and teaching streams, and the impact of such movements on promotions applications. Professor Bennett advised that this had been discussed by the Committee but would require further consideration.

Resolution 221/08

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

13.2 Report of the meeting held on 30 July 2008

13.2.1 Promotion of Research Only Academics

Resolution 222/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) support the amendment of the Promotions policy, and recommend the amendments to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor; and
- (2) support the amendments to nomenclature, and recommend their adoption to SydneyPeople as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Academic Staffing Committee to provide the Academic Board with a revised version of the Promotions policy for the Board's next meeting.

13.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 223/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 30 July 2008, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting closed at 3:29 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date