

**AGENDA ITEM 6  
Report of the Chair**

**6.1 Report on Senate Matters**

**6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 15 September 2008**

Senate, at its meeting on 15 September 2008, on the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 27 August 2008:

- (1) approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry, as set out in the report presented.
- (2) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Urban and Regional Planning; and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course, with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.
- (3) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of 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; and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the courses, with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.
- (4) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to offer the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) in the United Arab Emirates, noting that there were no related amendments to Resolutions of Senate.
- (5) noted reports on:
  - (a) Minor course amendments
  - (b) Other matters

***Recommendation***

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 15 September 2008.*

**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 Jo-anne Brien, Faculty of Pharmacy**

Awarded the 2008 GlaxoSmithKline Medal of Merit by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

**Professor Christopher Dickman, Faculty of Science**

Awarded the prestigious Whitley Medal by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW for his book "A fragile balance: the extraordinary story of Australian marsupials".

**Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

Awarded the Professional Engineer of the Year at the Engineering Excellence Awards.

**Professor Ben Eggleton, Faculty of Science**

Awarded the inaugural NSW Scientist of the Year (Physics and Astronomy).

**Dr Neal Peres de Costa, Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

Winner (with Mr Richard Tognetti and Mr Daniel Yeadon) of the 2008 Aria Award for Best Classical Album.

**Mr Malcolm Binks, Chair, US Studies Centre**

Awarded an honorary Order of Australia for his role in the trade talks and service to Australian-US relations.

**Ms Susan Graham, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

Awarded the Student of the Year at the Engineering Excellence Awards.

**Mr Andrew McLeod, Faculty of Law**

Appointed to the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Award Standing Committee.

**Mr Daniel Rifkin, Mr Daniel Galanos, Ms Lisa Kouladjian, Ms Eva Ling, Ms Anjana Rao and Ms Jane Xie, Faculty of Pharmacy**

Winners of the 2008 Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Student Business Plan Competition.

**Mr Chris Vonwiller, Board member, Warren Centre**

Awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year at the Engineering Excellence Awards.

**Mr Nathaniel Ware, Faculty of Economics and Business**

Awarded the title of Goldman Sachs Global Leader following his attendance at the 2008 Goldman Sachs Global Leaders program.

**2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council Grants Scheme**

**Associate Professor Joseph Davis, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

*Curriculum renewal in postgraduate information technology education: a response to growing service sector dominance.* The University of Sydney is the lead institution working collaboratively with the universities of Queensland, Melbourne and New South Wales.

**Dr Sue McAllister, Faculty of Health Sciences**

*Establishing infrastructure and collaborative processes for cross-institutional benchmarking of student clinical performance in speech pathology.* The University of Sydney is the lead institution working collaboratively with James Cook University, La Trobe University and the Universities of Newcastle and Queensland.

**Dr Patricia McCabe, Faculty of Health Sciences**

*Communicating effectively with Indigenous people: a resource for health science students to learn culturally safe interviewing practices.* The University of Sydney is the lead institution working collaboratively with James Cook 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.*

### **6.3 General Report**

#### **6.3.1 Assessment and Examination of Coursework**

The Academic Board has identified an issue with the current policy on special consideration (Section 5 of "Assessment and Examination of Coursework"). Clause 5.4.1.7 currently states that special consideration will not be given if:

"5.4.1.7 the supporting documentation post-dates the period for which special consideration was sought;"

The Academic Board has only recently become aware that this contradicts the guidelines provided by the NSW Medical Board to medical practitioners in this state. The NSW Medical Board policy on Medical Certificates states that a certificate may be issued "subsequent to a patient taking sick leave", and where the illness or injury as reported by the patient is "deemed to be true by the doctor".

The Board is asked to approve the deletion of clause 5.4.1.7 from the policy. Faculties have been asked to revise their current special consideration policies and processes in line with this deletion, and to advise all staff dealing with this policy of this amendment.

#### ***Recommendation***

*That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Academic Board Resolutions on Assessment and Examination of Coursework with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.*

#### **6.3.2 Academic Board Forum**

The Chair will provide an oral report on the planned Academic Board Forum to be held on Friday, 31 October 2008.

#### ***Recommendation***

*That the Academic Board note the report on the Academic Board Forum to be held on 31 October 2008, as set out in the report presented.*