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## Academic Board Minutes

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### Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 16 April 2008 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professors B Bennett, and J Trehwella, Associate Professors P McCallum and G Ryan and Dr J Shaw), Professors M Adams, C Armour, A Brewer, J Brien, D Day, E Cowley, G Hancock, W Julian, G Llewellyn, D Nutbeam, B Paltridge, I Ramzan, B Robinson, E Schwarz and C Styles (representing Professor P Wolnizer), Associate Professors C Collyer, A Fekete, M Halliwell, L Harris, A Holland, A Jamalipour, S Newberry, N O'Dwyer, A Twomey, M Walton and S Willcock, Drs T Anthony, V Barrs, M Boughton, S Cox, J Clegg, S Cumming, M Edmond, R Gibson, N Gurran, J Hanrahan, D Hibbs, D Higgins, L Hossain, G Macdonald, S Mansfield, P Marks, I Odeh, S Ronaldson, M-A Schnabel and T Schofield, Ms C Blomley, Ms M Fairskye, Mr M Fisher, Ms A Freeborn, Ms J Henderson, Ms P Kamvounias, Ms K Laing, Ms N Legge-Wilkinson, Mrs S McCallum, Ms C McNally, S Mansfield, Mr C Riley (representing Mr P Ball), Ms R Santos, Mr J Shipp, Mr D Tremblath, Mr Walpola and Mr N Ware.

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

Present as observers: Ms A Griffiths (Secretariat), Ms I Heimanis (Head, Scholarships Office), Ms S Paynter (Executive Officer, Office of the Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor).

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

★ **1. Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors D Armstrong, A Aspromourgos, M Behnia, C Benrimoj, S Clarke, A Coats, M Crossley, S Garton, R Jeremy, S Kable, C Murphy, C Rhodes, G Triggs, K Trigwell, K Walker, J White and P Wolnizer (Professor C Styles attending in his stead), Associate Professors R Ewing, T Gerzina, R Magnusson and A F Masters, and Drs D Auld, J Callen, G Castillo, K Cramer, C Grupen, A Harvey, L Scanlon, J Slapeta, R Stanton and C Taylor and Mr P Ball (Mr C Riley attending in his stead), Ms K Barnsley, Mr B Kotic, Mr M Lines, Ms J McKenzie, Mr A McLeod, Ms J Mooney, Ms L-M Syron and Ms S Tolerton.

★ **2. Arrangement of agenda**  
★ **2.1 Starring of items**

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items.

The following additional item was starred: 15.

## 2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

### Resolution 39/08

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

## 3. Minutes of previous meeting

### Resolution 40/08

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 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. Focus Topic: Academic Reform and Teaching Quality at the University of Sydney

The Chair invited Professor Nutbeam to make his presentation to the Academic Board. Professor Nutbeam advised members that a brief paper had been circulated prior to the meeting which summarised the work of the various review groups, but he stressed that it did not reflect the large amount of work that had been done on the review. He noted that faculties undertook regular reviews of their coursework offerings and innovated in terms of developing new courses and units of study, but in comparison it was relatively rare to have the University review the breadth of courses across the institution. The recent review provided an opportunity to look at coursework and research offerings, and to consider how these courses developed generic skills in graduates.

The circulated paper gave an overview of why the review was undertaken, the sorts of issues to be addressed as a result of the review and restated a set of key principles underlying the evolution of academic programs at the University. These principles are:

- providing choice and flexibility through innovative programs that are responsive to student demand;
- providing a coherent academic program structure grounded in sound pedagogical principles; and
- providing programs that meet professional and workforce needs.

He noted that, while there was good reason for providing diversity in the University's courses, it was also important to look at opportunities for consolidation. There was also a need to look at why different course lengths existed, particularly in coursework masters. Concerns were emerging that the University's offerings at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level were confusing, and he cited the debate about the availability of the Bachelor of International Studies and the Bachelor of Global Studies as an example.

Professor Nutbeam advised members that the review was undertaken by four different groups:

- Undergraduate Degree Structures (Chaired by Professor David Day, Dean of Science);
- Postgraduate Coursework Structures (Chaired by Associate Professor Peter McCallum, Deputy Chair, Academic Board);

- Academic Pathways for Research Training (Chaired by Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair of Academic Board); and
- Generic Attributes and the Sydney Experience (Chaired by Professor Gwynneth Llewellyn, Dean of Health Sciences).

He added that the circulated paper provided a summary of what had been a lengthy process involving input from faculties, staff and students and outlined a set of basic conclusions from each group. The full reports of each group had been submitted the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee in the past week, and had also been provided to Senate, with both groups responding positively to the reports. Professor Nutbeam noted that various committees of the Academic Board had been consulted by the working groups, and that it was timely to bring the reports and recommendations to the full Academic Board for its advice and comment. He particularly sought the Board's input on how the various recommendations could be implemented and highlighted the recommendations and findings of each group as outlined below:

Postgraduate Coursework – this group had identified two groups of coursework masters, the advanced learning masters and the professional masters, and recommended that the University's current and future postgraduate coursework offerings be grouped using these two categories. In terms of structured opportunity they recommend that all masters programs at the University of Sydney should have the following characteristics:

- an opportunity for interdisciplinary study of up to 12 credit points outside the home faculty;
- an opportunity for interdisciplinary study of up to 12 credit points outside the home faculty or through double degree packages which could be put together according to an agreed template by the student and relevant Head or Coordinator, without the need for each to be separately approved by the Academic Board;
- an opportunity for research training at a level which allows suitably qualified students to enrol in a PhD;
- an opportunity for professional experience or an industry relevant project;
- an opportunity for international experience; and
- a synthesizing or "Capstone" experience drawing together the learning experiences from the program (which could take the form of a research project, a structured and assessed internship or some other equivalent experience).

Professor Nutbeam noted that not all the University's current coursework masters contained these recommended characteristics. He noted that there was a strong recommendation from the group to reduce the large number of individually-named degrees in the advanced learning category, and that these should instead use either the Master of Arts or Master of Science as a general "badge".

Undergraduate Degree Structure – This group had made some specific recommendations which were intended to take the University back to its original aim, i.e. to offer a liberal arts education to as many students as possible. The group's specific recommendations were:

- the introduction of a three year Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science degree to replace the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science and Technology and Bachelor of Liberal Studies degrees; the degree would encourage students to undertake a mix of science and humanities subjects and would include specific units of study addressing generic skills;

- reducing the duration of the combined Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts from five years to four years;
- a continued review of undergraduate professional/vocational degrees with a view to conversion to graduate entry programs, where appropriate, and the nomenclature and marketing of graduate entry and postgraduate degrees, and their descriptions in the Handbook, be reviewed to reduce confusion;
- faculties to continue to review the number of degrees and their content on a regular basis to improve efficiency, flexibility and simplicity; and
- disciplines that run across faculties to be reviewed on a regular basis to prevent redundancy and promote greater effectiveness and efficiency in teaching.

Generic Attributes and the Sydney Experience – Professor Nutbeam noted that most faculties were already doing well in this area, and that the group's recommendations focussed on broadening the availability of certain experiences to students across the University. The group's specific recommendations were:

- that all undergraduate coursework degrees include and identify the mechanism through which generic graduate attributes as described by the Academic Board (2007) are developed:
  - Scholarship,
  - Global Citizenship,
  - Lifelong Learning,
  - Research and Enquiry,
  - Information Technology Literacy,
  - Personal and Intellectual Autonomy,
  - Ethical, Social and Professional Understanding, and
  - Communication;
- that every student be offered an opportunity to undertake an international experience as part of their degree by 2010;
- that the University ensure that all undergraduate students have an opportunity to become proficient a language other than English; and
- that the University ensure that undergraduate coursework degrees include opportunities for formal and informal community engagement experiences by 2010.

Professor Nutbeam noted that Senate had expressed support for these recommendations.

Academic Pathways for Research Training – Professor Nutbeam noted that this group was still to develop a set of firm recommendations, but was in support of retaining honours, simplifying the University's research masters offerings and continuing to promote the Doctor of Philosophy as the University's pre-eminent research degree.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- Professor Nutbeam was asked if there was a specific enrolment target that should be reached for each course, or if other factors were involved, to which he responded that more information was required on how units of study and courses were costed, however he doubted that there would be a single target number for all courses;
- In response to a question on the time frame for implementing the recommendations, Professor Nutbeam advised that he would be holding a half-day meeting with deans on the following Monday to consider how the recommendations could be implemented and what difficulties might be faced, which in turn would determine the overall time frame. While some

- recommendations could take eighteen months or longer to be introduced, he believed there was strong support to move ahead with the reforms;
- some members raised concern that the focus on learning a language other than English could divert attention and funding from promoting proficiency in English, to which Professor Nutbeam responded that this issue was important but was separate from the academic reforms. He pointed out that there was an Academic Board working party looking at the issue of English language competency, with Associate Professor McCallum (as Chair of this working party) adding there would be strong recommendations for increased English language support across the University;
  - Professor Nutbeam clarified for members that the recommendations relating to coursework masters would also flow down to graduate diplomas and graduate certificates but may require some modification; and
  - In response to a question on how the academic reforms would be marketed to potential students, he advised that this was still being developed, but would probably focus on the broadening of the learning experience and the University's key graduate attributes.

The Chair asked the student members of the Academic Board if they had any comments on the recommendations, whether they found them attractive and whether the proposed changes would retain those elements which had attracted them to the University in the first place? One student queried the impact on specialised courses of the emphasis on providing a liberal arts education, and whether the intention was to expand such courses even further, e.g. would a four year course such as the Bachelor of Engineering become a seven year course? The Provost responded that the recommendations aimed to provide students with opportunities rather than forcing them into particular pathways. Students who wanted to undertake, e.g. an international exchange, may need to take longer to complete their chosen course. Both he and the Chair stressed that there was no intention to force students to undertake a general degree before enrolling in a specialist degree, such as the Bachelor of Engineering.

A further query was raised regarding the current range of undergraduate combined degrees, and Professor Nutbeam advised that there was no intention to phase these out. Associate Professor McCallum pointed out that these degrees were popular and that one of the recommendations from the postgraduate coursework group was the development of a generic double degree model to provide interdisciplinary study and choice to students. Dr Clegg spoke in support of the liberal studies degrees and asked if students in combined degrees had been surveyed about their experiences, to which Professor Day advised that more market research was required in this area.

The Chair asked members if there was broad support for the recommendations related to generic attributes. Professor Nutbeam clarified that the international experience would not be available to all students and would be aimed primarily at undergraduate students given the constraints of most postgraduate studies. It was suggested that rural experience should also be included as an option.

Professor Nutbeam was asked if there was any opportunity for the Academic Board to argue against any of the recommendations, given that Senate had already expressed its support for the reports. He responded that he was seeking the comments and suggestions of Academic Board members, but

pointed out that there had already been a significant amount of discussion of these issues at the faculty level.

The Chair thanked Professor Nutbeam for the presentation, and thanked members for their comments. He added that members could submit further comment to him via e-mail.

**Resolution 41/08**

That the Academic Board note the presentation by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor on Academic Reform and Teaching Quality at the University of Sydney.

★ **6. Report of the Chair**

Before proceeding with his report the Chair drew members' attention to the recent passing of the Honourable Kim Santow, Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2002 to 2007. He advised members that a memorial service would be held in the Great Hall on Wednesday 23 April at 6:00 pm, and he asked members to join with him in observing a minute's silence in recognition of his passing.

**6.1 Report on Senate matters**

**6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 17 March 2008**

The Chair asked that members note this report.

**Resolution 42/08**

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 March 2008.

**6.2 Honours and Distinctions**

The Board noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions, particularly those selected for participation in the Australia 2020 Summit, as set out in the agenda and supplementary agenda.

**Resolution 43/08**

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.

**6.3 General Report**

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

The Chair advised members that 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.

This review has taken into account the recommendations of the Topley Review (a full review of student appeals processes

at the University undertaken in 2004), in particular the recommendation that the number of levels of appeal be reduced to two. The revised resolutions focus on a two-step process: the student first seeks a resolution of their issue with the relevant decision-maker, and if unable to resolve the matter then appeals to the Faculty. Following the outcome of the Faculty appeal, the student may refer the matter to the Student Appeals Body which will assess whether or not due process has been observed by the Faculty. International students also have the right (under the ESOS Act) to refer the matter to the NSW Ombudsman as an independent and external party.

The Chair noted that some additional matters had arisen in the past week. The first, and relatively minor, issue was an amendment to the recommendation to include the abolition of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Research and Research Training Committee. This Sub-Committee, which was originally associated with the Academic Board's Graduate Studies Committee, was set up to deal with appeals from postgraduate research students. The revised Academic Board resolutions have deleted this section of the appeals process for postgraduate research students, with the process now being aligned with the process for coursework students. The Chair recommended that the Academic Board approve the abolition of the Appeals Sub-Committee.

The second issue related to the time limits for submission of appeals from students as outlined in clauses 5.1 and 6.1 of the revised resolutions. Both clauses currently state that students are to discuss their concerns or lodge an appeal within twenty working days. The Chair proposed that this be revised to fifteen working days. He pointed out that the period of twenty working day was referenced from the ESOS National Code of Practice. Standard 13 (Deferring, Suspending or Cancelling the Student's Enrolment) states as follows:

Should a provider initiate the suspension or cancellation of a student's enrolment, it must notify the student of its intention and allow the student 20 working days to access the provider's internal complaints and appeals process, unless extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student apply.

While it could be argued that it would be equitable to extend the 20 working days to cover all students, not just international students facing suspension, the Chair advised that serious concerns had been raised. In particular there was potential for the overall time taken to resolve a student appeal to have a negative impact on the student's ability to continue their studies, e.g. where re-enrolment in a particular unit of study is contingent on the result of the appeal. The Chair recommended that the resolutions be considered in the context of the entire appeals process. He noted that the revised resolutions were the result of a lengthy process of discussion, and that they should bring the appeals process up to date. The Chair moved the acceptance of the resolutions, including

the revisions outlined in the supplementary agenda. The motion was seconded. He then opened the resolution up for discussion.

The President of SUPRA, Dr Clegg, moved the following amendments to the resolutions:

4.1 ***Timeliness.*** *All disputes should, wherever feasible, be resolved as quickly as possible.* Timelines prescribed in these procedures are designed to allow resolution of issues in a timely fashion ~~should always be followed, unless there are exceptional circumstances.~~ If the timeline is to be exceeded by staff, the student must always be informed of the length of, and the reason for, the delay. A student should reasonably be able to approach a faculty for extra time in which to submit an appeal ~~may request an extension to these timelines where they can provide good grounds for the granting of such an extension.~~ Such requests are to be made in writing and, where possible, before the timeline expires. Faculties should ordinarily accept such requests unless there are particular circumstances which mitigate against granting such an extension. In all cases the student and the faculty should confer and agree on the length and terms of any such extension. ~~In assessing whether or not a student has submitted an appeal in a timely fashion, or whether an extension should be granted, faculties should give due regard to the circumstances surrounding the appeal and the personal circumstances of the student.~~

6.1 If the student's concerns cannot be resolved under paragraph 5, or because of an apparent failure to follow procedures, the student may then approach the Faculty. The student should put his or her concerns in writing within 20 working days of the outcome of discussions under paragraph 5. The student will submit their written concerns to the office or staff member nominated by the Faculty to receive student appeals (this information is to be provided to students at the start of each Semester). Nothing in these guidelines should prevent a student from continuing to seek a resolution of an issue via personal approach to faculty staff. Students and staff are encouraged to resolve matters via such discussions and to continue liaising even after the matter is referred formally to the faculty.

The motion was seconded.

Dr Clegg advised members that both SUPRA and SRC supported the structural changes to the appeals process but had concerns regarding the amendments to the definition of timeliness and to the timelines themselves, e.g. the reduction from three months to fifteen working days. He advised members that he had spoken with the Chair earlier in the day regarding these issues, and that the tabled amendments were the result of these discussions. The proposed amendment to

clause 4.1 would restore the emphasis in the clause on timeliness in the current resolutions on students ordinarily being granted an application for an extension of time. SUPRA was keen to see an appeals system that was fair and open to students, and he stressed that without this amendment, SUPRA could not support the revised resolutions.

With regard to the proposed amendments to clause 6.1, Dr Clegg noted that most students will negotiate issues with faculty staff and that this personal level of negotiation should be maintained as an option.

Professor Nutbeam queried SUPRA's amendment to clause 4.1 and asked for clarification on the difference between SUPRA's wording and that proposed in the Chair's report, noting that there appeared to be plenty of scope for students to apply for an extension in the revised resolutions circulated with the agenda. Dr Clegg advised that SUPRA's wording would shift the onus from students to faculties, i.e. students would normally be granted an extension, rather than faculties deciding whether or not to grant an extension. He pointed out that some requests for extensions were rejected by faculties on purely process reasons, which SUPRA felt was unfair, and the tabled amendment was designed to prevent faculties saying that they would not accept any requests for extensions.

Associate Professor McCallum argues that faculties did not have the option of not accepting or never granting requests for extensions, and that there was enough scope in the original revised resolutions to cover such requests. He stated that he was not comfortable with a clause which stated that a particular decision would ordinarily be to grant an extension.

Another member asked if there would be any limit to the number of times a student could ask for an extension. Dr Clegg replied that a student would need a very good reason for a second extension. He pointed out that the first extension would be given on terms agreed by the student and the faculty, and that SUPRA would not object to faculties refusing to grant a further extension. He emphasised that students can find it difficult to decide whether or not to proceed with an appeal and that faculties should not be able to reject appeals out of hand because they were deemed to be "out of time". He also stated that the University was not very good at communicating its policies to students, and that SUPRA wanted a robust appeals policy which would protect students.

Professor Bennett questioned whether SUPRA's amendment would provide this protection. She argued that the revised resolutions allowed for extensions if reasons were supplied, and that faculties would assess requests sympathetically. She noted that the tabled amendment implied a right to an extension rather than a right to request an extension, and that the tabled wording did not outline what circumstances might mitigate against accepting a request. It was also pointed out that it would be problematic to place an onus on faculties to grant a request to extend if there were no guidelines on how much time could be given.

Professor Hancock asked to speak against the tabled amendments to clause 6.1. He stated that for the appeals processes to work properly they needed to be clear-cut, and that the proposed amendment would allow two processes to run in parallel. He argued that there should be a clear point in time when the matter was referred to the faculty.

Dr Clegg pointed out that appealing a mark can be a difficult process for a student. He advised that the clause on timeliness in the current resolutions reads as follows:

All disputes should, wherever possible, be resolved as quickly as possible. A procedure that creates a number of opportunities to resolve a problem should not be treated as a series of hurdles which prolong the dispute. Unresolved disputes have a detrimental effect on the performance of both students and staff involved. Deadlines prescribed in these procedures should always be followed, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If the deadline is to be exceeded by staff, the student must always be informed of the length of, and the reason for, the delay. Time limits allowed to students are generally longer than those allowed to staff. As a general rule, it may be more appropriate to relax time limits for students within reason. Students may find pursuing a complaint or an appeal a difficult and stressful undertaking. They may need further time to marshal the confidence, support and evidence they need to pursue a complaint. Students should also be able to express their complaint in their own terms.

Dr Clegg pointed out that the revised resolutions place an onus on students to apply for an extension which was not stated in the current resolutions. He added that SUPRA was aware of faculties rejecting requests for extensions out of hand through its case work with students.

The Registrar advised members that his concern related to the administration of the appeals process, and he highlighted a potential inconsistency in the tabled amendments. The tabled wording appeared to trigger an extension without justification and without a time limit, which was not consistent with the first statement in the clause that disputes be resolved as quickly as possible. He expressed a preference for the current wording, and stated that faculties should not reject requests for extensions out of hand.

The Chair called for a vote on the amendments proposed by Dr Clegg. The motion was lost. He then invited any further comment on the original motion. Dr Clegg advised that neither SUPRA nor SRC could vote in favour of the amendments outlined in the original motion.

The Chair put the revised resolutions, outlined in the original motion, to the members. A majority of members voted in favour of the revised resolutions and the motion was carried.

#### **Resolution 44/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the amended Academic Board Resolutions relating to student appeals against academic decisions, and
  - (2) approve the abolition of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Research and Research Training Committee
- as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board Resolutions relating to student appeals against academic decisions on Policy OnLine.

File No. (xx)

### **6.3.2 Filling of Casual Vacancies in Academic Board Membership**

#### **6.3.2.1 Elected Academic Staff Members**

The Chair advised that nominations had been received from the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Health Sciences to fill casual vacancies. Members approved the appointment of Associate Professor Anne Twomey (Law) and Associate Professor Lynne Harris (Health Sciences). The Chair noted that vacancies still existed from the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

#### **Resolution 45/08**

That the Academic Board approve the appointment of:

- (1) Associate Professor Anne Twomey to fill the casual vacancy among elected academic staff members from the Faculty of Law; and
  - (2) Associate Professor Lynne Harris to fill the casual vacancy among elected academic staff members from the Faculty of Health Sciences
- for a term expiring 31 December 2009, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the membership list.

File No. (2004/1728)

#### **6.3.2.2 Elected Student Members**

The Chair advised that the Faculty of Veterinary Science had nominated Mr Stuart Wilkinson to fill the casual vacancy of student member from the Faculty to the Academic Board. Members approved the nomination. He noted that there were still a number of student vacancies to be filled.

#### **Resolution 46/08**

That the Academic Board approve the appointment of Mr Stuart Wilkinson to fill the casual vacancy for an elected student member from the Faculty of Veterinary Science for a term expiring 31 December 2008, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the membership list.

File No. (2004/1728)

### **6.3.3 Report on PhD Theses Submitted Early**

The Chair noted that the report had been circulated for the information of members in response to a query from the Board's last meeting.

#### **Resolution 47/08**

That the Academic Board note the report on PhD theses submitted early, as set out in the report presented.

### **6.3.4 2007 Annual Report of Academic Board Activities**

The Chair advised members that a report of the Academic Board's activities in 2007 had been circulated for information. He thanked members for their contributions and particularly noted the work of Associate Deans on the Board's committees.

#### **Resolution 48/08**

That the Academic Board note the 2007 Annual Report of Academic Board activities, as set out in the report presented.

### **6.3.5 Revised Charter of Academic Freedom**

The Chair reminded members that at the last meeting of the Academic Board concerns had been raised regarding the wording of the Charter of Academic Freedom, and particularly the additional wording inserted by Senate. He advised members that he had worked with the Academic Staffing Committee and the Vice-Chancellor to develop an alternative wording, which was distributed with his report. The major changes were made to the second paragraph, dot points 1 and 2, and the last sentence, as set out below:

The University of Sydney affirms its institutional right and responsibility, and the rights and responsibilities of each of its individual scholars, to pursue knowledge for its own sake, wherever the pursuit might lead, ~~and to transmit the knowledge so gained both within the academy and into the community at large.~~ The University further supports the responsible transmission of that knowledge so gained, openly within the academy and into the community at large, in conformity with the law and the policies and obligations of the University.

- the free, and responsible pursuit of knowledge through research in accordance with the highest ethical, professional and legal standards
- the dissemination of the outcomes of research, in teaching, as publications and creative works, and in media discourse

This Charter of Academic Freedom is endorsed by the Senate and Academic Board of The University of Sydney ~~subject to the requirement that all action taken~~

~~under and in support of it must comply with relevant law, Codes of Conduct, and University policy.~~

The Chair noted that the Vice-Chancellor was seeking three protections in the Charter: that staff acting outside the bounds of good practice and legal practice could be dealt with; that protection could be provided to staff who have acted ethically; and that protection could also be provided to staff who had entered into proper contracts which included reasonable restrictions (e.g. deferral of publication of research results). Members approved the revised wording of the Charter and recommended that it be referred to Senate for its endorsement.

**Resolution 49/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the revised wording for the Charter of Academic Freedom, and
- (2) refer the revised Charter to Senate for its endorsement as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair of the Academic Board to recommend that Senate endorse the revised Charter of Academic Freedom.

File No. (xxxx)

**6.3.6 Actions taken under Delegated Authority**

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

**Resolution 50/08**

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.

**6.3.7 Academic Roles, Positions and Careers at the University of Sydney**

The Chair advised members that the report circulated with the supplementary agenda provided a progress report of discussions by the Academic Staffing Committee on this issue, and to provide an opportunity for comment and feedback. The impetus for these discussions had come from last October's VCAC forum. The Chair noted that this was a contentious topic, and the Committee's discussions had been robust and had taken some time to get to a point of clarity.

He advised that the report was set out in four sections with the first section looking at the definition of academic staff. The suggested definition recognises that academics should be involved in teaching and learning, research and scholarship and give service to their discipline, the community and the University.

The second section looked at research-intensive and teaching-intensive roles. Rather than focussing on a person's appointment to a position, the paper suggested looking at the

working role which could shift in emphasis between teaching and research. Staff might be identified as “research-intensive”, but such staff provided significant input to teaching via student supervision, interaction with Honours students and some (even if limited) direct teaching. Such staff were also important in fostering a culture of inquiry which had an important impact on students.

At the teaching-intensive end of the research-teaching spectrum, the impact of staff, particularly in the area of quality teaching, should be recognised. Recognition of quality research is already well established, but more work is required to establish ways of assessing quality teaching (the Carrick Teaching Award criteria are one suggestion). This continuous spectrum concept of academic staff and roles would require an adjustment of the University’s recruitment and promotion policies.

The third section refers to postgraduate teaching fellows, as trialled by the School of Chemistry, while the last section looks at professional and ancillary teaching roles. This last group would not meet the definition of academic staff, but have significant input into the University’s academic activities. More information was required regarding the number and breadth of types of such roles across the University.

The Chair thanked the Provost and Deputy Provost for their assistance in preparing the discussion paper and invited comments from members. Members raised the following points in discussion:

- Associate Professor Fekete suggested that the teaching-research spectrum model still lacked clarity, and that two ideas were compounded in the model: the staff member’s effort or workload emphasis, and the balance of achievement or accomplishment. He pointed out that the two ideas are quite different, and would be determined differently, i.e. workload emphasis was arguably the province of the department or teaching unit, but individuals should be able to choose the balance of achievement for use in evaluation. The Chair acknowledged this point, and noted that the University of New South Wales used three “tracks” for promotion (research, teaching and combined), with applicants choosing the track;
- Professor Schwarz highlighted the reference to remuneration of professional or ancillary teachers, and expressed concern at the potential impact on faculties such as his own. The Chair suggested that the conferral of titles on such staff members needed to be assessed, and that whether such staff are remunerated or not formed part of that assessment. He also advised that Professor Jocalyn Lawler would be conducting a survey on these matters; and
- It was suggested that some ancillary teaching staff could be graded using the HEO (or general staff) scale, as is done for some research assistants. If such staff did not meet the definition of academic staff, was it appropriate to use the academic staff grades for such people. The

Provost argued that with highly experienced professionals employed in these roles, the HEO scale would totally inappropriate.

The Chair thanked members for their comments and encouraged them to communicate with him via email in more detail.

**Resolution 51/08**

That the Academic Board note the report on academic roles, positions and careers at the University of Sydney, as set out in the report presented.

At this point in the meeting the Chair proposed taking items 7, 8 and 15 and holding over the oral reports of the Chairs of the Committee until the next meeting. Members agreed to this proposal.

★ 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 March 2008**

The Vice-Chancellor asked members to note the report of the Senate meeting on 17 March 2008.

**Resolution 52/08**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 17 March 2008.

7.2 **General report**

The Vice-Chancellor noted that there had been a great deal of discussion, but little in the way of tangible action, regarding changes to the Federal Government's higher education policy. The Minister for Education and Work Place Relations had recently made a strong statement regarding the need for universities to focus on social inclusion, and the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the University had already started to work on providing better and more effective scholarships for disadvantaged students. He noted that more information on scholarships would be brought to the Academic Board in the near future. It was likely that the proposed compacts between the Federal Government and individual universities could include social inclusion as a target area, and the Vice-Chancellor assured members that the University would be prepared for that possibility. He also noted that the details of the proposed Bradley review of Australian higher education were still under development.

**Resolution 53/08**

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

★ 8. **Question time**

Associate Professor McCallum reminded members that at the Academic Board's meeting of 10 October 2007 he had asked the Chair and the Acting Vice-Chancellor whether they were confident 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. An answer was given by the Chair and the Acting Vice-Chancellor

at that meeting, and the Vice-Chancellor reassured the Academic Board at its meeting of 21 November as follows:

Senate has authorised me to state that the University of Sydney is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic probity. In particular, Senate has affirmed its belief that the University's policies on plagiarism have been and will continue to be consistently and rigorously applied.

Professor McCallum noted that new reports of alleged plagiarism had been raised in the press. He acknowledged that there were sensitive management and natural justice issues related to this case which it was not the brief of this Board to discuss, but that the Board must be concerned at any public controversy over such a core value as academic honesty. He further added that there was a perception that actions taken last year were not effective in solving the problem and there was distress at the damage caused by its continuation.

He added that there were reports in the press that the Fellows of Senate were divided on this issue. He noted the following section from the Fellows' Handbook:

Senate's role is not to engage in management itself. Rather it is, in an encouraging way, to hold management accountable for the performance of management's responsibilities.

He stated that it was essential for the University that Senate be united in supporting the University's principles. He asked that this concern be relayed to Senate with the hope that they will allow the issue, which is causing so much damage and distress in the Conservatorium to be resolved either by credible explanation or decisive action.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that this could be reported to Senate via the report of the Academic Board. He acknowledged that this may be an issue which requires further work by the University and the Academic Board, particularly as there are a number of external bodies monitoring the University which would want assurance that it has clear policies in place which were rigorously implemented. He pointed out that there were three areas in which the University could have concerns regarding plagiarism: students submitting work for assessment which contains plagiarised material; staff in the course of their normal work not complying with copyright requirements (which would be deemed misconduct); and staff (in other situations) generating documents containing plagiarised material.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that there were differences in how the University treated plagiarism by students and plagiarism by staff members, and that it was not inconsistent for there to be different consequences for the two activities. He suggested that effort should be made, involving the Academic Board, to clarify the University's policies in this area and re-evaluate the effectiveness of such policies. With regard to allegations in the press that Fellows of Senate were divided on this issue, he advised that Senate would not agree with such an opinion. He also advised that Senate is working consistently with the Fellow's Handbook by monitoring how the University implements its published policies.

Associate Professor Halliwell sought, and received permission to make the following statement as a representative of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music:

On behalf of colleagues at the Conservatorium of Music, we would like to bring to the Board's attention the fact that several submissions by senior staff of the Conservatorium to University management have received no response. Early in December, 2007, as has been indicated in the press, a letter signed by many of the Chairs of Unit and other senior academic staff was sent to senior management expressing their concern with the situation. There was no response to this letter. Later in December, on behalf of senior staff members of the Conservatorium, the four associate deans (including the Head of School) met with senior management to express deep concern at the deteriorating situation at the Conservatorium. This group was promised action within three months. No action or even response has been forthcoming. As is now increasingly evident in the media, the current situation at the Conservatorium is reaching a crisis point and cannot be ignored, and we urge the University to act immediately as irreparable damage is being done to the Conservatorium as well as the University.

Dr Shaw asked as the former Head of School at the Conservatorium that Senate should take note of the Charter of Academic Freedom, which requires academics at the University to uphold the responsible transmission of knowledge. She asked if Senate would discuss what action should be taken against staff who are found to be in breach of the Charter.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his earlier comment that the University will be under pressure from external bodies to demonstrate that it has clear policies that can be implemented in this area.

Professor Julian asked for clarification regarding the role of the University Health Service, noting that it no longer seemed to be operating as a provider of bulk-billing services to staff and students. The Registrar responded to this query, noting that the previous director, Dr Phillip Brown had retired in 2007 and that the unit had been purchased by the Faculty of Medicine, and was now being administered through the Faculty's Discipline of General Practice. He suggested that Professor Julian contact Professor Michael Kidd in the Faculty of Medicine for further information.

#### **Resolution 54/08**

That the Academic Board 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 2009**

#### **Resolution 55/08**

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Education and Social Work for the year 2009, 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 of Education and Social Work for the year 2009.

File No. (xxx)

**10. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee**  
(Dr Jennie Shaw)

- ★ **10.1 Oral report of the Deputy Chair**  
This item was held over to the following meeting.

**10.2 Report of the meeting held on 2 April 2008**

**10.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses**

**10.2.1.1 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Sciences and Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours)**

**Resolution 56/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Bachelor of Health Sciences and Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours, to include a major in Movement Science,
- (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

with effect from 1 January 2009, 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 Bachelor of Health Sciences and the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to Bachelor of Health Sciences and Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2001/1050)

**10.2.1.2 Faculty of Economics and Business and Faculty of Medicine**

**(1) Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**

**Resolution 57/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 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 the Faculty of Medicine; and
  - (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business and Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and submit resolutions via CMS .

File No. (TBA)

**(2) Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**

**Resolution 58/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 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 the Faculty of Medicine; and
- (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business and Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

#### **10.2.1.3 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

##### **(1) Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering)**

###### **Resolution 59/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to delete the Chemical Engineering specialisation from the Bachelor of Engineering,
  - (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 course; 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 approve the amendments to the Resolutions of Senate

relating to the Bachelor of Engineering 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 amendment to the Bachelor of Engineering and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**(2) Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering)**

**Resolution 60/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to add the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering specialisation to the Bachelor of Engineering,
  - (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 course; 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 approve the amendments to the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Engineering 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 amendment to the Bachelor of Engineering and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**(3) Bachelor of Engineering**

**Resolution 61/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Bachelor of Engineering,

- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting that there are no related amendments to Senate Resolutions,
  - (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to honours
- with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment to the Bachelor of Engineering and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

#### **10.2.1.4 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning: Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Design in Architecture**

##### **Resolution 62/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to introduce the Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Design in Architecture 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 Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning; and
  - (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Design in Architecture and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**10.2.1.5 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and Faculty of Arts: Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Arts**

**Resolution 63/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Arts 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 Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Arts; and
  - (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Arts and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Arts.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Arts and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**10.2.1.6 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and Faculty of Science**

**(1) Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Medical Science**

**Resolution 64/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science to introduce the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Medical Science 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 Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science; and
  - (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Medical Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Medical Science and submit resolutions via CMS.

**(2) Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Science**

**Resolution 65/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science to introduce the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Science 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 Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science; and
  - (c) approve the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course
- (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 approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Science and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Science and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

## **10.2.2 Reports from Faculties**

### **10.2.2.1 Faculty of Veterinary Science: Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience and Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

#### **Resolution 66/08**

That the Academic Board note the reports from the Faculty of Veterinary Science regarding minor amendments to the Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience and Bachelor of Veterinary Science, as set out in the report presented.

### **10.2.2.2 Faculty of Education and Social Work: Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Teaching/Master of Teaching**

#### **Resolution 67/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the amendments to the English Language Requirements for the Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Teaching/Master of Teaching, and
- (2) amend Schedule 1 (Faculty-specific English Language Requirements), of the Resolutions of the Academic Board relating to Admission to Undergraduate Courses,

with effect from 1 January 2009, 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 amendment to English language requirements for the Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Teaching/Master of Teaching.

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

File No. (TBA)

### **10.2.2.3 Faculty of Dentistry: Bachelor of Dentistry**

#### **Resolution 68/08**

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Dentistry regarding minor amendments to the Bachelor of Dentistry, as set out in the report presented.

## **10.2.3 Academic Board Resolutions: Student appeals against academic decisions**

### **Resolution 69/08**

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

## 10.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

### Resolution 70/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 2 April 2008, as set out in the report presented.

## 11. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

(Associate Professor Peter McCallum)

★

### 11.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was held over to the following meeting.

### 11.2 Report of the meeting held on 26 March 2008

#### 11.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

##### 11.2.1.1 Faculty of Economics and Business

##### (1) Executive Master of Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Business Administration

### Resolution 71/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce the Executive Master of Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Business Administration,
- (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 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 degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Executive Master of Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Executive Master of

Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Business Administration and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**(2) Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS) and Graduate Certificate in Management**

**Resolution 72/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce the Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS) and Graduate Certificate in Management,
  - (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 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 degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS) and Graduate Certificate in Management.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of the Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS) and Graduate Certificate in Management and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

## **11.2.2 Reports from Faculties**

### **11.2.2.1 Faculty of Law: Master of Administrative Law and Policy and Master of International Law**

#### **Resolution 73/08**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the minor amendment to the Faculty Resolutions for the Master of Administrative Law and Policy; and
- (2) note the report from the Faculty of Law regarding the introduction and amendment of units of study in the Master of International Law

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 amendment to the Faculty Resolutions for the Master of Administrative Law and Policy and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

## **11.2.3 Academic Board Resolutions: Student appeals against academic decisions**

#### **Resolution 74/08**

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

## **11.2.4 Postgraduate English Language Requirements**

### **11.2.4.1 Amendment to Policy**

#### **Resolution 75/08**

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the policy "Postgraduate English Language Requirements", as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the policy "Postgraduate English Language Requirements" on Policy OnLine.

File No. (TBA)

### **11.2.4.2 Faculty of Economics and Business: Clarification of Requirements**

#### **Resolution 76/08**

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the policy "Postgraduate English Language Requirements", as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment to English language requirements for its postgraduate coursework degrees.

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

File No. (TBA)

### 11.2.5 Proceedings of the Committee

#### **Resolution 77/08**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 26 March 2008, as set out in the report presented.

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

★

### 12.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was held over to the following meeting.

### 12.2 Report of the meeting held on 19 March 2008

#### 12.2.1 Revision to Academic Board Policy, *Establishment and Award of Scholarships and Prizes*

#### **Resolution 78/08**

That the Academic Board amend the policy, Establishment and Award of Scholarships, as detailed in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the policy "Establishment and Award of Scholarships and Prizes" on Policy OnLine.

File No. (TBA)

### 12.2.2 Academic Board Phase Three Faculty Review Reports

#### (1) Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

#### **Resolution 79/08**

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

#### (2) Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies

#### **Resolution 80/08**

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

#### (3) Faculty of Science

#### **Resolution 81/08**

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

### 12.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

#### Resolution 82/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 19 March 2008, as set out in the report presented.

### 13. Report of the Research and Research Training Committee (Professor Jill Trehwella)

★

#### 13.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was held over to the following meeting.

#### 13.2 Report of the meeting held on 19 March 2008

##### 13.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses

##### 13.2.1.1 Faculty of Law: Doctor of Juridical Studies

#### Resolution 83/08

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.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment to the Doctor of Juridical Studies and submit amended resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

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

#### Resolution 84/08

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

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

#### Resolution 85/08

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

##### 13.2.3.2 Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies

#### Resolution 86/08

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

#### Resolution 87/08

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

#### Resolution 88/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 19 March 2008, as set out in the report presented.

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

★

#### 14.1 Oral report of the Chair

This item was held over to the following meeting.

#### 14.2 Report of the meeting held on 12 March 2008

##### 14.2.1 Proceedings of the Committee

#### Resolution 89/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 12 March 2008, as set out in the report presented.

★

### 15. General Business

The Chair adjourned the meeting and asked members to join him in the Senate Room for a presentation and afternoon tea.

The meeting was re-adjourned in the Senate Room, where the Chair advised members that this would be the last occasion on which Professor Brown would meet with the Academic Board as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney. He noted that Professor Brown had first attended an Academic Board meeting in August 1996. He invited Professor John Mack, who was Chair of the Academic Board at the time, to speak to members about the culture and atmosphere of the Board and the University at that time.

Professor Mack recalled having encouraged Professor Brown to apply for the position of Vice-Chancellor when it was advertised in 1996. He advised members that the University at that time had gone through a period of turmoil, and went on to provide a background picture of working and academic culture of the University at the time Professor Brown took on the role of Vice-Chancellor. He noted that, while Professor Brown's time at the University had not always been easy, the University had become a far more collegial and cohesive organisation under his leadership.

The Chair, in his turn, thanked Professor Brown for working with the Academic Board and his engagement with the University community, and wished him all the best for the future. On behalf of the members of the Academic Board he presented Professor Brown with a first edition collection of *Leçons sur les Séries à Termes Positifs* and *Leçons sur les Fonctions Méromorphes* (both by Emile Borel) and *Leçons sur L'Intégration et la Recherche des Fonctions Primitives* (by Henri Lebesgue), noting Professor Brown's interest in this branch of mathematics.

Professor Brown thanked the Chair and members for their gift and in turn wished them well for the future.

The meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

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*Chair*

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Date