



Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 10 December 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 (Professors S Kable and J Kril, Associate Professors P McCallum and G Ryan), Professors D Armstrong, A Aspromourgos, A Bashford, A Brewer, A Coats, D Day, R Ewing, G Hancock, W Julian, G Llewellyn, C Murphy, D Nutbeam, B Paltridge, I Ramzan, G Triggs, K Trigwell and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors M Boughton, C Collyer, M Fairskye, A Fekete, M Halliwell, D Hibbs, A Holland, A Jamalipour, T Masters and M Walton, Drs D Auld, F Collyer, S Cumming, L Cutcher, M Fisher, R Gibson, J Hanrahan, B Jones, S Mansfield, P Marks, K Nelson, S Ronaldson, J Slapeta and R Stanton, Mr P Ball, Ms C Blomley, Mr J Conomos, Ms J Henderson, Ms P Kamvounias, Ms R Kumar, Ms N Legge-Wilkinson, Ms C McNally, Ms R Santos, Mr J Shipp, Ms L-M Syron, Mr R Walpola and Mr N Ware.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Dr M Edmond, Acting Registrar).

Present as observers: Mr M Charet and Ms A Griffiths (Secretariat).

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

★ **1. Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors M Adams, C Armour, B Bennett, A Boyd, M Crossley, D Day, S Garton, C Rhodes, J Trehwella (Professor J Kril attended in her stead), K Walker and J White, Associate Professors T Gerzina, A Holland, L Hossain, S Newberry, I Odeh, N O'Dwyer and A Twomey, Drs T Anthony, J Callen, S Cox, K Cramer, C Grupen, L Scanlon, M-A Schnabel, T Schofield and B Winter, and Mr B Kotic, Mr A McLeod and Mr D Trembath.

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: 12.2.2 and 13.2.2.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 307/08

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 308/08

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2008, as amended, 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. Discussion Topic

5.1 Advanced Standing, Credit and Exemption

The Chair invited Associate Professor McCallum to lead the discussion on both topics. Professor McCallum stressed that the Academic Board was not being asked to vote on either of the two draft documents at this meeting, but was being invited to discuss them with a view to refining their contents. With respect to the revised policy on Advanced Standing, Credit and Exemption he outlined four issues for the Board's consideration:

- terminology and definitions of terms such as "advanced standing", "credit", "exemption" and "waiver";
- should the University provide credit for work from a completed (and awarded) degree;
- faculty discretion under the policy; and
- what sort of credit (if any) should be given for prior learning.

With respect to terminology, Professor McCallum outlined the revised definitions and asked members if there were any difficulties with these definitions. He noted the University did not utilise waivers as much as it could, and perhaps gave credit when a waiver would be more appropriate. He then pointed out to members that the revised policy made a clear statement on the authority and discretion for faculties to provide credit. The revised policy clarified that faculties would determine how credit is granted, with the general principle that maximum credit would be granted for appropriate learning. The Chair pointed out to members that it was important that credit was determined as an academic decision, noting that the internal audit report from 2005 had pointed out a growing tendency for credit to be assessed as an administrative process.

Professor McCallum drew members' attention to clause 5.4.1, and particularly the practice of granting credit from completed courses. He queried whether this was considered to be double-dipping. Dr Auld pointed out that Bachelor of Engineering students who had studied Science are not required to repeat the Science units of study, but are required to complete a minimum of two years in the Engineering degree. Associate Professor Fekete pointed out that many generalist degrees allowed students to undertake elective studies in other faculties, and suggested it was reasonable to count generalist studies from a completed degree towards such elective studies, so long as it was not counted towards a major.

Associate Professor Masters pointed out that the University accepted the completion of a bachelors degree at another university as meeting admission requirements for postgraduate courses at the University of Sydney, and queried why such courses shouldn't be counted towards granting credit in our undergraduate courses. Professor Kable asked whether the revised policy would prevent graduates with pass degrees from enrolling in an honours year at Sydney. Professor McCallum replied that this was not the intention.

Members queried the differences between allowing students to combine degrees at the University of Sydney and providing credit for work completed elsewhere. Professor Fekete added that students currently have to apply for credit when moving between degrees at the University, and asked if this should be reviewed. The Chair advised that the Admissions Sub-Committee was reviewing the Board's admission policy, with internal transfers one issue requiring consideration. The comparative cut-offs for different degrees was one issue that would need to be looked at.

Professor McCallum pointed out to members that the minimum two years to be completed at the University of Sydney after credit is granted, was based on the usual three year undergraduate degree. He noted that the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies had supported retaining the two years requirement, rather than replacing it with a minimum two-thirds of the degree to be completed at Sydney.

He then raised the issue of whether the University should give credit for prior learning based on life experience. He noted that some faculties specifically exclude granting such credit, and the revised policy suggested widening this exclusion across the University. It would still be possible to admit someone to a graduate certificate or graduate diploma based on such experience. Dr Auld and Ms Legge-Wilkinson pointed out that the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies currently gave credit in some technical subjects if the student had related work experience (e.g. in surveying). Professor McCallum suggested providing a waiver instead of credit, but Dr Auld advised that the practice of giving credit was a marketing advantage. Professor Kable pointed out that any unit for which credit was granted would appear on the student's transcript, so the Faculty would need to be sure the student had met both the theoretical and the practical elements of the unit. The Faculty of Medicine also pointed out that there were currently discussions between the medical schools and the professional colleges (e.g. the Royal College of Surgeons) to recognise prior learning, which would be jeopardised by this policy.

Professor McCallum thanked members for their comments and agreed to incorporate them into the document.

Resolution 309/08

That the Academic Board note the discussion on Advanced Standing, Credit and Exemption.

5.2 Proposed Postgraduate Coursework Rule

Professor McCallum drew members attention to the initial draft of the rule, and the list of issues outlined on page 7 of the related documented. He explained that the draft rule was intended to enshrine the principles developed from the postgraduate review. The draft had already been discussed with some faculties, and a number of concerns had been raised, e.g. the draft rule stated that admission to a coursework masters degree would require a minimum of undergraduate honours, or an undergraduate pass degree with a credit average, or completion of another postgraduate qualification. Not all existing coursework masters would comply with this. This admissions requirement would mean that students who did not meet the criteria would need to enrol in a graduate certificate or graduate diploma first, then transfer to the masters' degree, which in turn would require the creation of an embedded sequence if one did not already exist.

Another issue was the definitions for advanced masters and professional masters, with more flexibility in the structure of professional masters. He added there had been some discussion on the relative lengths of the two types of degree, with a suggestion that professional masters should be a minimum of two years in length, or between one and two years in length, with advanced masters normally one year long.

The review had also suggested that completion of a masters degree would normally mean the completion of five years tertiary study, i.e. three plus two or four plus one, which is in keeping with the Australian Qualifications Framework. Professor Fekete pointed out that the Master of Information Technology currently represented four years of study, a three year undergraduate degree and the one year masters. Professor Julian pointed out that study via embedded programs would not meet the total five years model, however Professor McCallum suggested the key term would be “normally”. Members also discussed a range of degrees and whether they should be considered “advanced” or “professional”, and it was pointed out that some nominally “professional” masters degrees provided an extension to an existing professional qualification and could reasonably be completed in only one year. The counter argument was raised that such a course would be more appropriately deemed a graduate diploma. Professor Ramzan pointed out that accreditation bodies frequently accepted different lengths of tertiary education as meeting the requirements for professional accreditation.

The Vice-Chancellor raised the issue of interdisciplinary training and conversion masters, particularly those courses which offered variations on required subjects depending on the nature of the student’s previous studies (the University’s Master of Environmental Law, which accepts students from science and law backgrounds, would be one example). He expressed concern that the term “builds on prior undergraduate study in the discipline” (in clause 3.1.1.1) could limit the potential development of interdisciplinary courses. Professor McCallum agreed to look at this further.

Professor McCallum also raised the issue of titles for masters degrees, noting the recommendation that advanced masters use the format of Master of Arts (discipline) or Master of Science (discipline), with specific titles used for professional masters. He recommended that the Academic Board discuss the issue of coursework doctorates at another meeting, and also asked members to think about the suggested mechanism for individualised packaging of degrees into combined courses with some cross-crediting of units.

The Chair thanked Professor McCallum for leading the discussion on both topics and encouraged members to forward any suggestions and comments by email.

Resolution 310/08

That the Academic Board note the discussion on the proposed Postgraduate Coursework Rule.

★ 6. **Report of the Chair**

6.1 **Report on Senate matters**

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

Members noted that this item would be held over to the first meeting in 2009.

6.2 **Honours and Distinctions**

The Board noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions, as set out in the agenda. The Chair also drew members' attention to the report on the 2008 Level E promotions.

Resolution 311/08

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**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Professor McCallum for acting as Chair of the Academic Board over the past three weeks.

6.3.1 **Student Appeals against Academic Decisions**

The Chair noted that the University had been advised by the Federal Government to amend the submission timelines for student appeals (as set out in the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006*). The Senate Rule has already been amended, but the related Academic Board resolutions required one small amendment. Members approved the amendment to the Academic Board Resolutions regarding Student Appeals against Academic Decisions.

Resolution 312/08

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 update the Academic Board Resolutions regarding Student Appeals against Academic Decisions on Policy OnLine.

File No. (2001/2169)

6.3.2 **Response to Question raised at November meeting**

The Chair noted that the Faculty of Science had responded to Ms Legge-Wilkinson's question from the previous meeting, and that the response had been circulated with the agenda. He thanked the Faculty for their response.

Resolution 313/08

That the Academic Board note the responses to the question raised at its November meeting, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.3 **Academic Board Membership for 2009**

The Chair advised members that the major changes to the Academic Board's membership for 2009 related to the recent election of student members. In some cases faculties had

nominated students to fill casual vacancies, and these required the Academic Board's approval. He pointed out an additional nomination received that morning to appoint Mr D Liu as the student representative from the Faculty of Science.

The Faculty of Dentistry had also advised that morning of the need to fill a casual vacancy caused by Associate Professor Tania Gerzina's secondment to the Institute for Teaching and Learning. Professor Gerzina will no longer be a representative of the Faculty on the Academic Board, and the Dean has nominated Associate Professor Elaine Blignaut to serve from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009. Members approved all the nominations.

Resolution 314/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the report on the membership of the Academic Board for 2009; and
- (2) approve the nominated student and staff members from the faculties

as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to update the membership list.

File No. (2004/1728)

6.3.4 2009 Meeting Dates

Members noted the schedule of meeting dates for 2009. The Chair added that he was deeply appreciate of the time and effort given by members in attending these meetings.

Resolution 315/08

That the Academic Board note the schedule of meeting dates for 2009, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.5 Authority of the Chair of the Academic Board

The Academic Board approved the request to authorise the Chair to act on its behalf in respect of any urgent matters that may arise between the Board meeting on 10 December 2008 and the first 2009 Academic Board meeting.

Resolution 316/08

That the Academic Board authorise its Chair to act on its behalf in respect of any urgent matters that may arise between the Board meeting on 12 December 2007 and the first 2008 Academic Board meeting, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.6 Christmas Party

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the members of the Academic Board for their efforts over the past years, adding that the Christmas celebration was also an opportunity to thank the many other academic and general staff who assisted with the work of the Board.

Resolution 317/08

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on the Academic Board Christmas Party, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.7 Eulogy – Professor Hans Freeman

Associate Professor Tony Masters, of the Faculty of Science, presented a eulogy to Professor H Freeman (the eulogy is appended to these minutes).

6.3.8 Flexible Entry

The Chair noted that there was an item in the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee related to flexible entry to the Faculty of Education and Social Work's education degrees. He advised members that a website had been developed on flexible entry which uses material developed by the Student Marketing and Recruitment Unit in consultation with faculties. This material would come to the Academic Board in the new year for approval, once it was considered by both the Admissions Sub-Committee and the Undergraduate Studies Committee. A new schedule would be developed for the Academic Board's policy on Admission to Undergraduate Courses which would outline this material.

Resolution 318/08

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on Flexible Entry, as set out in the report presented.

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

7.1 Report on Senate Matters

7.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 1 December 2008

Members noted that this item would be held over to the first meeting in 2009. The Vice-Chancellor added that there was nothing of urgency to report from this meeting, but that he was willing to answer any questions.

7.2 General report

7.2.1 Triple Bottom Line Reporting

The Vice-Chancellor advised that this report had been to SEG and that a working group had been established to investigate ways in which the University could reduce its carbon footprint. He added that one issue arising from the report was the purchasing of green power. This had been discussed a couple of years ago, and at that time there had been debate about the effectiveness of green power. The University had decided to use the money which might have been spent on purchasing green power to instead fund research into alternative energy.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that one of the major recommendations of the report on Triple Bottom Line Reporting was that the University purchase at least some green power. The members of SEG have expressed concern at altering the University's position on this issue, while Senate supported the report's recommendations. He advised members that the report would go back to Senate's first meeting in 2009. Associate Professor Collyer suggested the University could also invest in alternate energy protection such as solar panels. The Vice-Chancellor agreed this was an option, but queried whether the University wanted to be known as an institution that didn't purchase

green power, adding that this had been raised as an issue by students. Professor Hancock suggested that one benefit of investing in green power would be supporting the development of sustainable energy technologies, adding that some of this money could feasibly return to the University in the form of research funds from the energy industry. Professor Triggs added that the University could consider seeking membership of the Global Compact (a United Nations initiative).

As well as power consumption, the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the University needed to review its use of air travel, which was the second largest contributor to the University's total greenhouse gas emissions. Members suggested:

- increasing the use of video conferencing (particularly for conference presentations);
- the increase in air travel paralleled the increase in international research undertaken by the University;
- benchmarking with other institutions around the world; and
- identifying how much travel was related to research or to other activities.

A member also pointed out that, while papers from around the world are now easily accessed online, research showed that researchers are more likely to cite papers from colleagues they have physically met, either through exchange visits or at conferences. The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the University would assess its air travel use, but was not suggesting restrictions at this stage. He suggested faculties and individual staff members should carefully consider conference attendance in particular.

With regard to green power, members made the following suggestions and comments:

- the University could develop guidelines on its preferred outcomes from purchasing green power and assess providers against them;
- the University should investigate other ways in which it can save energy – it was noted that the energy load in many buildings was almost continuous, rather than fluctuating with use; and
- the University should carefully weigh the increased expense of purchasing green power against any potential loss of funding for teaching and research.

Resolution 319/08

That the Academic Board note the Vice-Chancellor's report on Triple Bottom Line Reporting, as set out in the report presented.

7.2.2 Professional Services Stakeholder Survey and Staff Engagement Survey

The Vice-Chancellor drew members' attention to the survey results, pointing out that there were three methods the University could use to ensure the performance standards of service areas: assessing the costs of such services, conducting performance satisfaction survey and establishing clear structures within which service providers can outline their roles. He added that the survey results circulated with the agenda would not be surprising to members, but pointed out that the weather maps in the Professional Services Stakeholder Survey raised some areas of concern. These are

currently being reviewed by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.

Professor Masters expressed surprise at the low level of stakeholder satisfaction with the Office of General Counsel. He also suggested that the low scores for Sydnovate related more to the fact that most staff did not have direct dealings with the unit, or did not deal with them frequently. He asked if the Academic Board could arrange for a presentation by Sydnovate to allow the unit to explain its functions.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that he had spoken with the Director of Sydnovate, Dr Shariv, about reviewing the University's consultancy arrangements, processes for technology transfer (in particular the University's IP Rule, which urgently requires clarification) and research contracts. These were the three areas where concerns had been expressed both within and outside of the unit, not least by Dr Shariv himself. This review would become a new item on the Work Slate. He added that it is appropriate for the University to promote consultancy activities, but this should be done in an appropriate manner. Sydnovate staff had expressed concern about the willingness of some University staff to sign inappropriate contracts. The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the issue should not be one of blame but of culture shift, with the Academic Board participating in the conversation. With regard to technology transfer, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the major issue was the lack of clear intellectual property rules.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his report, and added that Dr Shariv is an ex-officio member of the Board's Research and Research Training Committee.

Resolution 320/08

That the Academic Board note the Vice-Chancellor's report on the Professional Services Stakeholder Survey and Staff Engagement Survey, as set out in the report presented.

★ 8. **Question time**

Professor Fekete thanked Professor McCallum for arranging a presentation on the University Branding Project for members of the Academic Board. He noted that the survey of staff and students by Lippmann Hearne had indicated that only 45% of respondents felt the University cared about them as an individual. He asked what could be done to improve this.

The Vice-Chancellor replied that he personally wanted to see better co-ordination of the University's pastoral care processes, noting that the responsibility for pastoral care in each faculty frequently relied on individual staff members, often female, and that student access to such staff was highly variable. He also suggested the University should look at issues such as teaching practices, and their impact on engaging students in campus life. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) agreed that the University's relationship with students could be improved.

Professor Fekete noted this response but pointed out the survey response related to staff as well as students. He asked how the University could improve its relationships with individual staff members. The Chair suggested that the projects being undertaken by the Board's Academic Staffing Committee could assist in this area, while the Vice-Chancellor suggested the most important thing was for the

University as a whole to acknowledge the existence of this problem. He added that the University as a community needed to be committed to looking after one another, and to acknowledge that this was a valuable process.

Resolution 321/08

That the Academic Board note the question and response provided.

9. Reports of Faculties and Boards

9.1 Report of the University of Sydney Summer and Winter School

9.1.1 Response to Questions on Report of 2008 Winter School

Resolution 322/08

That the Academic Board note the responses from the Director of the University of Sydney Summer and Winter School to questions on the report of the 2008 Winter School, as set out in the report presented.

9.2 Report of the Faculty of Education and Social Work

9.2.1 Amendment to the Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees

Resolution 323/08

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate Resolutions relating to the Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate Resolutions relating to the Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Education and Social Work to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Senate Resolutions relating to the Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees.

File No. (036/0006/00170)

The Chair asked the chairs of the standing committees to forego their usual reports, unless there was an urgent matter. The chairs agreed.

**10. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
(Professor Scott Kable)**

★ **10.1 Oral report of the Chair**

The report was passed over for this meeting.

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 26 November 2008

10.2.1 Proposals for new and amended undergraduate courses

10.2.1.1 Faculty of Law: Bachelor of Laws and Combined Law Degrees

Resolution 324/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to amend the Bachelor of Laws and related Combined Law degrees;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the courses; and
- (3) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and
- (4) 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 Faculty of Law's proposal to amend the Bachelor of Laws and related Combined Law degrees.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment of the Bachelor of Laws and related Combined Law degrees and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0018/00009, 003/0019/00019, 2000/3991, 2008/3504)

10.2.1.2 Faculty of Veterinary Science: Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Resolution 325/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Veterinary Science to amend the Bachelor of Veterinary Science;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the courses; and
- (3) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and
- (4) approve the faculty requirements relating to admission

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 Veterinary Science's proposal to amend the Bachelor of Veterinary Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Veterinary Science to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendment of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0022/00001)

10.2.2 Resolutions of Faculty

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Dentistry: Bachelor of Dentistry

Resolution 326/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the rescission of the Resolutions of Faculty related to the Bachelor of Dentistry in the Faculty of Dentistry; and
- (2) note the new Resolutions of the Faculty of Dentistry relating to the Bachelor of Dentistry, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Dentistry to note the Academic Board's approval of the new Resolutions of Faculty related to the Bachelor of Dentistry and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2001/1049-02)

10.2.3 Reports from Faculties

10.2.3.1 Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science, Bachelor of Resource Economics and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

Resolution 327/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the changes to the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science, Bachelor of Resource Economics and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and
- (2) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended) with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science, Bachelor of Resource Economics and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0013/00022, 003/0013/00023, 2000/4014, 2000/4015, 2000/4016)

**10.2.3.2 Faculty of Law: Bachelor of Laws
(1) Further Assessment**

Resolution 328/08

That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendments to the Faculty Resolutions for the Bachelor of Laws and Combined Law degrees in the Faculty of Law made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended), 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 amendments to the Bachelor of Laws and Combined Law degrees, and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0019/00019)

(2) Semi-Intensive Mode of Study

Resolution 329/08

That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to offer first year units of study in the graduate entry Bachelor of Laws by semi intensive mode with effect from 1 January 2009 noting there are no consequent amendments to Faculty Resolutions, 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 Faculty's proposal to offer the Bachelor of Laws in semi-intensive mode.

File No. (003/0019/00019)

(3) Shanghai Winter School

Resolution 330/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to offer Chinese Law units of study from its Bachelor of Laws in conjunction with the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, China; and
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no subsequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate

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 Law's proposal to offer Chinese Law units of study from its Bachelor of Laws in conjunction with the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, China.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of the Faculty's proposal to offer Chinese Law units of study from its Bachelor of Laws in conjunction with the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, China.

File No. (003/0019/00019)

10.2.3.3 Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies: Diploma of Education (Aboriginal)

Resolution 331/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the changes to the Diploma of Education (Aboriginal) in the Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies, and
- (2) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended)

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

Action: The Chair and Faculty Manager of the Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Diploma of Education (Aboriginal) and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0030/00017)

10.2.4 Admission Schemes

10.2.4.1 National University of Singapore High School Diploma program

Resolution 332/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) recognise the NUS High School Diploma program for the purpose of admitting international students to the University, and
- (2) approve a consequent amendment to the Academic Board policy on Admission to Undergraduate Courses

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

Action: The Executive Officer to update the Academic Board policy on Admission to Undergraduate Courses on Policy OnLine.

File No. (P23)

10.2.4.2 Faculty of Education and Social Work: Bachelor of Education and combined degrees

Resolution 333/08

That the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Education and Social Work to introduce flexible entry for Bachelor of Education degrees beginning with the 2009 intake noting there are no consequent amendments to the relevant Faculty Resolutions, 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 Faculty's proposal to introduce flexible entry for Bachelor of Education degrees.

File No. (003/0030/00018, 003/0030/00019, 003/0030/00020, 003/0030/00021, 003/0030/00022, 003/0030/00023, 2000/3998, 2001/1989, 2001/1990, 2001/7117, 2001/7118, 2001/7119, 2001/7121)

10.2.5 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 334/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 26 November 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

The report was passed over for this meeting.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 26 November 2008

11.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

★ 11.2.1.1 Faculty of Education and Social Work: Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Professor McCallum advised members that the proposal related to the teaching of an existing course in South Korea. He thanked members of SUPRA for raising the issue of how the University ensured off-shore students have access to the services and support mechanisms available to on-campus students. The Faculty had been asked to respond on this issue, and had replied with a broad commitment to ensure students in this course are properly supported. Professor McCallum flagged this issue as one which the University should address across all off-shore courses, and noted that the Provost's Office was looking into this issue. Members approved the proposal.

The Chair reminded members that the Academic Board's policy on the Creation, Variation and Deletion of Award Courses and Units of Study requires that whenever the mode of delivery of a course is changed, or an additional mode is introduced, the course must be submitted to the Board for approval. This also applies when a course currently being taught off-shore is taught in another country. He stressed that this requirement was focussed on ensuring that academic quality would not be jeopardised.

Resolution 335/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Education and Social Work to offer the Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in South Korea;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no subsequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate

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 Education and Social Work's proposal to offer the Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in South Korea.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Education and Social Work to note the Academic Board's approval of the Faculty's proposal to offer the Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in South Korea.

File No. (003/0030/00027)

11.2.1.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Health Science (Physiotherapy), Master of Health Sciences, Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences and Graduate Certificate in Health Sciences

Resolution 336/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Science to amend the Master of Health Science (Physiotherapy), the Master of Health Sciences, the Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences and the Graduate Certificate in Health Sciences;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; 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 Faculty of Health Sciences' proposal to amend the Master of Health Science (Physiotherapy), the Master of Health Sciences, the Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences and the Graduate Certificate in Health Sciences, and approve the amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Master of Health Science (Physiotherapy).

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 Health Science (Physiotherapy), the Master of Health Sciences, the Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences and the Graduate Certificate in Health Sciences and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0032/00004-02, 2003/4361)

11.2.1.3 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy

Resolution 337/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy combined degrees, and to amend the Master of Medicine and Master of Science in Medicine degrees;
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal;

- (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Medicine; 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 endorse the Academic Board's approval of the Faculty of Medicine's proposal to introduce the Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy combined degrees, and to amend the Master of Medicine and Master of Science in Medicine degrees, and to approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of Resolutions of Senate related to the combined degrees.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the Faculty's proposal to introduce the Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy combined degrees, and to amend the Master of Medicine and Master of Science in Medicine degrees and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

11.2.2 Reports from Faculties

11.2.2.1 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies

(1) Master of Information Technology

Resolution 338/08

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

(2) Master of Engineering and Master of Professional Engineering

Resolution 339/08

That the Academic Board note:

- (1) the reports from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies regarding amendments to the units of study in the Master of Engineering and Master of Professional Engineering; and

- (2) that the proposed structure of some postgraduate units of study in the Master of Professional Engineering, which would allow postgraduate students to attend undergraduate lectures but receive separate assessments and tutorials, is consistent with the Board's policy on parallel teaching as set out in the report presented.

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Surgery

Resolution 340/08

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Surgery degree;
- (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 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Medicine; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements for 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 Faculty of Medicine's proposal to amend the Master of Surgery and approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Medicine.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Master of Surgery and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2003/5088)

11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 341/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 26 November 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

The report was passed over for this meeting.

The Chair took the opportunity to note that Professor Ryan was stepping down as Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee and to thank him for his hard work in this role.

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 19 November 2008

12.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress

Resolution 342/08

That the Academic Board note the Faculty Progress Report from the Faculty of Science, as set out in the report presented.

- ★ **12.2.2 2007 Annual Report of the Institute for Teaching and Learning**
Professor Trigwell pointed out that the recommendation in the main agenda was incorrectly worded. It was agreed that this would be rectified in the minutes.

Resolution 343/08

That the Academic Board note the 2007 Annual Report of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.3 Retiring Members of the Committee

Resolution 344/08

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

12.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 345/08

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

13. Report of the Research and Research Training Committee (Professor Jillian Kril)

- ★ **13.1 Oral report on behalf of the Chair**
The report was passed over for this meeting.
- 13.2 Report of the meeting held on 19 November 2008**
 - 13.2.1 Proposals for new and amended courses**
 - 13.2.1.1 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy**

Resolution 346/08
That the Academic Board note that the Research and Research Training Committee supports the approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the double degrees of Master of Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medicine (Reproductive Health Sciences and Human Genetics)/Master of Philosophy, with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report of the Graduate Studies Committee.
 - ★ **13.2.2 Cotutelle Scheme**

Associate Professor Masters suggested amending clause 1.7 in the revised policy to add the following phrase to the end of the clause: "prior to the signing of the candidature agreement". Professor Kril agreed that this was the intent of the policy. Members approved the revised policy with this amendment.

Resolution 347/08

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Cotutelle Scheme, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to update the Academic Board policy on the Cotutelle Scheme on Policy OnLine.

13.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 348/08

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 19 November 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**

The report was passed over for this meeting.

14.2 Report of the meeting held on 3 December 2008

14.2.1 Membership of the Committee

Resolution 349/08

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

14.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 350/08

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

15. General Business

15.1 Academic Staff Promotions

15.1.1 Academic Staff Promotions to Level E in 2008

Resolution 351/08

That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff to Level E in 2008, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date

Emeritus Professor Hans Charles Freeman, AM, FAA, FRACI, FRSCChem (1929-2008)

Hans Freeman was a part of the University of Sydney for 60 years. He was a man of courage and vision, whose influence on Australian science leaves an enduring legacy.

Hans Freeman was 9 years old when, in 1938, he and his family, father Karl, mother Lottie and sister Eva, emigrated from his native Breslau in Germany to Australia. Hans was soon dux of Double Bay Primary School and of Sydney Boys' High School, where he was taught chemistry by the legendary Len Bassler, a teacher of such influence that Hans and nine of his graduating class became Professors of Chemistry. He then proceeded to the University of Sydney, graduating in 1949 with First Class Honours and the University Medal in chemistry, followed by an MSc in 1952, both degrees obtained under the supervision of Professor R. J. W. Le Fevre, FRS. Hans' early research was on the use of dipole moment measurements to study the structure and reactions of organic compounds. However, although he was to continue to publish in this area for several years, Hans' interests were to change dramatically during his tenure of a Rotary Foundation Fellowship at The California Institute of Technology in 1952-53, whilst a Temporary Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Sydney. Hans was supervised at Caltech by Dr Edward W Hughes, a pioneer in developing the calculations used to determine the structures of molecules by X-ray crystallography and who was a long-time colleague of the dual Nobel Prize winner, Linus Pauling. Under the tutelage of Hughes and Pauling, Hans became enthused by the power of the technique of X-ray crystallography. He returned to The University of Sydney in 1954 as a Lecturer in Chemistry, and set about establishing a research program in this area. The Sydney area at the time was a world leader in the study of the interactions of metal ions with organic molecules, particularly those of biological relevance and Hans began by determining the structures of peptide-metal complexes, a field of fundamental importance in enzyme and medicinal chemistry. This was a courageous decision, as it went against the tradition of the time, in that there was no-one in Australia to provide help or mentoring. The absence of any functioning crystallographic equipment in the country did not deter Hans, who obtained a series of grants from the USA National Institute of Health to fund and equip the new laboratories in Sydney, establishing a pattern for the acquisition of new equipment which has continued to this day, with the consequence that the University of Sydney has long boasted the pre-eminent Chemistry School in the land. He completed a University of Sydney PhD in 1957, determining the molecular structure of biuret hydrate, a compound with only 9 atoms. All of the necessary calculations were carried out by hand, but Hans soon began using the University's SILLIAC computer (Australia's second) for his calculations, leading the way nationally in the use of computers in crystallography and making several fundamental contributions to the theory of the discipline. Many of Hans' students graduated to careers in academia or CSIRO, amongst them, Ian Dance (New South Wales), Mitchell Guss (Sydney), Mike Snow (Adelaide), Max Taylor (Flinders) and John Taylor (CSIRO).

Hans was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1959, Reader in 1964, and was appointed the University's first Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in 1971. A keen and practicing advocate of the need to collaborate internationally, he was George Ellery Hale Research Fellow at Caltech (1958-59), and had Visiting appointments at the University Of Basel (1966), University of Göteborg (1966), Yale University (1968), University of Copenhagen (1977) and Stanford University (1983). Following his appointment as Professor, Hans determined to build the best Inorganic Chemistry department in Australia and one with the highest international standards. This was another turning point in Hans' career. With introductions from his friend, Dr Alex Boden, Hans began a campaign visiting the boardrooms of companies across the nation to raise funds to establish in 1972 the Foundation for Inorganic Chemistry Within the University of Sydney. The Foundation continues to this day as a memorial to the efforts and collaboration of Boden and Freeman. Every year since its inception, the Foundation has brought to Australia one or two outstanding chemists from around the globe to lecture in their speciality and to collaborate with staff and students. Not only has this served to familiarize Australians with the latest chemistry initiatives overseas, but it has also raised the international profile of Australian chemistry.

Hans realized that if the interactions of metals within the body were to be truly understood, it would be necessary to determine the structures of metalloproteins – molecules with many thousands of atoms, in contrast to his PhD assignment of a 9 atom structure. This was a huge step at the time and took another courageous decision to spend several seemingly unproductive years developing the necessary expertise. He recruited Peter Coleman, subsequently Head of Structural Biology at The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and one of the inventors of the anti-influenza drug, *Relenza*, and Mitchell Guss, now a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Sydney, and with an enthusiastic team of students, and a few false starts, they harvested the leaves of the University's poplar trees, to extract a few milligrams of the copper-containing protein plastocyanin, an electron carrier in photosynthesis. This was a miniscule amount, but enough to crystallise and to determine the protein's molecular structure - the first determination of the structure of a protein in Australia. Hans employed ever more sophisticated techniques to establish the structures of biomolecules of increasing complexity, and, in the early 1980's began a collaboration with Keith Hodgson at Stanford University to use the extremely high energies of synchrotron radiation to examine the environments of metals in metalloproteins. Hans was amongst the first in the world to so employ this technique and his involvement was, in part, to change the face of Australian science. Hans became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1984, and, in 1990, was one of six authors of the Australian Science and Technology Council's parliamentary submission, *Small Country, Big Science*, which argued successfully that to be internationally competitive, Australian scientists needed funding to provide access to large scientific facilities overseas the like of which could not then be constructed in Australia. Thousands of Australian scientists have benefitted from this program, which has seen the establishment of Australian laboratories in Japanese and USA facilities, and has culminated in the opening of Australia's own synchrotron in 2007.

Hans was particularly active in fostering the discipline locally and overseas. His national and international roles have included: Foundation President (1966-1967) of the Society of Crystallographers in Australia, Chair of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's then Coordination and Metal Organic Chemistry Division (1971-1973), and Chair of the Australian National Committee for Crystallography (1984-1993), membership of the International Program Committee for the 13th (1984) and 15th (1990) International Congresses of Crystallography, and Chair of the Program Committee for the 14th Congress (1987). From 1989 to 1992 Hans was a member of the International Science and Technology Advisory Committee of the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce.

Within the University Hans served several terms as Head of the School of Chemistry, was a member of the University's Professorial Board and of the Association of Professors. As Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, he worked tirelessly and strategically to promote the research excellence of the discipline of inorganic chemistry in particular, and of chemistry in general. He was meticulous in his attention to detail, whether it be in the recruitment and appointment of new staff, the design of curricula, the allocation of teaching or administrative duties, the examination of students or in the seating plan for a dinner of the Foundation. Hans set exacting standards for himself and those with whom he worked and those he taught. He set the same standards of excellence for teaching that he set for research, on several occasions bringing top ranking chemistry educators at both secondary and tertiary level to Sydney from the UK and the USA under the auspices of the Foundation for Inorganic Chemistry Within the University of Sydney. He used these visits to promote the teaching of chemistry in both secondary schools and the University and to forge links with secondary school chemistry teachers. Hans had a particular interest in ensuring that the School of Chemistry offered students the very best chemistry education in Australia, and one meeting the highest international standards. He was also keen to ensure that the School recruit and encourage the best students, and the practical laboratory course he designed for them in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Arizona remains a feature of the School's Chemistry Special Studies Program for gifted chemistry students, and is still rated by them as amongst their favourite undergraduate experiences.

Hans was made a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in 1968, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) in 1984. In 1979 he was the Liversidge Lecturer of the Royal Society of New South Wales, and in 1980 he was awarded the Burrows Medal, the Inorganic Chemistry Award of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Following his retirement in 1998 Hans became an Emeritus Professor of the University of Sydney and continued his productive scientific output. In 1999 he was awarded the Leighton Memorial Medal by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and in 2005 became a Member of the Order of Australia. In 2007, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute inducted him as a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute, and the Australian Academy of Science conferred on him the Craig Medal, awarded for "contributions of a high order to any branch of chemistry".

Away from the University, Hans was a devoted family man, with a love of fine music. He was a gracious and considerate host. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, the former Edith Siou, and children, Maeva and Philip.

Hans genuinely cared about Australian science, working selflessly over more than half a century for the benefit of his discipline, his School, his Faculty, his University and his country, because these things needed doing, and for the benefit of others.