

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Research and Research Training Committee

13.2 Report of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 16 September 2009

The Committee met on 16 September 2009 when there were present: The Acting Chair (Professor J Kril) presiding; Professors G Clarke and K Howard, Associate Professors P McCallum, E Tipton (for Associate Professor J Keene), G Tolhurst and S Williams; Drs D Field (for Professor A McBratney), J Patching (for Associate Professor D Waters), L Scanlon (for Professor B Paltridge), I Shariv, L Stickells (for Associate Professor R de Dear) and P Young (for Associate Professor A Ammit); and Mr N Irving. Mr M Charet was in attendance.

The full agenda for the meeting may be accessed on the web at:

<http://sydney.edu.au/ab/committees/oldcom/rrtc/agendas.shtml>

13.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses**13.2.1.1 Faculty of Arts: Master of Philosophy***pages H2-H3*

The Faculty of Arts proposed to change the names of one of the disciplines in which a Master of Philosophy may be completed, as outlined in the report presented. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Research and Research Training Committee.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to amend the Master of Philosophy;*
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no subsequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate; and*
- (3) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Faculty relating to the course,*

with effect from 1 January 2011, as set out in the report presented.

13.2.2 Academic Board Phase Three Faculty Review Reports**13.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts***page H4*

The Research and Research Training Committee considered the recommendations in the Faculty of Arts Review Update Report which related to research issues, an excerpt of which is attached. The [full Update Report](#) is available with the agenda papers for the Research and Research Training Committee meeting of 26 September 2009.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the update report arising from the Phase Three Academic Board Faculty Review of the Faculty of Arts.

13.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

The Committee also noted:

- update reports from the PhD Review Working Party and Research Masters Working Party;
- the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting of 25 August 2009; and
- the report of the Academic Board meeting of 26 August 2009.

Minor Course Amendment Proposal

Faculty: Arts

Contact person: Dr Jennifer Milam, email Jennifer.milam@usyd.edu.au

1. Name of award course

Include the name of the relevant qualifications(s)

Name change to subject area in the
Master of Philosophy

2. Purpose of proposal

Provide a statement setting out the reasons for the amendment(s) or approval(s) including all relevant background information

To amend the subject area as a result of a name change to the discipline. 'Art History and Theory' to be changed to 'Art History' for the Master of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts.

Approved by the Faculty's Postgraduate Matters Committee on 6 July 2009.

3. Details of amendment

Provide specific references from the relevant Resolutions of the Senate or Faculty Resolutions and clearly indicate where the proposed change is being made. Include page references to the current University Calendar. Underline proposed additions and strikethrough proposed deletions.

Faculty of Arts Postgraduate award Resolutions
Master of Philosophy

7. Subject areas

7.1 The degree may taken in the following subject areas:

7.1.1 Anthropology

7.1.2 Applied Linguistics (Language in Education)

7.1.3 Arabic and Islamic Studies

7.1.4 Archaeology

~~7.1.5 Art History and Theory~~

7.1.6 Asian Studies

7.1.7 Celtic Studies

7.1.8 Classics

7.1.9 Digital Cultures

7.1.10 English

7.1.11 French Studies

7.1.12 Gender Studies

7.1.13 German

7.1.14 Greek

7.1.15 Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies

7.1.16 Historical Archaeology

7.1.17 History

7.1.18 International Comparative Literary Studies

7.1.19 Italian

7.1.20 Italian Renaissance Studies

7.1.21 Latin

7.1.22 Linguistics

7.1.23 Media and Communications

7.1.24 Medieval Studies

- 7.1.25 Modern Greek
- 7.1.26 Museum Studies
- 7.1.27 Peace and Conflict Studies
- 7.1.28 Performance Studies
- 7.1.29 Philosophy
- 7.1.30 Religious Studies
- 7.1.31 Semiotics
- 7.1.32 Social Studies
- 7.1.33 Southeast Asian Studies
- 7.1.34 Spanish and Latin American Studies
- 7.1.35 US Studies

4. Transitional arrangements

If the proposed amendment(s) will affect students who are currently enrolled, include details of any transitional arrangements.

Not applicable

5. Other relevant information

To be effective from 2011.

6. Signature of Dean

Associate Professor Anne Dunn
Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts

4 August 2009

Excerpt from
Response to Academic Board Recommendations
Faculty of Arts

- 11. The Academic Board recommends that the Faculty give priority to the development of strategies that will facilitate cross-disciplinary research.**

Response:

The Faculty Strategic Plan includes as one of its research strategies 'to develop a series of research activities to encourage interaction, cross-school and discipline sharing' (R1.4).

- 12. The Academic Board recommends that the Faculty:**
- (a) coordinate the support available to research students through a formalised structure at either School or Faculty level;**
 - (b) provide more opportunity for research students to engage in interdisciplinary activities;**
 - (c) provide more opportunity for research students to develop professional skills relevant to future careers, including as academics.**

Response:

12a Support to research students occurs in a number of ways. Support through the provision of space to work is coordinated through the Faculty, with the appointment of a PG ARC (Postgraduate Arts Research Centre) coordinator who is an academic. The new PG ARC Fisher provides an additional 71 work spaces, with an additional 30-50 to be provided in the next 18 months. Support in the form of financial assistance to attend conferences etc is coordinated at Faculty level through the Research Committee. The Faculty Strategic Plan includes a review of financial incentives to postgraduate research students.

12b See the response to recommendation 11.

12c In 2009 the Faculty introduced six PG Teaching Fellowships. These are specifically designed to provide increased opportunity for students to develop professional skills relevant to an academic career. The same number of PG Teaching Fellowships will be offered in 2010, budget constraints permitting.

- 13. The Academic Board recommends that the Faculty consider how it can provide some flexibility in the cut-off date for PRSS applications.**

Response:

The PRSS formerly had two rounds of applications. This had the effect of reducing available funding in the second round, so the Faculty decided only to have a single round on equity grounds. PG students can apply for funding retrospectively; that is, for example, to be reimbursed for a conference they have already attended self-funded. There must of course be a cut-off date, so the Faculty is unsure what kind of flexibility is sought by Academic Board. This recommendation will be referred to the Faculty Postgraduate Research Committee for consideration.

31 August 2009