



---

## Academic Board Minutes

Executive Officer: Megan Kemmis

Secretariat, Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9351 3306; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: [admin@academicboard.usyd.edu.au](mailto:admin@academicboard.usyd.edu.au)

Web site: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab>

---

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 11 November 2009 in the Professorial Board Room**

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding; the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor S Garton); Chairs of Standing Committees (Professors T Aspromourgos, B Bennett and S Kable; and Associate Professor P McCallum); Professors D Armstrong, A Brewer, M Guss (for Professor D Day), A Johnston, W Julian, C Murphy, B Paltridge, A Peters, I Ramzan, K Refshauge (for Professor Llewellyn), R Taylor, J Trehwella, G Triggs, K Trigwell, Associate Professors M Boughton, C Collyer, M Fairskye, A Fekete, M Halliwell, D Hibbs, A Holland, L Hossain, A Jamalipour, A Masters, I Odeh, G Ryan, A Still (for Professor K Walker), A Twomey, M Walton, S Williams and H Zoellner, Drs F Collyer, L Cutcher, M Edmond, M Fisher, C Grupen, N Hajjar, J Hanrahan, S Mansfield, K Nelson, S Ronaldson and C Taylor, Mr J Conomos, Ms J Henderson, Mr N Irving, Mr D Liu, Mr C Riley (for Mr P Ball), Mr J Shipp, Ms L-M Syron and Mr N White.

Present as observers: Mr T Payne (Director, Policy Analysis and Communication), Ms L Rose (Provost's Office) and Mr M Charet and Ms L Young (Secretariat).

In attendance: Ms M Kemmis (Secretary to Academic Board)

The Chair welcomed Professor Johnston (Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies), Professor Mitchell (Acting Dean of Science) and Professor Taylor (Dean of Veterinary Science). He also took the opportunity to thank Mr Matthew Charet for his work with Secretariat, noting his secondment to the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.

★ **1. Apologies**

Professors M Adams, A Boyd, D Day (Professor M Guss attending in his stead) R Ewing, G Llewellyn (Professor K Refshauge attending in her stead), R Magnusson, C Rhodes, S Short, K Walker (Associate Professor A Still attending in her stead), J White and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors E Blignaut, L Harris and N O'Dwyer, Drs T Anthony, D Auld, S Cox, B Jones, D Moses, R Phillips, L Scanlon, T Schofield, J Slapeta and M Spence, Mr P Ball (Mr C Riley attending in his stead), Mr W Chan, Mr M Kalonikos, Mr A McLeod, Mr J Quilty, Ms R Rodney and Ms R Santos.

**2. Arrangement of agenda**

★ **2.1 Starring of items**

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items. The following item was starred: 13.3.1.

## 2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

### Resolution 266/09

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

## 3. Minutes of previous meeting

### Resolution 267/09

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 October 2009, 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 A proposal for changes to the structure, function and membership of the committees of the Academic Board

The Chair reminded members that the paper prepared by himself and the Vice-Chancellor had been circulated prior to the meeting and also with the agenda. The proposal to revise the Academic Board's committee structure was in response to internal and external drivers: internally, the establishment of a committee structure for the Senior Executive Group (SEG), and externally the revision of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and the establishment of the Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA). The functions of the Academic Board, as set out in the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended)*, were not being changed, but the Board needed to consider how its committee structure should be arranged to address these functions in a new tertiary education environment. He invited comments from members.

Members raised the following comments in discussion:

- Professor Murphy queried the rationale for moving the Academic Staffing Committee from the Academic Board to become an advisory committee of SEG, pointing out that this move would remove the committee's current dual reporting line to both the Board and SEG, and a measure of its independence; the Chair advised that the SEG committee would include Academic Board members (possibly half of the Committee membership), and the Board would not lose its right to comment on academic staffing policies; the Provost supported this view;
- Associate Professor Fekete expressed support for the general thrust of the proposal, but expressed similar concerns regarding the disestablishment of the Research and Research Training Committee, adding that there might not be enough on-going thought given to matters covered by these two committees; he acknowledged the role of the SEG committees in these areas but queried whether they were the appropriate groups, or had the appropriate membership, for academic consideration of these issues; the Provost pointed out the membership of SEG committees included many academics, such as Associate Deans, capable of undertaking rigorous thought on these issues; the Chair added that the new structures will only work with communication and dialogue, and establishing effective communication lines would be crucial; he also pointed out that all the members of SEG were also members of the Academic Board;

- Professor Fekete also queried the reference in the paper to degrees enhancing the University's reputation, and recommended that this be altered to "maintain or enhance the academic reputation of the University"; the Chair agreed to this amendment;
- Associate Professor McCallum noted that faculty structures had, until recently, tended to mirror the Academic Board's committee structure, and that it would be useful for faculties to reconsider this in light of the proposed changes; he suggested that faculties might want to align their structures with the SEG committee system, noting at least one faculty was already considering this;
- Associate Professor Collyer expressed concern about what was not included in the proposal, i.e. how would SEG handle those matters previously handled by the Board, such as policy development, and how will general academics contribute to this work; the Chair advised that he had discussed this issue in depth with the Vice-Chancellor, who agreed the need for a new policy could be raised by any part of the University, including SEG and the Academic Board; the Chair added that his expectation was for SEG and the Board to agree on the need for any new policy related to academic matters, with the development mainly occurring within the relevant portfolio area, and with the Board regularly advised on the progress with development prior to the policy being submitted for Board scrutiny and approval;
- Professor Collyer further queried how SEG would ensure that policies are relevant to faculties; the Provost reiterated that the SEG committees contained broad representation across the faculties, and that the Vice-Chancellor had revised the membership of SEG and established the committees to ensure the involvement of faculties and deans and, at the committee level, of those people within faculties responsible for the relevant portfolio areas (such as education and research); he added the Board would remain the critical forum for assessing the validity of academic policies developed by SEG;
- Associate Professor Masters commented that this was an exciting change for the Board, but he cautioned against the Board merely becoming a house of review, adding that such a move would destroy the collegiality of the Board; instead, he suggested concentrating on the potential for the Board to engage in other activities, mainly discussing and engaging with the big issues, such as how the University should address the various threats and opportunities facing it; the Provost agreed that the reviewing of policies was not the Board's only role, and that this was an opportunity for the Board to reduce the amount of time it spent on process work and to engage more in policy debate and quality assurance discussions, particularly with the advent of TEQSA; the Chair also agreed, adding that the Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies committees would continue their work of scrutinising course proposals and that the Board needed to trust these committees to do this work, noting that the committees would highlight any issues of concern with the Board; he pointed out that the Academic Governance Rule states a function of the Board is the formulation of policy, while the paper before the Board refers to policy development, which he argued were two different things, with scope for the Board to continue to undertake research into what the University's future policy requirements will be;
- Professor Julian pointed out there is nothing to stop the Board submitting business items for SEG meetings; however he expressed concern regarding the issue of collegiality and the University's mechanisms for supporting it; he added that the University faced a

challenge in inspiring staff to engage in and debate University policies in forums such as the Board;

- Professor Aspromourgos pointed out one of the structural changes which had not yet been discussed, being the re-constitution of the membership of the committees; he noted that the work of the Board's committee had been divorced from the membership of the Board, but this would change with the new committee structure, with most members of the Board having some involvement with the new committees, and thus the work of the committees would be more closely associated with the Board; he added the quality of the Board's work will depend on the character, energy and quality of its membership and he pointed out there was an element of conscription to fill casual vacancies which mitigated against this; the Chair noted this, adding it was definitely the intent that the membership of the new committees be taken largely from the Board's membership;
- Mr Irving questioned the transfer of research training matters to the Graduate Studies Committee with research issues going to the Academic Standards and Policy Committee, and also questioned the proposed work-flow for new course proposals, suggesting they should be considered by the Board prior to SEG; the Chair agreed that research policy would now fall under the new Academic Standards and Policy Committee, with research training matters reverting to the Graduate Studies Committee; he added the Graduate Studies Committee had, prior to 2006, considered research training matters; with regard to course proposals, he pointed out the new process was an elaboration of the existing system whereby the Provost signed off on the business case for proposals for new courses; the Provost added that this system had not worked as well as it could in ensuring proposals were considered strategically;
- Professor Triggs expressed support for the proposed changes but pointed out there was a lot of detailed work, such as the membership of the committees, still to be done; with regard to the new course proposals process she expressed concern that the details of the process were still unknown, and that there was potential for the current approvals timelines to be greatly expanded which would mitigate against faculties responding to market demands; the Chair advised that a paper on these issues was on the agenda for the next meeting of SEG; he noted the Board was constrained by the need to meet various external deadlines for new courses and suggested SEG might consider parallel, rather than sequential, processes; the Provost acknowledged faculties' desire for timely approval processes, but cautioned against rushing the proper scrutiny of new proposals.

The Chair asked members to support the recommendation on page of the paper, and members approved this unanimously. He advised that further information in the form of terms of reference and constitutions for the committees would be brought to the next meeting.

#### **Resolution 268/09**

That the Academic Board adopt the principles for changes to its standing committees set out in this paper and direct the Chair of the Board to bring forward a plan to implement the proposed changes.

★ 6. **Report of the Chair**

6.1 **Report on Senate matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 2 November 2009**

The Chair noted that the report had been circulated with the supplementary agenda.

**Resolution 269/09**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 2 November 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. He specifically noted Professor McCallum's appointment as Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Resolution 270/09**

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 **Membership of the Academic Board for 2010**

The Chair noted that members had been circulated the Academic Board membership for 2010 based on the recent elections and the filling of casual vacancies. He thanked all the current members of the Academic Board for their work and welcomed the members joining the Board in 2010.

**Resolution 271/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the report on the membership of the Academic Board for 2010; and
- (2) approve the nominated academic staff and student members from the faculties

as set out in the report presented.

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

File No. (2004/1728)

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

7.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

7.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 2 November 2009**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor noted that the report of this meeting had been circulated with the supplementary agenda.

**Resolution 272/09**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 21 September 2009.

## 7.2 General Report

The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised he had nothing further to report, but would be happy to take questions.

Associate Professor Masters noted the report of the last Senate meeting, and the reference to the recently retired fellows of Senate. He suggested the Academic Board should send a note of appreciation to each of these fellows. Members supported this suggestion.

Associate Professor Twomey commented on the decision arising from the Brand Project to alter the University's domain name for both its website and email addresses. She highlighted the inconvenience to staff in changing their email addresses and expressed concern the proposed new domain name both downgraded and de-branded the institution and could be construed as arrogant. There were expressions of support for these comments from some members.

The Provost advised that this matter had been debated at great length. He pointed out that "sydney.edu.au" was one of a number of domains registered by the University some years ago, and that the proposal to move to this domain name had first been proposed about four years ago. He also pointed out there would be minimal inconvenience to staff given the old email addresses would continue to operate, and that the concerns that the new domain name would be perceived negatively had been discussed at a variety of forums.

Professor Twomey advised that she had complained to the Brand Project about the decision but was advised the new domain name better reflected the University's brand. She added the response she received claimed that most universities with city names used the city name in their url, but her research indicated that only four such universities currently did this. She asked for clarification on the Board's role in this matter, to which the Provost responded that it was an operational, rather than academic, matter. Professor Murphy added the University needed to reclaim the name "Sydney" given the rise of such competing institutions as the University of Wollongong's Sydney Business School.

The Chair suggested inviting a representative from the Brand Project to the December meeting to address this issue, but Professor McCallum pointed out that a presentation to Board members on the Project had been conducted earlier in the year, with other members adding there had been numerous meeting with faculties and other units across the University. Professor Ramzan further pointed out that the Brand Project had already been signed off by Senate. Members were divided on the value of holding further discussions with the Brand Project team, and the Chair offered, as an alternative, to pass Professor Twomey's concerns on to Senate.

### Resolution 273/09

That the Academic Board note the report of the Acting Vice-Chancellor.

*Action:* The Chair to write to the recently retired fellows of Senate expressing the appreciation of Academic Board and its members for their work on Senate.

The Chair suggested to members that discussion turn to item 13.3.1. Members agreed to this suggestion.

## ★ 8. Question time

There were no further questions asked of the Chair and Acting Vice-Chancellor.

## 9. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

(Professor Scott Kable)

- ★ **9.1 Oral report on behalf of the Chair**  
Professor Kable advised members that he had no specific matters to report.

### 9.2 Report of the meeting held on 21 October 2009

#### 9.2.1 Proposals for new and amended undergraduate courses

##### 9.2.1.1 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor or Health Science (Nursing) (off-shore)

###### Resolution 274/09

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to delete the Bachelor or Health Science (Nursing) (off-shore);
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal noting there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate;

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to delete the Bachelor or Health Science (Nursing) (off-shore), noting that there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Bachelor or Health Science (Nursing) (off-shore).

File No. (003/0040/00004)

#### 9.2.2 Reports from Faculties

##### 9.2.2.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning: Bachelor of Design in Architecture and Bachelor of Design Computing

###### Resolution 275/09

That the Academic Board approve:

- (1) the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Bachelor of Design in Architecture and the Bachelor of Design Computing, and
- (2) the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the courses

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor

of Design in Architecture and the Bachelor of Design Computing and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0014/00008, 2003/6479)

### **9.2.2.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Applied Science & Bachelor of Health Sciences**

#### **Resolution 276/09**

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

### **9.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee**

#### **Resolution 277/09**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 21 October 2009, as set out in the report presented.

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

### **★ 10.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Professor McCallum advised that he no specific items to report to the Board.

### **10.2 Report of the meeting held on 28 October 2009**

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

##### **10.2.1.1 Faculty of Health Sciences**

- (1) Master of Health Science (Education), Master of Health Science (Gerontology), Master of Health Science (Management)**

#### **Resolution 278/09**

That the Academic Board

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Services to withdraw the Master of Health Science (Education), Master of Health Science (Gerontology) and Master of Health Science (Management) from offer in Singapore; and
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no consequent amendments to Resolutions of Senate

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Master of Health Science (Education), Master of Health Science (Gerontology) and Master of Health Science (Management) from offer in Singapore, noting that there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to withdraw the Master of Health Science (Education), Master of Health Science (Gerontology) and Master of Health Science (Management) from offer in Singapore.

File No. (2004/7045, 2004/7068, 2004/7076)

## **(2) Master of Exercise and Sport Science**

### **Resolution 279/09**

That the Academic Board

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Services to amend the Master of Exercise and Sport Science to delete its streams;
- (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 Masters Degrees in the Faculty of Health Sciences; and
  - (c) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the course;

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the reports presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Exercise and Sport Science to delete its streams, and approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Masters Degrees in the Faculty of Health Sciences and related to the course.

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

File No. (2005/4772)

## **10.2.1.2 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Medicine, Graduate Diploma in Medicine and Graduate Certificate in Medicine**

### **Resolution 280/09**

That the Academic Board

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to delete the Dermatology, Interdisciplinary Medicine and Renal Medicine streams from the Master of

- Medicine, the Graduate Diploma in Medicine and the Graduate Certificate in Medicine;
- (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 amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the courses;
  - (3) approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the courses
- with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the reports presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to delete the Dermatology, Interdisciplinary Medicine and Renal Medicine streams from the Master of Medicine, the Graduate Diploma in Medicine and the Graduate Certificate in Medicine, and approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Medicine and related to the courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Dermatology, Interdisciplinary Medicine and Renal Medicine streams from the Master of Medicine, the Graduate Diploma in Medicine and the Graduate Certificate in Medicine and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2005/1294)

## 10.2.2 Reports from Faculties

### 10.2.2.1 Faculty of Dentistry: Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and Graduate Certificate in Clinical Dentistry

#### Resolution 281/09

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to amend the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and Graduate Certificate in Clinical Dentistry, and
  - (2) approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the course
- with effect from 1 January 2010, 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 proposal to amend the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and Graduate Certificate in Clinical Dentistry and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (003/0016/00006, 2004/7847, 2008/1000)

**10.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy, Graduate Certificate in Health Policy**

**Resolution 282/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy, and
- (2) approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the courses

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**10.2.2.3 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Clinical Nursing, Master of Clinical Trials Practice, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)**

**Resolution 283/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Clinical Nursing, Master of Clinical Trials Practice, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), and
- (2) approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the courses

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Clinical Nursing, Master of Clinical Trials Practice, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (TBA)

**10.2.2.4 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Master of Music Studies (Conducting), Master of Music Studies (Creative Sound), Master of Music Studies (Opera), Master of Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Diploma in Music Accompaniment, Graduate Diploma in Music Opera, Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Creative Sound), Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Creative Sound) and Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Pedagogy)**

**Resolution 284/09**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend the Master of Music Studies (Conducting), Master of Music Studies (Creative Sound), Master of Music Studies (Opera), Master of Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Diploma in Music Accompaniment, Graduate Diploma in Music Opera, Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Creative Sound), Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Creative Sound) and Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Pedagogy), and
- (2) approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions related to the courses

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Music Studies (Conducting), Master of Music Studies (Creative Sound), Master of Music Studies (Opera), Master of Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Diploma in Music Accompaniment, Graduate Diploma in Music Opera, Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Creative Sound), Graduate Diploma in Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Creative Sound) and Graduate Certificate in Music Studies (Pedagogy) and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2004/7844, 2004/7845, 2004/7846, 2005/700, 2005/701, 2005/703, 2005/7835)

**10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee**

**Resolution 285/09**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 28 October 2009, as set out in the report presented.

**11. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee**  
(Professor Tony Aspromourgos)

★ **11.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Professor Aspromourgos that he had no specific items to report to the Board.

**11.2 Report of the meeting held on 28 October 2009**

**11.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Resolution 286/09**

That the Academic Board note the Academic Board Phase 3 Review Reports for the Faculty of Health Sciences, as presented.

**11.2.2 Academic Board Resolutions: Assessment and Examination of Coursework**

This item was held over to the December meeting of the Academic Board.

**11.2.3 University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006 (as amended)**

**Resolution 287/09**

That the Learning and Teaching Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate approve amendments to the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006* (as amended);
- (2) approve the rescission of the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals against Academic Decisions, as of the date the revised Senate rule becomes effective; and
- (3) endorse subsequent development of a user's guide in conjunction with the revised Senate rule with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to implement the development of a user's guide and recommend that Senate endorse the amendments to the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006* (as amended).

The Executive Officer to remove the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals against Academic Decisions from Policy OnLine, as of the date the revised Senate rule becomes effective.

File No. (2007/246)

**11.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee**

**Resolution 288/09**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 28 October 2009, as set out in the report presented.

**12. Report of the Research and Research Training Committee**  
(Professor Bruce Sutton)

★ **12.1 Oral report by the Chair**

The Chair advised that he would request the Deputy Chair, Associate Professor Peter McCallum, to address this item. Professor McCallum advised members that there had been a significant increase in APA applications for 2010. While the Federal Government had committed to doubling the number of APAs by 2012, it was not clear what had led to this recent surge in applications, and whether it was specific to the University or occurring across the sector. He also advised members that the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee would be trialling a revised allocation system to reduce the processing times. This would involve rating, rather than ranking the bulk of applicants, and would require faculties to submit their information in a timely way. He finished by urging faculties to continue to work on improving completion rates.

On a related matter, Professor Masters noted the emphasis in discussions of the new strategic plan on attracting the best and brightest students, adding this had serious implications for those students interested in higher degree research, as well as implications for the University's undergraduate teaching. He added it would be appropriate for the Board to raise this with SEG. The Chair agreed, adding this was a subject regularly discussed at both SEG and Senate. Professor Masters added the Board needed to participate in these discussions.

**Resolution 289/09**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Deputy Chair of the Academic Board.

**12.2 Report of the meeting held on 21 October 2009**

**12.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses**

**12.2.1.1 Faculty of Education and Social Work: Doctor of Education**

**Resolution 290/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Education and Social Work to amend the Doctor of Education;
- (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 degree;

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Education and Social Work to amend the Doctor of Education, and approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate related to the course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Education and Social Work to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Doctor of Education and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2003/5246)

**12.2.1.2 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Master of Nursing (Honours), Master of Philosophy (Nursing) and Doctor of Philosophy**

**Resolution 291/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Nursing (Honours), Master of Philosophy (Nursing) and Doctor of Philosophy and Faculty Resolutions governing research degrees;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate;
- (3) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Faculty relating to the courses and Faculty policies, and
- (4) request the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery undertake a review of the Master of Nursing (Honours)

with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Nursing (Honours), Master of Philosophy (Nursing) and Doctor of Philosophy, noting there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Nursing (Honours), Master of Philosophy (Nursing) and Doctor of Philosophy and Faculty Resolutions governing research degrees and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2000/2982, 2002/3752)

**12.2.1.3 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Master of Music (Performance)**

**Resolution 292/09**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend the Master of Music (Performance);
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no consequent 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 2010, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend the Master of Music (Performance), noting there are no consequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Music (Performance) and submit resolutions via CMS.

File No. (2003/5140)

### **12.2.2 Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Ranking Guidelines**

#### **Resolution 293/09**

That the Academic Board approve the amendment to the *Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Ranking Guidelines* with effect for consideration of applications for Semester 1, 2010, as outlined in the report presented.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the *Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Ranking Guidelines* on Policy OnLine.

File No. (2005/3431)

### **12.2.3 Guidelines for Examiners of Doctor of Philosophy Theses**

#### **Resolution 294/09**

That the Academic Board approve amendments to the *Guidelines for Examiners of Doctor of Philosophy Theses*, as outlined in the report presented, with immediate effect.

*Action:* The Executive Officer to amend the *Guidelines for Examiners of Doctor of Philosophy Theses* on Policy OnLine.

File No. (P17)

### **12.2.4 Statement on Open Access**

#### **Resolution 295/09**

That the Academic Board approve the Statement on Open Access, as presented.

### **12.2.5 Academic Board Phase Three Faculty Review Reports**

#### **12.2.5.1 Faculty of Health Sciences**

##### **Resolution 296/09**

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

### **12.2.5.2 Faculty of Medicine: Progress Report**

#### **Resolution 297/09**

That the Academic Board note the progress report arising from the Phase Three Academic Board Review of the Faculty of Medicine.

### **12.2.6 Proceedings of the Committee**

#### **Resolution 298/09**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 21 October 2009, as set out in the report presented.

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

- ★ **13.1 Oral report of the Chair**  
Professor Bennett advised she had no items to report on, other than the starred item.

#### **13.2 Report of the meeting held on 14 October 2009**

##### **13.2.1 Research-Only Positions: ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellows**

#### **Resolution 299/09**

That the Academic Board approve the use of the title Postdoctoral Fellow by members of staff holding Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships, as set out in the report presented.

##### **13.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee**

#### **Resolution 300/09**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 14 October 2009, as set out in the report presented.

#### **13.3 Report of the meeting held on 9 November 2009**

- ★ **13.3.1 Promotions Policy and Guidelines**  
Professor Bennett advised members that earlier in the year a series of working groups had been established by the Academic Board in collaboration with the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Working Group 1 (which she had chaired) had looked at some of the issues stemming from the academic roles paper endorsed by the Board last year. The Group had reviewed the current promotions policy and processes with a view to incorporating ideas from this paper, particularly the concept of education-focussed roles. It had reported to the Provost at the end of June, and was now submitting proposed changes to the Academic Promotions Policy, which would open up an additional pathway for promotions. The teaching and research and research-focussed pathways already exist, but the changes introduce an education-focussed pathway to recognise the work people are doing in this area. Professor Bennett stressed the three pathways do not change a person's underlying appointment, but give people a choice of pathways to use for promotion processes.

Another major change to the policy is the unpacking of the criteria for promotion to the various levels. She added they were not meant to be a daunting checklist, but to reflect the sorts of things promotion committees would look for in applications and would provide greater transparency and guidance to staff. In addition, there were a range of minor amendments arising from comments from committee members and applicants.

Professor Fekete expressed support for establishing the third pathway, having clearer guidelines and for the various minor amendments. However he expressed concern regarding some of the changes, highlighting the following issues:

- clause 2.13: the phrase “Level C for applications that have been considered by an LPC” did not reflect the original meaning of this clause, and it was agreed this would be amended;
- under levels C and D, he objected to the phrase “A premium will be placed on ERA recognised contributions” and suggested this should be replaced by “A premium will be placed on contributions recognised by the discipline” to allow recognition of new journals and conferences which might not be included in ERA for some time; the Provost suggested an alternative amendment to read “ A premium may be placed on ERA recognised contributions”, adding applicants are already referencing ERA recognised journals and conferences in their applications; the alternative wording was accepted;
- clause 5.1.4: he expressed concern with the phrase “at least one of whom is external to the applicant’s faculty” adding this could be detrimental for some applicants for Level B or even Level C; he added that external members could be useful for the research-focussed pathway, but faculty members would be better for teaching-focussed; both the Chair and the Provost disagreed with these comments adding the intent is to have an external member with disciplinary expertise to give an equitable assessment of the application; and
- clause 5.3.13: he suggested amending this clause to indicate the Head of School will be replaced only on the LPC for the level for which they have applied; Professor Bennett supported this amendment.

Professor Fekete also commented on the normative descriptions. He expressed support for the principle of providing more information on the types of evidence to be gathered, but suggested there were a number of sources of confusion, such as a lack of separation between the sorts of things people might do and the sorts of evidence applicants might offer. He also suggested applicants would struggle to meet the word limit and address all the normative criteria. He noted that some terms were not defined, and particularly asked that “superior” and “outstanding” in the tables at the end of section 3 be defined. He also suggested that the use of “will”, “may” and “will normally” for the normative criteria should be explained. The Provost commented that the different terms were used to address areas where there were disciplinary differences.

Professor Bennett advised that a lot of discussion had gone into determining which of the normative criteria should use “may” or “will”. The terms “would normally” and “where appropriate” were aimed at the disciplinary differences referred to by the Provost.

Rather than a “laundry list”, the criteria are meant to provide information, particularly for junior staff. She added that “exceptional” had been introduced to replace “outstanding\*”, which had not been well defined.

Professor Trigwell asked if the guidelines for applicants still referenced the five elements of teaching. Professor Bennett advised there was no intention of removing these. He also asked if supervision of higher degree research students would be deemed to be teaching, and the Chair advised this would be the case for the research-focussed pathway.

Professor Hossain asked if there had been any bench-marking of the promotions policy and procedures with other institutions. He also expressed concern at the lack of emphasis on the importance of referees’ reports. Professor Bennett advised that Working Group 1 had done some bench-marking, particularly looking at the use of education-focussed pathways. With regard to referees’ reports there was general discussion about the need for applicants to carefully select referees who would enhance their applications.

Associate Professor Still asked that the term “where appropriate” be added to criteria referencing the ERA. Professor Bennett agreed, but asked that Professor Still advised on where the changes should be made. Professor Guss suggested the term “exceptional” might encourage some applicants to make direct comparisons with their colleagues. The Provost suggested applicants should be warned against this in the guidelines.

The Chair advised members the revised policy should be in place for the 2010 promotions’ cycle, which would require approval this year. He added the policy would be considered at the next SEG meeting and suggested the Board approve the policy in principle with the final version (including the amendments discussed today and any recommendations from SEG) brought back to the next meeting for brief discussion. Members agreed to this proposal. Professor Bennett invited members to contact her with any further concerns or comments.

**Resolution 301/09**

That the Academic Board approve in principle the revised Promotions Policy and Guidelines with effect from January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

**14. General Business**

There were no items of general business.

The meeting closed at 4:07 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

-----  
*Chair*

-----  
Date