



Undergraduate Studies Committee Agenda

Committee Secretary: Ms Megan Kemmis

Secretariat, Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9351 3306; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: M.Kemmis@secretariat.usyd.edu.au

Web site: http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/UG_studies/index.shtml

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the **Undergraduate Studies Committee** will be held at **10.00 am** on **Tuesday, 18 September 2007** in the Western Tower Room (Room S 495, first floor of the Western Tower area of the Quadrangle Building on the Camperdown Campus, opposite the Clock Tower).

Members who are unable to attend are asked to notify Megan Kemmis at the above address. Enquiries concerning this meeting may also be directed to Ms Kemmis.

for
Dr W Adams
Registrar

11 September 2007

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5. Report of the Academic Board *pages 22-23*

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting of 29 August 2007, as set out in the report presented.

6. Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee Meeting *pages 24-26*

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 21 August 2007 as set out in the report presented.

7. Proposals for New and Amended Courses *pages 27-32*

7.1. Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) *pages 27-32*

(Summary: proposal to delete course – there are no currently enrolled students and the Faculty is looking at developing other programs in this area)

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to delete the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health),*
- (2) recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete this course; and*
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, and the rescission of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course,*
- (3) approve the deletion of the Faculty Resolutions relating to the course with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report.*

8. Reports from Faculties *page 33, separate document*

8.1 Faculty of Economics and Business: IELTS as a Predictor of Academic Success *page 33, separate document*

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report from the Faculty of Economics and Business regarding IELTS as a Predictor of Academic Success.

9. General business

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 23 October 2007** at 10:00 am in the Western Tower Room.

Agenda Item 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 Minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 31 July 2007

There were present: the Chair (Associate Professor Scott Kable) presiding, Professors D Guest and B Sutton, Associate Professor R Taylor, Drs D Auld, C Comerton-Forde, R Gibson, J Hanrahan, T Hubble (on behalf of Associate Professor C Collyer), S Robertson, M Rosenman and J Shaw, and Mr P Ball, Ms L Brown, Ms J Gamble, Ms J Gavan, Mr A McLeod, Mr J Rodwell and Mr M Vaughan. Dr L Laing, Ms M Kemmis and Ms N Smith were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Professors D Armstrong and R Mason, Associate Professor C Collyer, Dr M Bhutada and Mr D Bowan.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 Meeting of 26 June 2007

Resolution 60/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2007 as a true record.

2.2 Meeting by circulation in July 2007

Resolution 61/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held by circulation in July 2007 as a true record.

3. Business arising from the Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

Dr Shaw advised the Committee that the resolution listed against item 7.5.2 in the minutes of the Committee meeting of 26 June 2007 had been corrected at the Academic Board meeting of 11 July 2007. The corrected resolution reads:

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to replace the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Music Studies degree with the Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts degree;
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal;
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and the introduction of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts;
- (iii) note the introduction of the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended) and approve the faculty requirements relating to admissions, mature age students, units of study and requirements for the pass degree and honours degree;

with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

Resolution 62/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the clarification to item 7.5.2 of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2007.

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 Degrees Awarded with Merit

The Chair tabled a green paper from the Honours Working Party regarding the awarding of degrees with merit. He advised members that the Working Party had identified awarding degrees with merit as an issue to be considered following the review of the honours policy. There were examples of degrees being awarded with merit in the past, but it was not currently a common practice. With the strengthening of the honours policy to firmly tie the award of honours to research performance, honours can no longer be used to recognise overall meritorious performance in a degree.

The Chair advised that he had researched the WAMs of students in the 2006 graduating cohort (as per Table 1 in the green paper) which showed approximately 3% of students achieving a WAM of 85 or greater, and approximately 25% achieving a WAM of 75 or greater. The paper was therefore recommending there be two levels of merit degree to be awarded either on the basis of a WAM of 75 or greater and a WAM of 85 or greater or awarded to an overall percentage of the cohort. The paper suggested using the cohort percentages as a reviewing mechanism to ensure that “bracket creep” did not occur.

The Working Party had considered a number of options regarding the nomenclature for awarding degrees with merit. “With distinction” and “with high distinction” had not been supported, which left two possibilities: “with merit” and “with excellence” or “cum Laude” and “Magnum cum Laude” from the Latin honours used in many overseas universities. The Chair thanked Mr McLeod for his research on Latin honours (included as Appendix 1 in the green paper). If the Latin honours option was adopted, the University medal would take the place of “Summa cum Laude”, which is the highest level of Latin honours. The Chair concluded by outlining some of the risks and opportunities associated with merit degrees, e.g. would students choose a pass degree with merit instead of an honours degree, would there be a perception that pass degrees were devalued by merit degrees.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- members expressed support for awarding generalist degrees, such as the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science, with merit;
- Dr Auld advised that the merit proposal would not fit with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies’ honours program, as all students undertook the honours-related research units and would thus be eligible for both the honours and merit degrees under this proposal; and
- members expressed support for the award of merit degrees based on cohort percentages rather than WAM cut-offs, as this would take into account the differences in mark distributions in individual faculties and degrees – this would also be in line with the method for awarding Latin honours in many American universities.

It was agreed that the paper would be distributed to faculties for discussion, with comments to come back to the Committee’s next meeting in September.

Resolution 63/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair on degrees awarded with merit, as set out in the report presented.

4.2 Oral Report

The Chair advised members that he had nothing further to report.

Resolution 64/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair, as set out in the report presented.

5. Report of the Academic Board

The Chair asked members to note the report of the July Academic Board meeting. He invited Professor Sutton to speak to the Committee about the development of a number of working parties.

Professor Sutton advised members that current course structures at the University had been a major topic of discussion at the recent VCAC Forum. As a result, the Provost has established the following working parties:

- Academic Pathways For Research Training (to be chaired by Professor Sutton), which will look at the link between undergraduate honours and postgraduate research;
- Postgraduate Coursework (to be chaired by Associate Professor Peter McCallum), which will look at rationalising the University's current postgraduate coursework offerings;
- Generic Skills Training (to be chaired by Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn), which would look at the options for including training in areas such as academic literacy; and
- Generalist Degrees and Degree Structure (to be chaired by Professor David Day), which will look at the University's current undergraduate degree structures.

All four groups were aiming to develop initial recommendations by the end of the year.

In addition, the working party reviewing course approvals would be reconstituted to focus on a small "tiger team" which would report on a regular basis to a larger reference group, in this case the Undergraduate Studies Committee. The administrative timelines associated with course proposals had been mapped, and Professor Sutton was currently looking at incorporating the concept of quality assurance into the supporting policies. Associated with this, discussions have been held with various faculties and ICT regarding the development of a web-based course management tool.

Professor Sutton was also continuing to meet with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning) to look at the rationalisation of units of study, and Professor Jocelyn Lawler would be joining this project once she has finished her term as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. Professor Sutton was also holding discussions with the General Counsel regarding the University's legal responsibilities to maintain units of study and course resolutions following course reviews and revisions.

Mr Michael Vaughan, representing the SRC, queried the involvement of students in the various working parties and project groups outlined by Professor Sutton. Professor Sutton advised that students at the University, including the two student representative bodies, would be consulted as part of any Academic Board review. With regard to the four working parties established by the Provost, Professor Sutton suggested that the SRC should contact the Provost's office.

Resolution 65/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 11 July 2007.

6. Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee

6.1 Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee Meeting held 28 November 2006

Members noted the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 28 November 2006.

Resolution 66/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 28 November 2006 as set out in the report presented.

6.1.1 Alternative Pathways

The Chair noted that this item had been held over from the last meeting so that Professor Sutton's advice could be sought on whether or not the matter was still current. Professor Sutton advised that the issue should be referred back to the Admissions Sub-Committee. Once further information is available regarding the proposed College, the Sub-Committee could reconsider this item and make any necessary amendments to the recommendation.

7. Proposals for New and Amended Courses

7.1. Faculty of Arts

7.1.1 Transfer of Courses from the Faculty of Economics and Business

The Chair noted that the transfer of these courses had arisen as a result of recommendations from last years Social Sciences Review. Dr Robertson advised that the disciplines of Government and Political Economy were moving from the Faculty of Economics and Business to the Faculty of Arts, and that the transfer of the Bachelor of Economics and Social Sciences, the Bachelor of International Studies and the associated combined law degrees was a consequence of this transfer.

Dr Comerton-Forde queried the statement on transitional arrangements (i.e. that currently enrolled students would be administered by the Faculty of Economics and Business) and stated that this matter was still under consideration. It was agreed that the status of currently enrolled students should be confirmed before the proposal was referred to the Academic Board. The proposal was approved in principle, pending further advice from both faculties on this matter. This advice would be circulated to Committee members prior to the Academic Board meeting on 29 August 2007.

Resolution 67/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to transfer the Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences, Bachelor of International Studies, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of International Studies/Bachelor of Laws, to the Faculty of Arts,
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the transfer of these courses to the Faculty of Arts from the Faculty of Economics and Business; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates

- in the Faculty of Arts, the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business, and relating to these courses,
- (3) note the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to these courses
- with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report.

7.1.2 Undergraduate Courses – Amendment to Majors

Dr Robertson advised that this report outlined some amendments to existing majors. Mr Vaughan from the SRC asked for further information on the removal of Malay Studies, and Dr Robertson advised that this had not been taught for some time and the department no longer had staff with expertise in this particular area.

Members approved the amendments to the majors in Spanish and Latin American Studies (previously Spanish) and Indonesian Studies (previously Indonesian and Malay Studies) and the transfer of the majors in Government and International Relations and Political Economy from the Faculty of Economics and Business.

Resolution 68/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to amend the list of majors for its undergraduate courses,
 - (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the amendment of the list of majors noting that there is no amendment of Resolutions of Senate; and
 - (3) note the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Arts
- with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

7.2 Faculty of Economics and Business: Bachelor of International Studies (Major in Human Geography)

Dr Comerton-Forde advised members that the Human Geography major was based on existing units of study in the Faculty of Science which had been identified for an additional major in the Bachelor of International Studies. Mr Vaughan from the SRC queried whether there would be any ancillary fees charged for this major, and Dr Comerton-Forde undertook to clarify this matter (Note: following the meeting, Dr Comerton-Forde advised that there were no ancillary fees associated with the major).

Members approved the introduction of the new major.

Resolution 69/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce a major in Human Geography in the Bachelor of International Studies,
 - (2) recommend that Senate
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the major, and
 - (b) approve the amendment of Resolutions of Senate relating to the course; and
 - (3) note the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions relating to the course
- with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

8. Amendment to Faculty Resolutions
8.1 Faculty of Education and Social Work
8.1.1 Bachelor of Education

Dr Gibson advised members that the resolutions for the Bachelor of Education (and its associated streams and combined degrees) had been amended to comply with the Academic Board's revised policy on honours. The degree previously featured a WAM-based honours, but this would be replaced by an honours stream and two identified honours units of study.

The resolutions had also been amended to allow for the introduction of awarding degrees with merit and further detail would be added once this issue was clarified. Dr Shaw noted that the Conservatorium of Music had included a similar clause in the amended Bachelor of Music Studies.

Members noted that section 1.9 in the amended resolutions would be deleted. After further discussion, it was agreed that sections 1.6 and 1.7 would also be deleted, as these reflected the procedures for examining a master's honours thesis, rather than the usual procedures for undergraduate honours. It was also agreed that section 2.1 would be amended to replace "mark" with "HWAM" and to insert the phrase "based on the Academic Board's policy".

Members approved the revised resolutions as amended.

Resolution 70/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the amended Faculty Resolutions from the Faculty of Education and Social Work for the Bachelor of Education and approve the Faculty requirements related to the honours degree, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

8.1.2 Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal Studies)

Dr Gibson introduced Ms Noeleen Smith from the Koori Centre. Ms Smith advised members that the faculty resolutions for the degree had been amended to clarify the completion time for the course, and the articulation between the diploma and the degree. Mr Vaughan from the SRC queried the relatively short completion time. Ms Smith advised that the course was a 2 year, block-mode program and that because of the special funding arrangements (which covered students' accommodation, travel and meal allowances) there were specific DEST reporting requirements regarding completions. Students did have the option of asking the Director of the Koori Centre for special consideration if they required an extension of time to complete the course.

Members approved the amended resolutions.

Resolution 71/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the amended Faculty Resolutions for the Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal Studies), with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

8.1.3 Bachelor of Social Work

Dr Gibson introduced Dr Laing from the Faculty of Education and Social Work, who explained that the changes to the resolutions for the Bachelor of Social Work reflected amendments to the core units of study for that degree.

The Committee approved the amendments.

Resolution 72/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the amended Faculty Resolutions for the Bachelor of Social Work and approve the Faculty requirements related to the pass degree, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

8.2 Faculty of Science

8.2.1 Bachelor of Science (including all streams), Bachelor of Medical Science, Bachelor of Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS, Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sports Science)/Bachelor of Science (Nutrition)

Dr Hubble advised members that the Faculty of Science had amended the faculty resolutions for these courses related to entry into honours. Members noted that the resolutions for the two combined medicine degrees (the Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS and the Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS) should be amended to delete the phrase "or equivalent at another institution" as both courses were only available to recent school leavers, and there was no opportunity for students from other institutions to transfer into these degrees.

Resolution 73/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the amended Faculty Resolutions from the Faculty of Science for the Bachelor of Science (including all streams), Bachelor of Medical Science, Bachelor of Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS, Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sports Science)/Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) and approve the Faculty requirements related to the honours degree, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

8.2.2 Bachelor of Science (including all streams), Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Medical Science, Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Technology

Dr Hubble advised that the Faculty of Science had amended the satisfactory progress requirements in the faculty resolutions for these courses to align with the new Students at Risk policy. There was some discussion as to whether faculties needed to provide this much detail in their resolutions or should simply include a phrase such as "in accordance with the Academic Board policy".

Members agreed that the section on Satisfactory Progress could either be phrased as outlined in the Faculty's report or replaced by a reference to the Academic Board policy. The Faculty of Science is to advise the Executive Officer to the Academic Board of its preference.

Resolution 74/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the amended Faculty Resolutions from the Faculty of Science for the Bachelor of Science (including all streams), Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Medical Science, Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science and Technology, with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report presented.

9. Reports from Faculties

9.1 Faculty of Science

Dr Hubble advised the Committee that this report outlined the creation, variation and deletion of units of study by the Faculty of Science and consequent changes to some majors within the Faculty. Professor Sutton thanked the Faculty for this report and emphasised the value of such reports.

Resolution 75/07

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Science regarding the introduction of new units of study and amendments to existing units of study in the Faculty's undergraduate courses.

10. General business

There were no items of general business.

11. Next meeting

The Undergraduate Studies Committee noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 18 September 2007 in the Western Tower Room.

Agenda Item 4 Report of the Chair

4.1 Degrees Awarded with Merit

At the last meeting of the Committee the Chair presented a report on merit degrees including some recommendations developed by the Honours Working Party. It was agreed that faculty representatives would discuss this paper with their colleagues and that the paper would be further discussed at this meeting.

4.2 Faculty of Pharmacy Fourth Year Rule

12-21

Members may recall that earlier this year the SRC asked for broad consideration by all faculties of the adoption of the Faculty of Pharmacy's Fourth Year rule (this rule essentially allows for a second examination of any failed unit which would prevent the student completing their degree in that semester, and is only available for one unit on the basis that the student has not previously failed a unit).

Details of this rule were circulated to faculties in early March (see the following pages) and the responses received to date from various faculties are enclosed.

Reassessment of Students – Proposal

The SRC recommends the Undergraduate Studies Committee discuss introducing a Resolution, to apply to all Faculties, that would allow for reassessment of students who receive 'fail' for one subject in their final teaching periods, with only this subject to pass to complete the degree.

The SRC strongly recommends such a resolution and believe this would be in the best interests of both students and the University and would not compromise academic integrity.

The absence of such a resolution can place students under pressure. Introduction of such a resolution would benefit students and enable them to graduate and enter the workforce, further study etc. far sooner than is currently the case. At present students need to re-enrol in the one outstanding subject in a new teaching period and this may entail an empty semester passing beforehand.

Enrolling in one subject usually renders a student ineligible for Youth Allowance and Austudy payments as they are not full-time, yet is of such a sufficiency as to prevent the obtaining of full-time employment. If a student can only reattempt the subject in Semester 2 then the situation is further exacerbated as it results in further delay and promotes greater financial instability.

An extension of time (as opposed to an opportunity of reassessment) can pose further financial pressure for students on scholarships and international students needing to apply for a new visa to study for additional time (students from countries in Levels 2, 3 and 4 need to show financial statements).

There is already precedent for this at the University of Sydney. In 2005(?) the Faculty of Pharmacy amended Assessment Policy 7 to allow for additional assessment. (see Appendix A) The SRC submits that the University should extend a *similar* resolution to all students enrolled at the University of Sydney. Not to do so is inequitable.

Other Universities

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) and University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) have University wide provisions to allow for supplementary assessment in final teaching periods. (see Appendix B)

The details of introducing a University wide resolution would require discussion, and hence the SRC has recommended that such a resolution change be an agenda item for both the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Academic Board Assessment Working Party.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee request faculties to comment on the recommendation from the Students' Representative Council regarding the reassessment of students, as set out in the report presented.

Appendix A

Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney, Assessment Policy 7

7. Assessment Policy

(6) *With the consent of the Faculty, additional assessment will only be permitted where:*

- (b) *a student in his or her final year has either failed a single fourth year unit of study or has received a single concessional pass in a fourth year unit of study in that year that prevents him or her from completing the degree.*

Explanatory notes at time of amendment

What does this mean for me?

*If you are a final year 4th year student that has received one, and only one, Fail or PCON in a **fourth year unit of study in your final year**, which previously as a result prevented you from graduating, you will be permitted an additional assessment task(s).*

Note that excessive Concessional Pass (PCON) 1st, 2nd or 3rd year units of study being completed in the final year of study are not eligible under this rule.

What if I received one PCON and one Fail in 4th year?

You are not eligible for Additional Assessment and therefore must re-enrol in both the PCON and the failed units of study.

What Additional Assessment(s) will I be set?

You could be set a variety of tasks, not limited to supplementary examinations, additional placements, tutorials, lectures or lab sessions.

When will the Additional Assessments be held?

Additional assessments for the 4th Year Rule will be held during the Special Consideration Additional Assessment period at the end of each semester. Dates can be found on the faculty website.

Who do I contact for Additional Assessment Task information?

If you believe you are eligible for an Additional Assessment under this resolution please contact the Student Services Officer (Undergraduate) in the Faculty's Administration Office on 9036 9293 or via email on ug@pharm.usyd.ed.au as soon as possible.

What happens if I fail the Additional Assessment?

If you fail the Additional Assessment you will need to re-enrol in the following year.

Appendix B

The University of New South Wales Assessment Policy

(http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/userDocs/UNSWAssessmentpolicy2003_001.pdf)

3.2.22 Additional assessment for potential graduands

The status of students who have completed all the requirements for the degree in which they are enrolled, except for a potential failure in one course, will be reviewed by the Faculty Assessment Review Group. Further assessment may be granted, notwithstanding a student's failure to otherwise qualify for such concession.

University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Coursework Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual (www.gsu.uts.edu.au/policies/coursewkassess.html)

4.13 Supplementary Assessment in a Student's Final Teaching Period

Rule 8.5 states that:

- 8.5.1 *Where a student enrolled in an undergraduate award course is awarded a final assessment result of 'fail' in one subject only in his or her final teaching period of the course and where that 'fail' is within the borderline result range, the relevant Faculty Result Ramification Committee may make provision for the student to undertake an additional assessment task within a specified time period.*
- 8.5.2 *If the student fails to complete the additional assessment task in the specified time period and to the appropriate standard the original 'fail' result is final.*

*The rule is only intended to give students a second chance so that they do not have to delay graduation for a further semester. Such cases are determined by the Results Ratification Committee. It is **not compulsory** for faculties to provide another assessment item, particularly in cases where students neglect their studies in one subject on the supposition that they will be given a second chance.*

...

5.2 Borderline Results

Borderline results are defined as a final mark of 45-49% where 50% is judged as a pass; or those who just fail to meet objectives in subjects for which marks are not awarded.

If the assessment item worth more than 65% is a final examination, then a supplementary examination or other assessment item must be provided for borderline students. In other cases the award of supplementary assessment is determined by the Subject Coordinator on the basis of the weighting given to each assessment item.

Responses to SRC Proposal

1.0 INITIAL EMAIL

Dear Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee representatives

The Undergraduate Studies Committee, at its meeting on 20 February 2007, received a proposal from the SRC for the introduction of a policy providing for re-assessment of students who fail one unit in their final teaching period, with this unit being the only requirement preventing them from qualifying for the award of the degree.

The Committee agreed to refer the proposal to faculties for comment back to the Committee.

A copy of the SRC's proposal, together with supporting documentation, is attached.

Would you please forward your faculty's comments to me by 30 March 2007.

Regards
Megan
Megan Kemmis

2.0 RESPONSES

2.1. Martin Hesse, Faculty Manager Architecture, Design & Planning

Hi Megan,

This may be (too) late, but regarding the SRC proposal for re-assessment of students, this segment of minutes from our Faculty Board of Undergraduate Studies minutes is in response to your request for Faculty feedback:

5. Re-assessment option for final semester students

The Board noted for the Undergraduate Studies Committee that its reassessment policy is already more liberal than the one proposed by the Students¹ Representative Council that requests a reassessment opportunity for a student who fails one subject in their final semester when the result is within the range 45-49. The Faculty's current policies relating to reassessment are:

The Faculty has resolved:

1. that further tests may be available in all units of study in which a student has failed a formal examination and in special cases in units of study where there are no formal examinations if, in the examiner's opinion, the student would achieve a ³pass² level with some extra work. A candidate would not normally be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit unless the original assessment resulted in a mark of at least 45.
2. that the Dean and the examiner concerned should be empowered to grant provisional further tests in the case of a student who fails an examination in exceptional circumstances and normally where medical or other evidence has been submitted by the student.

The following words are written into the Faculty resolutions of all coursework degrees:

When a student is permitted to submit additional work other than on the grounds of illness or misadventure, and the temporary grade INC has been given, the maximum result that may be awarded is 50 Pass or equivalent

Martin Hesse
Student Administration Manager
Faculty of Architecture

2.2 Professor Charles Areni, Faculty of Economics and Business

Hi Megan,

The Faculty of Economics and Business does not support the proposed re-assessment policy for the following reasons.

1. The UNSW and UTS policies do not, in fact, require faculties to provide an additional assessment in cases where a student has failed a single unit of study in their final semester. Both policies simply allow for faculties to provide an additional assessment. The UNSW policy implies this using the phrase "further assessment *may* be granted..." (italics added), and the UTS policy is quite explicit that this is the decision of each faculty, noting "It is *not compulsory* for faculties to provide another assessment item" (italics in original).
2. The policy is inherently inequitable. Two students with exactly the same results, in the same unit of study, in the same semester would be treated differently on the arbitrary basis that one is intending to graduate that semester and the other is not. Presumably, only the graduating student receives a second chance to pass, which seems inherently unfair to the student who intends to graduate in the following semester.
3. In the vast majority of cases, students would be able to complete their degree within 2 months of the fail result by enrolling in Summer or Winter School units.
4. Students have the additional option of cross-institutional study in their home country.

The Faculty of Economics and Business would consider a policy allowing faculties the *option* of introducing additional assessment in these cases, as with the UNSW and UTS policies, but in the interest of fairness, any additional assessment would have to be available to all students failing the unit, not just those intending to graduate that semester.

Professor Charles Areni
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs
Faculty of Economics and Business

2.3. Dr Bronwyn Winter, Faculty of Arts



The University of Sydney

Department of French Studies

School of Languages

NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA

Faculty of Arts

Dr Bronwyn Winter

Brennan Building A 18
Telephone +61 2 9351 5643

Facsimile +61 2 9351 4757
email bronwyn.winter@arts.usyd.edu.au

To: Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee
From: Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Matters Committee
Re: SRC request concerning re-assessment

The SRC requested of the Academic Board that in cases where students have failed one Unit of Study, and this is the only UoS required for their degree to be awarded, that a reassessment task be set so that students are not necessarily obliged to repeat the UoS in order to graduate.

At the Academic Board UGSC meeting of 20 March, the SRC president expressed the opinion that in the event of the adoption of such a rule, it should be up to the University to notify students of their eligibility for reassessment.

The Faculty of Arts UG Matters Committee considered the SRC request at its meeting of 28 February and, following consultation with relevant Faculty administrative staff, offers the following comments:

In principle, we support the SRC's request, but consider that strict limits should be set:

- Reassessment should only be only possible in the case of **one** failed UoS. Students having failed more than one UoS should repeat all UoS.
- Absent Fails should be excluded from eligibility.
- Among other fails, only borderline cases should be considered. Clear fails of below 45 should be ruled out; some consider that any mark below 48 should be ruled out.

There are also a number of practical problems, relating to the fact that timelines for reassessment would be very tight and to the extra workload implied for both academic and administrative staff:

1. In practical terms, UoS or UG Coordinators would need to check Student Centre lists of potential graduands to identify students eligible for reassessment; yet the December/early January time period is one of the few opportunities for academic staff to take annual leave. It is unreasonable to expect academics to further delay their leave on the off-chance that a student may need a reassessment task.

2. It is similarly unreasonable to expect academic staff, whose workloads are already far too high, to prepare reassessment tasks for all UoS they coordinate 'in case'; moreover, given the high degree of specialisation of academics, it is rare that another academic can set and mark a senior assessment task in the case of absence of the UoS coordinator, which creates a significant practical dilemma.
3. Even if academics were to agree to set and mark tasks for UoS that they do not coordinate or teach, academics setting and marking tasks outside their own specialisation could create potential grounds for further student appeals, thus making the process even more complex.
4. Administrative staff have extremely tight timelines for processing results. Realistically, any reassessment mark for Semester 1 would be needed by Admin by the first week of September, and for Semester 2 by the first week of the following February. This means that eligible students need to be contacted by academic staff, and given reassessment tasks, in time for them to be completed and marked by the end of August and the end of the following January respectively. This is, as outlined above, onerous for academic staff, particularly for Semester 2 results. (NB In both cases, students would not be able to attend a graduation ceremony until early in the following year.)
5. Summer and Winter School deadlines would be tighter still.

The Faculty of Arts thus, while supporting the proposal in principle, recommends that careful consideration be given to it in terms of its practical application, and that general staff involved in results processing, either at Faculty level or centrally, have input into any process of adoption or implementation.

Bronwyn Winter
For the Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Matters Committee
27 March, 2007

2.4. Dr Jennie Shaw, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Dear Megan,

The Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music has considered the proposal by the SRC to allow students who have failed one unit of study in their final teaching period an additional/replacement assessment and we do not support the proposal for the following reasons:

- All SCM students already have access to the Concessional Pass (PCon) grade for all units other than their final semester of Principal Study (e.g., Piano 8). The reason for this exception is that our undergraduate courses are regarded as professional qualifications and we do not regard a PCon in the student's main area of expertise to be an appropriate professional standard.
- Assessment of Principal Study for performing students is by 45 minute recital, and for those students in Composition and Musicology, Principal Study takes the form of a portfolio of original works (composition) and long research essay (musicology). In Music Education the final semester of principal study takes the form of teaching practicum. In the case of a failing grade in these areas, none of these forms of assessment is appropriate to be reassessed within a short time frame, nor can alternative assessments be reasonably provided.

- In music education this is clearly a practical issue, since work within schools must take place during the course of the school term and at the school's convenience (and, in the case of a failing student, the practicum would usually be repeated at a different school so that the student is exposed to a new group of students and new assessors).
- In the performance, composition and musicology areas, all these projects are the result of a year's work. To provide alternative assessment within, say, a month, defeats the purpose of these concentrated areas of study. In practice, we have found that students who are clearly not ready for their final recital in November are rarely better prepared 3-4 weeks later. In these cases Special Consideration provisions may apply.
- In performance and music education areas there are also significant resource issues. Practicum needs to be supervised both by staff based in secondary schools and by members of our faculty who are currently required to make 2-3 visits per student per school to observe the student's teaching over the semester. As we are not an education faculty (which would then entitle us to a NSW government subsidy for practicum), all of this cost is carried by the Conservatorium. In the case of the recitals, all students are assessed by a panel of 3 experts. If the panel includes casual staff and outside experts (which is certainly often the case for honours and postgraduate recitals as well as for instrument areas where only one expert teacher in that instrument is on staff) then general staff time needs to be spent organising the reconvened/replacement panel and any panel members who are not fulltime/fractional staff need to be paid for that additional panel meeting.
- The Faculty encourages students to use the Special Consideration provisions to request deferrals of recitals/final assessments on the grounds of illness or misadventure. In the case of recitals failed due to unanticipated illness/misadventure (e.g. illness on the day of the recital/during the recital) where a fail mark has been awarded and Special Consideration is not appropriate, we have in the recent past encouraged students affected to file an appeal and we have then rescheduled full/partial recitals (two were allowed in February this year for students who had been taken ill during their recitals). The Head of School and Dean also tend to consider favourably student requests to defer final assessments due to professional engagements if the student gives sufficient warning and has the support of her or his teacher and Chair of Unit and if the engagement is one that would clearly benefit the student's professional development. This request is more often made at postgraduate than undergraduate level, but may be considered at all stages of a student's degree progress.
- While we are keen for all our students to graduate in a timely fashion, this cannot be at the cost of the level of their achievement in their area of professional concentration. The Faculty therefore regards the current measures of Pcon grades, Special Consideration, Student Appeals and Dean's discretion as sufficient and does not support the SRC proposal.

Dr Jennie Shaw
Head of School
Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies)
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

2.5. Dr. Mike Rosenman, Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning

Megan
I forgot to add

The Board of Undergraduate Studies of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning stated that it already has a policy of allowing students which it considers has a chance of passing, i.e. those with a mark of 45-4, to resubmit work or resit exams or provide extra work. It does not agree to change this policy to allow a student with a fail mark of less than 45 to resubmit.

Dr. Mike Rosenman
Associate Dean(Undergraduate)
Key Centre of Design Computing and Cognition
Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning

2.6. Dr Manish Bhutada, Faculty of Dentistry

Dear Megan,

The Faculty of Dentistry already has a reassessment policy in lines to that proposed by the SRC. The matter was discussed further at the faculties learning and teaching committee meeting on 29/03/07. The L&T committee has approved the proposal put forward by the SRC. However, the committee would like to review any university-wide reassessment policy proposal/s or changes, as and when it is planned/made (if at all).

Regards,
Manish Bhutada.

2.7. Dr P A Gerangelos, Faculty of Law

Dear Megan,

I have consulted with the Dean and other senior academic office holders and the Faculty Manager on this issue.

The response was negative. The bulk, if not all, subjects students undertake in final year are electives, often with less emphasis on formal examinations and greater emphasis on research papers and the like. There is no reason why students should not be in a position to pass all their subjects in final year, subject of course to illness and misadventure. It was felt that this proposal would serve no purpose and perhaps act as a disincentive to diligence. In exceptional circumstances of illness or misadventure the Faculty is, and has been in the past, flexible with respect to students sitting examinations late. Setting and invigilating examinations in house in resource intensive already without adding further to the difficulties. Moreover, a failure in final year indicates a serious lack of attention to the relevant unit of study. Especially as this is a professional faculty, the student would best be served by repeating the subject they failed, rather than be allowed to resit an examination. The Faculty therefore sees no benefit at all to be gained by agreeing to this proposal and it is unequivocally opposed.

Yours faithfully

Dr P A Gerangelos
Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies)

3.0 YET TO RESPOND

- Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Faculty of Education & Social Work
- Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Veterinary Science
- College of the Arts

Agenda Item 5 Report of the Academic Board

5.1 Report of the Academic Board meeting held on 29 August 2007

The agenda for the meeting of the Academic Board on 29 August 2007 may be accessed on the web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/>.

5.1.1 Approval of New and Amended Courses

The Academic Board approved:

- the transfer of the Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences, Bachelor of International Studies, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of International Studies/Bachelor of Laws, from the Faculty of Economics and Business to the Faculty of Arts;
- the amendment of two majors in the undergraduate courses of the Faculty of Arts; and
- the introduction of a major in Human Geography in the Bachelor of International Studies.

5.1.2 Amendment to Faculty Resolutions

The Academic Board approved amendments to the Faculty Resolutions of:

- the Bachelor of Education, the Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal Studies) and the Bachelor of Social Work in the Faculty of Education and Social Work; and
- the Bachelor of Science (including all streams), Bachelor of Medical Science, Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science (Advanced)/MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Science/MBBS, Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sports Science)/Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) in the Faculty of Science.

5.1.3 Faculty Reports

The Academic Board noted the Faculty report from the Faculty of Science regarding the introduction and amendment of units of study across a range of undergraduate courses in the Faculty.

5.1.4 Proceedings of the Committee

The Academic Board noted the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 31 July 2007.

5.1.5 Amendments to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 as amended*

The Academic Board agreed to recommend to Senate that amendments be made to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 as amended* to:

- replace the existing twelve elected student positions with one student representative from each faculty and the Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies;
- clarify the timing of elections for both students to faculty boards and students and academic staff to the Academic Board; and
- extend the number of consecutive terms that can be served by any one member from two to three, and insert a clause which exempts any service as a chair of a standing committee from being counted towards the calculation of a member's total period of membership on the Academic Board.

5.1.6 Other Matters

The Academic Board also:

- noted and discussed an oral report from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nutbeam, regarding current work on developing the University's Strategic Plan;
- noted amendments to the membership of the University College Sydney Academic Planning Committee; and
- endorsed action taken by the Chair on behalf of the Academic Board to allow the early submission of a PhD thesis.

Agenda Item 6

Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee

6.1 Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 August 2007

The Committee met on 21 August 2007 when there were present: The Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, Mr P Ball, Mr D Bowan, Mr T Evans, Mr C Riley and Mr T Robinson. Ms M Kemmis was in attendance.

6.1.1 English Language Requirements

pages 25-26

The policy "Admission to Undergraduate Courses" currently states:

13.4 All applicants must either have a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary/tertiary studies in which the language of instruction was English or must meet one of the following English language requirements as a condition of entry:

13.4.1 a qualification accepted by the university as proof of proficiency in English (e.g., GCE 'A' level A to C pass in the subject English or other Humanities subjects);

Currently there is no definitive document identifying the qualifications accepted by the University under this provision of the policy. Qualifications that are 'accepted' appear to have resulted from practice over a period of time but are not specifically recorded in the policy and, therefore, the status of the 'accepted' qualifications can (and is) questioned and debated not only within the University but also by students and agents wishing to clarify decisions made about applications. The lack of defined qualifications can lead to inconsistencies in the assessment of applicants with the same qualifications (particularly where Dean's discretion is utilised) and can also place the University at a disadvantage relative to other institutions as University staff and representatives are unable to provide potential students a clear list of accepted qualifications.

In order to address this issue, it is proposed, therefore, that sub-section 13.4.1 of the policy be amended and a schedule added to the policy to define the qualifications 'accepted by the University' in line with current and past practice and standards required by the Faculties. While the Academic Board is currently undertaking a review of English Language Policies, the proposed amendment would ensure that applicants for 2008 who are currently being assessed for admission will not be disadvantaged. The proposed guidelines have also been cross-referenced with major Group of Eight Universities, including Melbourne, UNSW and ANU.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the amendments to the policy "Admission to Undergraduate Courses" as set out in the report.

6.1.2 Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

6.1.2.1 Other Reports

The Sub-Committee also noted the following reports:

- International Baccalaureate;
- University College Sydney; and
- the reporting of admission statistics.



The University of Sydney

ADMISSION TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Approved by: Academic Board on 16 October 2002
Date of effect: 1 January 2003
Last amended: 17 May 2006

13. English Language Requirements

- 13.1 Applicants who have not completed an Australian educational qualification have to provide proof of proficiency in English through internationally recognized tests such as CULT, IELTS or TOEFL or through satisfactory completion of an appropriate course at the University's Centre for English Teaching unless the applicant has a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary/tertiary studies in an English-speaking country, or in a secondary/tertiary institution where the language of instruction was in English (i.e. where the applicant has completed senior secondary study or at least one year of full-time university study).
- 13.2 For students from those countries who are required by the Commonwealth Government to provide IELTS or TOEFL results for a student visa, and who do not have a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary/tertiary studies in an English-speaking country, this test result will be the primary assessment tool used for determining admission.
- 13.3 Where there is insufficient evidence of current English competence relevant to a particular course of study, faculties reserve the right to ask the applicant to undergo a further assessment of written and/or spoken English. Faculties that prescribe such further assessment are required to report the circumstances and the form of the assessment to the Undergraduate Studies Committee.
- 13.4 All applicants must either have a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary/tertiary studies in which the language of instruction was in English or must meet one of the following English language requirements as a condition of entry:
 - ~~13.4.1 a qualification accepted by the University as proof of proficiency in English (e.g. GCE 'A' level A to C pass in the subject English or other Humanities subjects);~~
 - 13.4.1 a qualification accepted by the University as proof of an international student's proficiency in English as specified in Schedule 5;
 - 13.4.2 CULT score of 80;
 - 13.4.3 overall band score of IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each band);
 - 13.4.4 Computer-based TOEFL 233 plus Essay Rating of 4.5 or better;
 - 13.4.5 Paper-based TOEFL 577 plus TWE (Test of Written English) at 4.5 (scores older than two years are not accepted);
 - 13.4.6 scores older than two years from the semester start date are not accepted.
- 13.5 International Baccalaureate students who have gained the diploma can be regarded as having met the University of Sydney minimum English requirements, provided they have met one of the following criteria:
 - 13.5.1 Completion of two Languages A1 in English at Higher or Standard Level;
 - 13.5.2 Completion of Language A2 English as a Group 2 subject at either Higher or Standard Level;

13.5.3 Completion of Language B English at Higher Level with Grade 4 or more; or completion of Language B English at Standard Level with a Grade 5 or more.

13.6 The minimum English language requirements for specific courses are listed in the attached schedule.

Proposed Schedule 5

| <u>Country/Qualification</u> | <u>Standard</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>American Samoa</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Australia</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Canada</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Denmark Studentereksamen</u> | <u>A grade of 10 or better for English B, level B</u> |
| <u>Fiji</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Finland Upper Secondary School Certificate</u> | <u>A grade of 8 or better in English or English A language</u> |
| <u>GCE A Level (Britain, Malaysia or Singapore)</u> | <u>A to C pass in the subject English or other humanities subject</u> |
| <u>GCE O Level (Britain Malaysia or Singapore)</u> | <u>B pass in English</u> |
| <u>Germany Abitur</u> | <u>A grade of 3 or better in Advanced Level English (LF)</u> |
| <u>Hong Kong A Levels</u> | <u>B pass in Use of English</u> |
| <u>Ireland</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Kenya</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Malaysia STPM</u> | <u>D pass in 920 English or B pass in 914 English</u> |
| <u>Netherlands VWO</u> | <u>A grade of 8 or better for level 6 High School English</u> |
| <u>New Zealand</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Norway Vitnemal</u> | <u>A grade of 4 or better for upper secondary school English</u> |
| <u>Papua New Guinea</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Singapore</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Solomon Islands</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>South Africa</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Sweden Avgångsbetyg/Slutbetyg</u> | <u>A grade of VG or better in Upper Secondary School English</u> |
| <u>United Kingdom</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>United States of America</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |
| <u>Zambia</u> | <u>Completion of senior secondary/tertiary studies in English</u> |

Agenda Item 7

Proposals for New and Amended Courses

7.1 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) *pages 28-32*

The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery is proposing to delete the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) degree. The degree has not been offered for a number of years and there are no students currently enrolled in the degree. The Faculty is intending to replace the course with more appropriate programs at a later stage.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to delete the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health),*
- (2) recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete this course; and*
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, and the rescission of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course,*
- (3) approve the deletion of the Faculty Resolutions relating to the course with effect from 1 January 2008, as set out in the report.*

SECTION 1: ACADEMIC BOARD COURSE PROPOSAL

PART 1: OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Faculty: Nursing and Midwifery

Faculty Contact person and/or: Lynda Rose

Ext. No: 10589

Academic Proponent: Jocalyn Lawler

E-mail: lrose@nursing.usyd.edu.au

Date course approved by Faculty: 2003

1.1.1. Type of proposal: Deletion

1.1.2. Type of course: Undergraduate

1.1.3. Name of Award course(s)

Name of Award course/s to be **Deleted**:

Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) (GH013)

1.1.4. Abbreviated name

BN (IAH)

1.1.5. Date of introduction or deletion

Deletion: Year 2007 Semester 1

1.1.6 Availability to students

Commonwealth supported students

Full-time

Part-time

Fee-paying local students

Full-time

Part-time

Fee-paying international students

Full-time

Part-time

Research Training Scheme
only)

(Postgrad. Research students)

SECTION 1 : ACADEMIC BOARD COURSE PROPOSAL

PART 2: DETAILS FOR ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL

1.2.1 Purpose of the proposal

The deletion of this course was undertaken after the decision to no longer offer undergraduate nursing programs, as determined by Senate at its meeting of 6 September 2004.

1.2.2 Justification for proposal

This course is to be replaced by new courses that are more relevant to the market, as per the advice of the Dean below:

“...there are two strategies that [the Faculty is] pursuing. First, we are having discussions, informally at the moment, about including a Indigenous health major (using existing units of study) in the BHSc which can be taken in a combined pattern with the graduate entry Master of Nursing. Second, discussions have been held, albeit in broad terms, about an interdisciplinary/ inter-professional postgraduate degree in Indigenous health.”

1.2.9 Transitional arrangements (for continuing students)

There are no students currently enrolled in this degree.

1.2.11 Resolutions

- (a) Are there changes to the list of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates conferred by your Faculty, as listed in the **Resolutions of the Senate** available in the **University Calendar**?
Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 2.*
- (b) Will there be new Resolutions or changes to the existing **Resolutions of the Senate** for the proposed Coursework award course?
Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 3.*
- (c) Will there be new Resolutions or changes to the existing **Faculty Resolutions** for the proposed award course?
Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 4.*

APPROVALS

Nominated Faculty Officer

Dean of Faculty (or Delegate)

SECTION 1 – APPENDIX 2: RESOLUTIONS OF THE SENATE (DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES)

1. The degrees in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery shall be:

1.1 Bachelor of Nursing (BN)

1.2 Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) (BN (Hons))

~~1.3 Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) (BN(IAH))~~

SECTION 1 – APPENDIX 3: RESOLUTIONS OF THE SENATE (COURSEWORK AWARD COURSES)

~~Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) Block Mode~~

~~1. Requirements for the pass degree~~

~~1.1 To qualify for the award of the pass degree a student must:~~

~~1.1.1 complete successfully units of study giving credit for a total of 192 credit points; and~~

~~1.1.2 satisfy the requirements of all other relevant By-laws, Rules and Resolutions of the University.~~

~~2. Requirements for the honours degree~~

~~2.1 To qualify for the award of the honours degree a student must complete the honours requirements published in the Faculty Resolutions relating to the course.~~

~~* No intake from 2006.~~

SECTION 1 – APPENDIX 4: RESOLUTIONS OF THE FACULTY

Resolutions of the Faculty

1. These Resolutions must be read in conjunction with The University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, which sets out the requirements for all coursework courses, the relevant Resolutions of the Senate and general Faculty of Nursing Resolutions.

Section 1

2. Admission

(1) An appropriate current NSW Higher School Certificate, University Admissions Index (UAI).

(2) Interstate school leavers apply on the basis of final school examination results.

(3) Applicants with overseas qualifications will be assessed on the equivalence of their qualifications to the Australian tertiary entry standards. Unless the final year of schooling was conducted in English, applicants will be required to sit an English proficiency test (see English language requirements).

(4) Mature-age and other applicants need to meet the criteria determined by the Faculty of Nursing for admission to undergraduate courses.

(5) A current licence to practise within Australia as an Enrolled Nurse.

(6) Applications are welcome from both Indigenous non-Indigenous applicants. However, the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) has been developed as a special measure to improve access and participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the academic programs of The University of Sydney. Accordingly, in the case of limited places, preference will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

3. Units of study

(1) The units of study for the degree are set out in Table 1.

(2) It is expected that candidates will have an assumed knowledge of either Biology, Chemistry or Personal Development, Health and Physical Education prior to the commencement of the course.

4. Requirements for the Pass degree

(1) To qualify for the award of the degree a candidate shall complete satisfactorily:

(a) units of study having a total minimum value of 192 credit points as listed in Table 1 including the prescribed clinical experiences;

(b) complete the requirements of the award within a maximum of eight calendar years for all full-time candidates and ten calendar years for all part-time candidates;

(c) attendance and performance at laboratory classes as prescribed by the Faculty; and

(d) satisfy the requirements of all other relevant By-Laws, Rules and Resolutions of the University.

(2) A candidate who is deemed to be unsatisfactory at any time during a clinical field experience unit of study may have the clinical field experience terminated, will be failed in that unit of study, and will have to show good cause as to why they should be allowed to continue in the degree.

(3) A candidate shall not progress to the third year of the course without first having completed satisfactorily all first and second year units of study.

5. Requirements for Honours degrees

(1) Honours will be awarded on the basis of merit over all units of study in degree.

(2) Candidates with a minimum Weighted Average Mean as determined from time to time by the Faculty will be awarded Honours upon completion of 192 credit points.

(3) The WAM is calculated by summing the products of the weighted marks achieved for each year and then dividing by the sum of the product of the weighted number of units of study attempted in each year. Units undertaken in each year are weighted according to their designations as first second or third year units in the following manner: 1 = first year; 2 = second year, 3 = third year and 4 = fourth year. All attempts at units of study are included in the calculation, except where units of study are discontinued with permission.

6. Award of degree

(1) There shall be three classes of Honours, namely Class I, Class II, and Class III and within Class II there shall be two divisions, namely Division 1 and Division 2.

~~(2) The class of Honours shall be determined by the weighted marks achieved in the coursework and thesis components of 30% and 70% respectively.~~

~~(3) The Honours grade will be reported in percentages and the grades for the award shall be:
First Class 80—100~~

~~Second Class: Division 1 75—79~~

~~Second Class: Division 2 70—74~~

~~Third Class 65—69~~

~~Honours not awarded < 65~~

~~Section 2~~

~~7. Re-enrolment after an absence~~

~~(1) Candidates seeking permission to re-enrol after an absence are required to:~~

~~(a) lodge an application by October 30 in the year prior to that in which re-enrolment is sought;~~

~~(b) attach a current academic transcript (progress status is contingent upon an absence of not more than two years from the course); and~~

~~(c) ensure that outstanding debts with the University and/or show cause requirements are attended to before submission of the application (applications cannot be considered until financial obligations and show cause requirements are completed).~~

~~8. Satisfactory progress~~

~~(1) Candidates who fail:~~

~~(a) up to one quarter of the units of study in which they are enrolled in any semester (this is one unit of study for a candidate enrolled in 4 units of study) may progress to a normal full time load in the subsequent year. In addition, they are permitted to enrol in the failed unit of study; or~~

~~(b) more than half of the credit point load undertaken during a semester or a year, or who fail to meet the requirements of a practicum unit, or who discontinue enrolment in one unit of study twice shall be deemed not to have made satisfactory progress. They shall be required to show good cause as to why they should be permitted to re-enrol in the course.~~

~~(2) The Board of Undergraduate Studies shall have the power to resolve on satisfactory progress and progression in individual cases.~~

~~9. Assessment policy~~

~~(1) Candidates may be assessed by written and oral examinations, exercises, essays or practical work or any combination of these, and the results of such tests may be taken into account by the Faculty in determining the final results for a unit of study.~~

~~(2) In all units of study work of a standard higher than that required for an ordinary pass may be recognised by the award of High Distinction, Distinction or Credit.~~

~~(3) Candidates who have been prevented by duly certified illness or misadventure from sitting for the whole or part of a unit of study assessment may be tested at such times and in such a way as the Faculty shall determine.~~

~~(4) There will be no re-examination for honours. If the student does not reach the expected level of achievement for the award of at least Third Class Honours no award is made.~~

~~(5) If a candidate qualifies for the award of Honours Class I and the Faculty is of the opinion that the candidate's work is of outstanding merit, that candidate shall receive a university medal.~~

~~Undergraduate courses and regulations~~

~~10. Transition Rules~~

~~(1) The Dean may approve the transfer of candidature of any student who wishes to transfer from the Bachelor of Nursing to this degree, subject to the availability of units of study, clinical or any other factor that may limit the student's ability to complete the degree in a reasonable time.~~

~~(2) Any other transition matter that is not addressed in these resolutions may be referred to the Faculty's Board of Studies for consideration.~~

Agenda Item 8 Reports from Faculties

8.1 **Faculty of Economics and Business: IELTS as a Predictor of Academic Success** *separate document*

The Faculty of Economics and Business has submitted a report on IELTS as a Predictor of Academic Success. Members are advised that this report has also been discussed by the English Language Competencies Working Party.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report from the Faculty of Economics and Business regarding IELTS as a Predictor of Academic Success.