



Undergraduate Studies Committee

Committee Officer: Ms Louise Young

Secretariat, Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9036 7891; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: l.young@secretariat.usyd.edu.au

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

Supplementary Agenda

for the meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. on **Wednesday 5 August 2009**.

Members are asked to note the inclusion of the recommendations for the following items:

6. Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee

pages [2-7](#)

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 29 July 2009, as set out in the report presented.

8. Report from Faculties

8.5 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

pages [8-9](#)

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the report of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies regarding amendments to units of study in the Bachelor of Engineering degree, as set out in the report presented.

Agenda Item 6 (Supplementary agenda) Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee

The Admissions Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 29 July 2009 when there were present: The Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, Dr M Edmond, Mr P Ball, Mr C Riley and Ms A Griffiths (for Mr K Ghezel). Ms L Young was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Dr D Auld and Mr K Ghezel.

- 6.1. Table of comparative English test scores** *page [4-5](#)*
The Sub-Committee considered further changes to the table of comparative English test scores which is attached. The Sub-Committee addressed six specific points raised about the table:

i) *current and future requirements*: it was agreed that faculties could bring any changes they required to the table to the Sub-Committee, and that ad hoc augmentation was therefore unlikely to be a problem

ii-iv) *faculty requirements*: the Sub-Committee agreed the display and format of the table could be modified to show the specific faculty requirements. The table needed to reflect the needs of the faculty, and including subtests clearly showed the differentiation between discipline requirements. Dr Edmond said this was also vital for giving students a realistic view of what was expected of them.

v) *IELTs and sub group requirement*: it was agreed the two options with unspecified sub-groups should be removed from the table.

vi) *IELTs version*: the Sub-Committee agreed that the academic version of the IELTS test was the only appropriate one to use.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the amended table of comparative English test scores, as set out in the report presented.

- 6.2 Flexible Entry Scheme policy wording** *page [6](#)*
An amendment is required to Section 5.3, 'Flexible Entry Scheme' of the Admissions to Undergraduate Courses' Resolutions of the Academic Board (last updated 15 April, 2009) to clearly define the intended target group as current domestic Australian recent school leavers, including the International Baccalaureate, and to explicitly exclude the unintended target groups of tertiary record or international applicants.

Since its instigation for entry in 2003 the scheme has only been available to Australian school leavers. The current description of the scheme in the Resolutions is poorly worded and has led to both confusion and challenge.

The Sub-Committee voted unanimously on accepting the motion but agreed that clarification was needed from David Bowan on whether the scheme referred only to Australian school leavers or to domestic school leavers, as the latter could possibly include New Zealand students.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee, recommend that the Academic Board amend the policy 'Admissions to Undergraduate Courses' with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

6.3. Faculty Proposals

6.3.1 Faculty of Health Science: Discontinuation of Vocational Entry Scheme and Multicultural Entry Scheme *page 7*

The Sub-Committee agreed unanimously to this proposal.

Recommendation

That Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the discontinuation of the Vocational Entry Scheme and Multicultural Entry Scheme in the Faculty of Health Science, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

6.4 Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee also considered the following:

6.4.1. Extended deferment period for undergraduate degrees

The Sub-Committee did not reach consensus of this issue and it has been added as agenda item 7 of the 5 August Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting agenda.

6.4.2 Students with capability in Languages other than English (LOTE)

This proposal was to allow preference for flexible entry at the University by students who had studied languages other than English in year 12. The Sub-Committee was concerned that

- 1) Practical and administrative restrictions means there are some schools where timetabling of the student's chosen curriculum is not possible – and there The proposed scheme would inadvertently be offering recognition to students in a situation where factors other than students' choice to study was a factor.
- 2) The scheme rewards high schools for teaching languages, but there is no evidence to show study of a language rather than another subject at high school better equips a student for university. Without evidence the proposed scheme raises an issue of inequity. The University's admissions philosophy is weakened if a known inequity is put in place.

It was unanimously agreed that the scheme, proposed to begin in 2012, needed to show stronger evidence that students who had studied a language in year 12 were better equipped for academic study.

6.1 Table of Comparative English Test Scores

Since this table was adopted by the Admissions Committee (29 May 2009) several anomalies have come to light that will need the further consideration of the Committee:

(i) Current & Future Requirements

The Committee has not clarified if current faculty requirements can only be stated from the options in the table or whether it is prepared to allow the table to be augmented to accommodate requirements not supported in the current table.

If the former is the case, then the faculties of architecture, economics and business, and health science will need to redefine their requirements, and if the latter is the case then the table will need to be modified.

(ii) Architecture & Economics Requirements

The requirements as detailed in schedule 1 (faculty specific English language requirements) of the admission to undergraduate courses: Resolutions of the Academic Board (15 April 2009) specify, in terms of IELTS, an overall score of 7.0 and a min of 6.0 in each subset. This option is not available in the table.

It should be noted that in order to meet UAC's 2010 publication deadline, advice was accepted from, at the time, Dr Quinn and subsequently endorsed by the Chair of the Admissions Committee for the standard to be specified as a min of 6.0 for sub groups.

(iii) Education and Social Work Requirements

The requirement as detailed Schedule 1 specify, in terms of IELTS, an overall score of 7.5 and a min of 8.0 in speaking and listening and a min of 7.0 in reading and writing. This option is not available in the table

(iv) Health Science Requirements

The requirement as detailed Schedule 1 specify, in terms of IELTS, an overall score of 7.0 and a min of 7.0 in each subset. This option is not available in the table.

(v) IELTS and Sub group Requirement

The table also includes an option for an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with 2 sub groups (unspecified) at 6.5 or above and the other two sub groups (also unspecified) at not less than 6.0. Although this requirement is not currently used by any faculty, it would not be possible to be applied in the UAC environment as it would be impossible to program. To be so it would need to be specified with all components at 6.5 or all at 6.00, or if a differential was still required, specified by sub group ie, listening, reading, speaking and writing.

(vi) IELTS Version

There are two versions of the IELTS test a General version and an Academic version. Dr J Quinn, Director of the Centre for English Teaching, has verbally confirmed that the academic version (also only accepted by UAC) is appropriate for tertiary study and not the general version which is designed for immigration purposes only.

Table of comparative English test scores

| Paper-Based TOEFL | Computer-Based TOEFL | TWE | IELTS EQUIVALENT | CULT EQUIVALENT | TOEFL IBT | CET |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--|------------------------|--|------------|
| 677 | 300 | 6.0 | 9.0 | 100 | | 5.0 |
| 673 | 297 | | | | | |
| 670 | 293 | | | | | |
| 667 | 290 | | | | | |
| 663 | 287 | | | | | |
| 660 | 287 | | | | | |
| 657 | 283 | | | | | |
| 653 | 280 | | | | | |
| 650 | 280 | 5.5 | 8.0 (all bands above 7) | 95 | | 4.75 |
| 647 | 277 | | | | | |
| 643 | 273 | | | | | |
| 640 | 273 | | | | | |
| 637 | 270 | | | | | |
| 633 | 267 | | | | | |
| 630 | 267 | | | | | |
| 627 | 263 | 5.0 | 7.5 (all bands above 7) | 90 | 106 (25 for writing & 24 for all other bands) | 4.5 |
| 623 | 263 | | | | | |
| 620 | 260 | | | | | |
| 617 | 260 | | | | | |
| 613 | 257 | | | | | |
| 610 | 253 | | | | | |
| 607 | 253 | | | | | |
| 603 | 253 | | | | | |
| 603 | 250 | | | | | |
| 600 | 250 | 5.0 | 7.0 (with 2 bands at 6.5 or above and other two bands not less than 6.0) | 85 | 101 (25 for Writing & 24 for all other bands) | 4.25 |
| 597 | 247 | | | | | |
| 593 | 243 | | | | | |
| 590 | 243 | | | | | |
| 587 | 240 | | | | | |
| 583 | 237 | | | | | |
| 580 | 237 | | | | | |
| 577 | 233 | 4.5 | 6.5 (all bands above 6) | 80 | 90 (23 writing, 22 all other bands) | 4.0 |
| 573 | 230 | | | | | |
| 570 | 230 | | | | | |
| 567 | 227 | | | | | |
| 563 | 223 | | | | | |
| 560 | 220 | | | | | |
| 557 | 220 | | | | | |
| 553 | 217 | | | | | |
| 550 | 213 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 70 | | 3.75 |

Approved - Academic Board on 1 July 2009
Approved - Undergraduate Studies on 10 June
Approved - Admissions Cttee on 29 May 2009

6.2 Flexible Entry Scheme policy

5.3 Flexible Entry Scheme

5.3.1 Faculties may approve flexible entry schemes for specified courses.

5.3.2 Pursuant to Part 9(38) and Part 9(41) of the University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999, the University establishes for most undergraduate award courses a UAI cut-off. Eligible applicants for such courses with a UAI, or UAI equivalent, equal to, or greater than, the UAI cut-off will be admitted on the basis of their UAI.

5.3.3 Flexible entry schemes for specified courses apply to eligible current domestic, Australian Year 12 recent school leaver, including International Baccalaureate, applicants with UAI or UAI equivalents lying below the UAI cut-off for that course. Flexible entry schemes will comprise two components:

5.3.3.1 A flexible entry UAI band, lying between the UAI cut-off and the lower limit to the band. This lower limit will not normally lie more than 5 UAI points below the UAI cut-off;

5.3.3.2 A flexible entry criterion or criteria, additional to the UAI, which allows admission of eligible applicants whose UAI lies within the flexible entry band. In order to monitor equity for applicants, flexible entry criteria must be selected from the list approved by the Academic Board from time to time ; - ~~(see 3(d) below) ;--~~

5.3.3.3 Faculties wishing to amend their flexible entry criteria must seek the approval of the Academic Board, with any approved changes to be published in the UAC Guide in the following year.

5.3.4 Board approved flexible entry criteria are:

5.3.4.1 Performance in the HSC, or HSC equivalent, in subjects relevant to the course;

5.3.4.2 Performance in extra-curricular academic activities relevant to the course (e.g. Science Olympiads);

5.3.4.3 Aptitude for the course, evidence evidenced by relevant work and/or other experience, submission of a portfolio, and/or submission of a statement of interest in the course. Faculties may use written submissions, interviews, or other methods to obtain information about aptitude.

5.3.5 Applicants may be considered using criteria under flexible entry schemes and under educational access schemes and under educational access schemes (e.g. Broadway), provided that their UAI lies within the approved band for both schemes. Admission bands are not normally widened for applicants who are eligible for consideration under more than one special admission program.

5.3.6 The scheme is not available to applicants with a tertiary record or to international students.

6.3. Faculty Proposals

Minor Amendment Proposal

Faculty/Board of Studies: Faculty of Health Sciences

Contact person: Dr Steve Cumming, Associate Dean

1. **Purpose of proposal**

Discontinuation of Vocational Entry Scheme and Multicultural Entry Scheme for the Faculty of Health Sciences

2. **Details of amendment**

Vocational Entry Scheme

The Vocational Entry Scheme was introduced at the Faculty of Health Sciences, prior to amalgamation with the University of Sydney. The scheme allowed for entry to undergraduate courses by considering relevant work experience or results in certain TAFE courses. At the time it was introduced, UAIs were generally lower, and the Faculty did not have a formal Mature Age Entry Scheme as an alternate entry pathway.

This Scheme is no longer appropriate as students with no formal qualifications have demonstrated that they are not suitably prepared for studying at university. Students who do not have formal qualifications, will need to complete an approved university preparation course to qualify for admission.

Multicultural Entry Scheme

The Multicultural Entry Scheme was introduced at the Faculty of Health Sciences, prior to amalgamation with The University of Sydney, to increase the number of health professionals with appropriate language skills to cater for Australia's multicultural society.

This Scheme is no longer appropriate as students admitted under normal entry requirements come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, the number of students admitted under this scheme has decreased significantly in recent years (maximum 5 per year) and therefore the scheme does not meet its stated aim.

3. **Transitional arrangements**

Students seeking admission to any course as of Semester 1, 2010, cannot enter via these schemes. All publications for entry to courses as of 2010 will be audited and adjusted to demonstrate this change.

4. **Other relevant information**

N/A

5. **Signature of Dean or delegate**

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Dr Steve Cumming
Acting Director, Learning & Teaching
Associate Dean

Date:

8. Report from Faculties

8.5 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) page [9](#)

The School of Civil Engineering have recommended changes to units of study, including renaming one unit and deleting four others.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the report of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies regarding amendments to units of study in the Bachelor of Engineering degree, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.

Minor Course Amendment Proposal

Faculty/Board of Studies: Faculty of Engineering and IT
Committee of Undergraduate Studies

Contact person: Dr Doug Auld
Associate Dean Undergraduate
Engineering and IT

Name of award course Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

At the Faculty of Engineering and IT Board Meeting on 2 June 2009 the following changes to units of study were approved for 2010.

Changes to UoS's for 2010

The School of Civil Engineering have recommended changes to UOS's (to be effective from the start of 2010).

- CIVL3411 Foundation Engineering to be renamed to CIVL34** Geotechnical Engineering
- Delete the following UoS:
 - CIVL4240 Concrete Structures 2
 - CIVL4241 Steel Structures 2
 - CIVL4412 Geotechnical Engineering
 - CIVL4413 Environmental Geotechnics

Signature of Dean
23 June 2009