



Undergraduate Studies Committee Agenda

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Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the **Undergraduate Studies Committee** will be held at **10.00am** on **Wednesday 18 March 2009** 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 Amy Griffiths at the above address. Enquiries concerning this meeting may also be directed to Ms Griffiths.

Amy Griffiths
for
Dr M Edmond
Acting Registrar

13 March 2009

Agenda

Pages

1. **Welcome and apologies**

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

9-13

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2009 as a true record.

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

4. Report of the Chair

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

5. Report of the Academic Board

14

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting of 25 February 2009, as set out in the report presented.

6. Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee

To be circulated separately.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 18 February 2009.

7. Proposals for new and amended undergraduate courses

Appendices A-B

7.1 Faculty of Arts

A3-36

(1) Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences (BPESS)

This a change in name for the Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences. The proposal also contains changes to the course coming out of the Review of Social Sciences undertaken in 2007. The principal change is described as being to the required majors.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the introduction of the new degree, the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences,*
 - (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts, and*
 - (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (2) *note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (3) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, With effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented*

(2) Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences and Bachelor of Laws (BPESS/LBB)

A37-75

This proposal is for a change in name of the existing Bachelor of Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws to the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences/ Bachelor of Laws. It also includes changes to the required majors outlined in the BPESS proposal.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculties of Arts and Law for the introduction of a new combined degree, the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences/ Bachelor of Laws,*
 - (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law, and*
 - (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (2) *note the Resolutions of the Faculties relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (3) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, With effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

7.2 Faculty of Science

Appendix B

(1) Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science (BLAS)

B3-138

This proposal is a result of the Working Party on Undergraduate Degree Structures at the University of Sydney. The Working Party recommends that a new three year generalist degree replace the existing Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BAS), Bachelor of Science and Technology (BST), the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLibStud) and the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (International) (BLibStud(Int)). A distinguishing feature of the BLAS is the development of a core generic skills program.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Faculties of Science and Science for the introduction of the new degree, the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science,*
- (2) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal,*
 - (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science,*

- (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (3) *note the Resolutions of the Faculties relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (4) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

(2) Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts (BSc/BA) B139-174

It is proposed that the existing five year Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Arts double degree be amended to a four year double degree. It is anticipated that the four year BSc/BA will replace the four year BLibStud.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Faculties of Science and Arts for the introduction of the new degree, the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science,*
- (2) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal,*
 - (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science,*
 - (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (3) *note the Resolutions of the Faculties relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (4) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

(3) Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics B175-209

This proposal seeks to combine two existing degrees, the Bachelor of Science and the Master of Dietetics. The existing Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) is to be deleted.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the introduction of the new degree, the Bachelor of Science and Master of Nutrition and Dietetics,*
- (2) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal,*

- (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Science,*
- (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (3) *note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (4) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

(4) Resolutions of Senate- List of Science degrees, diplomas and certificates

B210-211

(5) Bachelor of Psychology

Appendix D

This proposal is to amend the Bachelor of Psychology, creating two streams, one Arts and one Science.

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Psychology,*
- (2) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal,*
 - (b) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Science,*
 - (c) *approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and*
- (3) *note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and*
- (4) *approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

8. Undergraduate Courses to be deleted

Appendix C

8.1 Faculty of Arts

C4-7

(1) Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BAS)

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*

- (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the deletion of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (Honours),
 - (b) approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and
 - (2) note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,
- With effect from 1 January 2010.

(2) Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLibStud), Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Honours)

C8-13

(3) Bachelor of Liberal Studies (International) (BLibStud (International))

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the deletion of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies, Bachelor of Liberal Studies (International) and Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Honours),
 - (b) approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and
 - (2) note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,
- With effect from 1 January 2010.

(4) Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (BA (Psychology)), Bachelor of (Psychology) (Honours)

C14-19

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the deletion of the Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours),
 - (b) approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and
 - (2) note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,
- With effect from 1 January 2010.

8.2 Faculty of Health Sciences

C20-33

(1) Bachelor of Applied Science (Sport and Exercise Science)/ Bachelor of Science (Nutrition)

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences for the deletion of the Bachelor of Applied Science (Sport and Exercise Science)/Bachelor of Science (Nutrition),*
 - (b) *approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and*
 - (2) *note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,*
- With effect from 1 January 2010.*

8.3 Faculty of Science

(1) Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) (B.Sc.(Nutr))

C34-48

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the deletion of the Bachelor of Science (Nutrition),*
 - (b) *approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and*
 - (2) *note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,*
- With effect from 1 January 2010.*

(2) Bachelor of Science and Technology (BST)

C49-52

Recommendation

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *recommend that Senate:*
 - (a) *endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the deletion of the Bachelor of Science and Technology,*
 - (b) *approve the deletion of Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, and*
 - (2) *note the deletion of Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above courses,*
- With effect from 1 January 2010.*

9. General business

9.1 Future Student Administration Project

The FSAP has made a call for submissions and one is to be made on behalf of the Academic Board, after input from standing committees.

Suggested issues to be addressed include

- proper management and tracking of research training and supervision,
- proper management and tracking of online learning,

- proper management and tracking of offshore teaching and
- other issues relating to ready access to data for quality assurance issues.

Submissions to FSAP are due by the end of this month.

For discussion.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1 April 2009 in the Western Tower Room.

Agenda Item 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2009

There were present: The Chair (Professor S Kable) presiding, Professors A Boyd, B Sutton, Associate Professors C Collyer, T Ho, Drs F Burns, S Cattle, C Comerton-Forde, R Gibson, J Hanrahan, C Smith, B Winter, Ms L Browne, J Gamble, Mr P Ball, D Bowan and N White. Ms A Griffiths was in attendance.

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: Professor D Armstrong, Dr D Auld, Dr W Currie, Ms J Gavan.

The Chair welcomed members back for 2009, introducing Dr Chris Smith, new member from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

The Committee has a heavy workload for first semester, with the meetings in May and June expected to be particularly busy with new course proposals. Later in the year members will have the opportunity to bring early 'concept proposals' to the committee for discussion and input of members. The Chair reminded members that they are welcome to approach him should they have issues with proposals that need to be worked through. He is currently working with the Faculty of Medicine on one of their larger proposals.

Members were encouraged to make contact with colleagues on the Committee. The Committee terms of reference were distributed at the meeting. The Chair explained his policy on speaking to items at Academic Board. If a major or minor change is unanimously agreed on by USC, then he will generally not speak to it. Where there has been discussion and any dissent voiced over a proposal in a committee meeting, then he will give the Academic Board further information and a chance to discuss.

Professor Sutton added that there is a convention of committees whereby irrespective of how members became members of a board they become representatives of the board, not the constitution of the people/group that got them there. It is Professor Sutton's view that, although there is no legal requirement here as there is in commercial settings, we should operate in the same way and follow this convention.

The Chair reminded members that their job, by being on the Committee includes communicating USC workings/ discussions to the grass roots level of their faculty/unit. Members act as conduits in both directions.

The Committee also has a role in reporting to the Academic Board at times on either transition of policies (e.g. credit points, honours).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution 01/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 2008 as a true record.

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

There was no business arising.

4. Report of the Chair

The report of the Chair was given under item 1.

Resolution 02/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

5. Report of the Academic Board

Professor Sutton reported on the status of proposed changes to the Credit and Advanced Standing policy. Some of the concerns over terms used in the policy that had been raised at the Undergraduate and Admissions Sub-Committee were not shared by the Academic Board, eg. issue of credit for prior learning. Further minor changes are being made by Professor Sutton and Associate Professor McCallum before an amended policy is put to the Academic Board.

Professor Sutton also reminded members of two major deadlines

1. UAC Guide 2010 deadline- the guide has multiple deadlines, related to different sections. The final deadline is March 18.
2. DEST- there is a midyear deadline for reporting courses and changes to DEST for 2010.

Members were reminded of the importance of having proposals passed by USC and the Academic Board early in the year. Very few courses are rejected outright by the Committee or Board but many have changes suggested.

It was also reported that the Marketing and Student Recruitment Unit had, in 2008, approached faculties for information on flexible entry and produced a Z-Card. The Committee was advised that faculties will be requested to confirm the accuracy of information provided on the card. Information provided by faculties will be used to construct a new schedule for the Admission to Undergraduate Courses Policy. A couple of issues may arise in discussion of flexible entry, due to take place at the next Admissions Sub-Committee meeting, including why some faculties require Band 4 achievement in HSC subjects while other faculties require Band 5 or above.

The suggestion from the Provost's Academic Strategy Group that all students have the opportunity to study a second language was also discussed. Professor Sutton had sought the opinion of Deans on what the response would be if USC insisted on a second language for all students. It was not believed that it would be possible for all degree programs to offer students the option of studying a second language.

Professor Sutton reported that he has also raised the issue of policy approvals with the Professor Kable and Associate Professor McCallum. Currently the terms 'academic qualities' and 'academic standards' do not appear in policy, despite being key points for approving courses. Degrees, by definition, should be different from one another and it will be the work USC to ensure this remains the case. The Chairs of the Academic Board and the USC will be discussing further how the Committee will take on this work during the year ahead.

In discussion of the issue of language studies, it was recognised by members that foreign language teaching is seriously resource intensive and languages cannot be simply learnt over a one semester. Dr Winter added that the University would need to commit support to SLC and associated programs. Before any proposals to offer foreign language studies more widely across the University are initiated, a serious conservation needs to be had and academic standards examined. Professor Sutton responded that a paper had been presented to Academic Strategy Group only this morning. Professor Jeff Reigel will be refining the paper and it will be requested that the final version is distributed to members.

It was noted that Nursing students have hospital residential requirements during University holidays which would prevent them from attending language classes at Summer School.

Dr Winter offered to be a member, if a working party is set up to examine the issue.

Resolution 03/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting of 10 December 2008, as set out in the report presented.

6. Proposals for new and amended undergraduate courses

Items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 were passed as a block.

Mover C Collyer, seconded J Gamble.

6.1 Faculty of Arts

Bachelor of Arts(Honours)

The proposal to include 'International and Comparative Literary Studies' as an honours level subject in the Faculty of Arts was supported by the Committee.

Resolution 04/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the introduction of International and Comparative Literary Studies as an honours course in the Bachelor of Arts,
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts, and
 - (c) approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and
- (2) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree, With effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented

6.2 Faculty of Arts

Bachelor of Arts (Languages)(Honours)

The Faculty would like to permit students to undertake joint honours in a language and a Table A subject area in the Faculty of Arts, to give the program greater flexibility and recognition to students who have completed honours pre-requisites in a language and another Arts subject area.

Resolution 05/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the introduction of a joint honours course in the Bachelor of Arts(Languages) (Honours),
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts, and
 - (c) approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and
 - (2) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the above course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended); and
 - (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to admission, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, the honours degree, specially designated streams and award of the degree,
- With effect from 1 January 2009,as set out in the report presented.

6.3 Faculty of Arts

Bachelor Arts (Media and Communications)

The Faculty seeks amendments to the resolutions to permit students in the Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) degree to undertake Marketing as an additional major, or as elective units.

Dr Bronwyn Winter informed members that lengthy consultation had been undertaken by the Faculty in the lead up to this change, which will allow students further opportunity for cross faculty study.

Resolution 06/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the introduction of Marketing as an elective unit and additional major in the Bachelor of Arts(Media and Communications),
- (2) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal,
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degree, Diplomas and Certifications in the Faculty of Arts,
 - (c) approve the adoption of the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to this course, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and

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

7. Report from Faculties

7.1 Faculty of Medicine

Dr Tessa Ho spoke to the proposal explaining that it brings together what was passed by the Committee last year. All of the related faculty resolutions have been passed previously. Dr Ho confirmed that the degree code remains the same, with only a different unit of study code for the honours unit.

Resolution 07/09

That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note changes to the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery as set out in the report presented.

8. General business

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 18 March 2009 in the Western Tower Room.

Agenda Item 5

Report of the Academic Board

5.1 Report of the Academic Board meeting held on 25 February 2009

The agenda for the meeting of the Academic Board on 25 February 2009 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 proposals for amendments to the following courses in the Faculty of Arts:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
- Bachelor of Arts (Languages) (Honours)
- Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications)

5.1.2 Proceedings of the Committee

The Academic Board noted the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 4 February 2009.

5.1.3 Report of the Chair of the Academic Board

The Academic Board, in relation to items in the report of its Chair:

- approved a minor amendment to the Academic Board Resolutions regarding Student Appeals against Academic Decisions;
- discussed proposed changes to the Glossary; and
- discussed a proposed review of the Academic Board.

5.1.4 Other matters

The Academic Board also:

- discussed the refurbishment of the Professorial Boardroom;
- noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions;
- noted a minor amendment to the Annual Progress Review form;
- noted the report of the Vice-Chancellor on the Open Session of Senate on 2 February 2009 and SEG on 19 February 2009;
- noted the report of the Vice-Chancellor on the Bradley Review, changes to the role of the Registrar, capital development opportunities, ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) reporting; student preferences and admissions and the definition of 'student';
- noted the Academic Board Review Phase Three Report for the Faculty of Medicine and an update report from the review of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and
- noted the appointment of members of the Student Proctorial Panel.

