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## Undergraduate Studies Committee

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Web site: [www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/UG\\_studies/index.shtml](http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/UG_studies/index.shtml)

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### Supplementary Agenda for the meeting to be held at 10am on Wednesday, 16 September 2009.

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

Agenda item	Pages
5. Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee	pages <a href="#">2-5</a>

**Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee note the report of the Admissions Sub-Committee meeting of 9 September 2009, as set out in the report presented.*

6. Reports from Faculties	pages <a href="#">5-14</a>
6.1 Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources	pages <a href="#">5</a> and <a href="#">6-9</a>

**Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the changes to the Faculty Resolutions of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

6.4 Faculty of Economics and Business	pages <a href="#">5</a> and <a href="#">10-14</a>
(1) All undergraduate degrees within the Faculty of Economics and Business	pages <a href="#">5</a> and <a href="#">10-11</a>

**Recommendations**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to standardise the requirements for a major within undergraduate degrees with effect from 1 January 2011, as set out in the report presented.*

(2) Bachelor of Commerce and its combined degrees	pages <a href="#">5</a> and <a href="#">12-14</a>
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**Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions for the Bachelor of Commerce and its combined degrees, with effect from 1 January 2011, as set out in the report presented.*

## **Agenda Item 5 Report of the Admissions Sub-Committee**

**The Admissions Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 9 September 2009 when there were present:** The Chair (Professor B Sutton) residing; Professor S Kable; Dr M Edmond; and Mr P Ball, D Bowan, T Evans, K Ghezel, T Heath (for Dean of Arts) and C Riley. Ms L Young was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Dr D Auld and T Hubble.

### **5.1 Admission to Undergraduate Courses policy**

page [3](#)

Following an amendment to the University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended) in 2008, it has been noted that the related section of the Academic Board resolutions 'Admission to Undergraduate Courses' also requires a related amendment. Attached is the relevant clause from the Amendment Act rule, and the proposed changes to the admission policy. It includes the agreed on reordering by the Admissions Sub-Committee whereby section 7.3 becomes section 7.5, with the original 7.4 and 7.5 subsequently becoming 7.3 and 7.4.

#### **Recommendation**

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

### **5.2 Faculty Proposals**

#### **5.2.1 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Bachelor of Music (Performance, Bachelor of Music Studies, Diploma of Music**

page [4](#)

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is seeking approval to allow admission into the Bachelor of Music (Performance), Bachelor of Music Studies and Diploma of Music programs by students who have successfully completed the Music Talent Development Programme awarded by the Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University.

The National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) has confirmed the Hong Kong Baptist University program is the equivalent of Year 12 or Certificate IV.

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the adoption of qualifications for undergraduate entry to the Bachelor of Music (Performance), Bachelor of Music Studies or Diploma of Music degrees at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music by students who have successfully completed the specified requirements from, Hong Kong Baptist University, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

**Extract from *University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended)***

**42. Tertiary studies**

- 42.1 Applicants shall become eligible for consideration for admission to candidature if they successfully complete the equivalent of at least two full-time semesters of approved tertiary study.
- 42.2 Except where specifically provided otherwise in the resolutions of the course(s) concerned, consideration shall normally be given to either the applicant's record of tertiary studies or their record of both tertiary and secondary studies, with the better of either record being used to determine their eligibility for admission. Where the applicant does not have recognised secondary qualifications, only the tertiary record will be considered.

**Extract from "Admission to Undergraduate Courses" policy**

**Admission to Undergraduate Courses**

**7. Tertiary Studies**

- 7.1 Applicants who have completed the equivalent of at least one full-time year of approved tertiary study at an Australian Associate Diploma level or higher (i.e. 48 credit points of study at the University of Sydney, or part-time equivalent) are eligible to be considered for admission to candidature.
- 7.2.1 Qualifications accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) must be of at least Diploma level or higher and be complete to be considered for admission to candidature if the qualification is from a recognised institution.
- 7.2.2 The methods used for assessing overseas tertiary qualifications have been established and are reviewed in conjunction with the Universities Admissions Centre and other universities in NSW and the ACT. They are based upon the guidelines established by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition.
- 7.3 ~~The weighting given to secondary versus tertiary results will normally be 50:50, but faculties may adopt a different weighting where good cause exists. Consideration will normally be given to either the applicant's record of tertiary studies or their record of both tertiary and secondary studies, with the better of either record being used to determine their eligibility for admission.~~
- 7.4 If the applicant does not have a recognised secondary qualification, only the tertiary record will be considered.
- 7.5 The best attempt at tertiary study of applicants who have more than one attempt at tertiary study is considered.
- 7.6 Applicants who have completed some tertiary study may be eligible to receive some credit for completed units of study (see University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 Part 9 Division 8: Granting Credit).

## Minor Course Amendment Proposal

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Faculty/Board of Studies: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Contact person: Adrienne Sach

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**1. Name of award courses**

*Include the name of the relevant qualifications(s)*

Bachelor of Music (Performance)  
Bachelor of Music Studies  
Diploma of Music

**2. Purpose of proposal**

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

To seek approval from the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Admissions Sub-Committee for the adoption of qualifications for undergraduate entry to the Bachelor of Music (Performance), Bachelor of Music Studies or Diploma of Music degrees at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music by students who have successfully completed the Music Talent Development Programme awarded by the Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University.

The National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) has confirmed that on successful completion of the program, which is 2 years fulltime study and includes achieving the required Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), the student gains a qualification of Diploma of Musical Studies, awarded by the Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University. This Diploma is considered by NOOSR as the equivalent of Year 12 or Certificate IV.

The Conservatorium is likely to increase the number of worthy applicants with this qualification having already received applications from 8 students in the past 2 years, all of whom have successfully achieved the audition entry requirements for the abovementioned degrees, and is therefore seeking to clarify entry requirements for future candidates.

**3. Details of amendment**

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

N/A

**4. Transitional arrangements**

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

N/A

**5. Other relevant information**

The International Office has advised that if an applicant holds dual-citizenship, the UAC has no avenue to accept this qualification unless it is specifically approved by the University.

**6. Signature of Dean**

## Agenda Item 6 Reports from Faculties

- 6.1 Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources** pages [6-9](#)  
The Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources has made some minor course amendments – adding and deleting a small number of units – that apply across its undergraduate programs. The Faculty would also like the Committee to note the table summarising its honours awards 2009.

**Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the changes to the Faculty Resolutions of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, with effect from 1 January 2010, as set out in the report presented.*

- 6.4 Faculty of Economics and Business**  
**(1) All undergraduate degrees within the Faculty of Economics and Business** pages [10-11](#)  
The Faculty of Economics and Business is proposing to standardise the requirements for a major within degrees from the Faculty of Economics and Business. The new standardised major will be made up of 1 junior and 6 senior subjects, making 7 units of study in total.

**Recommendations**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to standardise the requirements for a major within undergraduate degrees with effect from 1 January 2011, as set out in the report presented.*

- (2) Bachelor of Commerce and its combined degrees** pages [12-14](#)  
The purpose of the faculty's proposal is to amend the Bachelor of Commerce and all combined commerce degrees by reducing the number of core (compulsory) units from 11 to six, and within these six units to update two and introduce four new units.

**Recommendation**

*That the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions for the Bachelor of Commerce and its combined degrees, with effect from 1 January 2011, as set out in the report presented.*

## **Report of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources to the Academic Board's Undergraduate Studies Committee**

### **Faculty/Board of Studies: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

Contact person: Stephen Cattle

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#### **1. Minor Course Amendment**

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##### **1.1. Name of Award Course**

All undergraduate award courses administered by the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

##### **1.2. Purpose of Proposal**

To advise the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the adoption of new units of study and deletion and amendments to units of study.

##### **1.3. Details of Amendment**

The following units of study have been approved:

The following Units of Study have been added for the new degree, Bachelor of Environmental Systems:

ENSY1001 Australian environments and climate  
ENSY1002 Ecological sustainability

New and amended units for all degree programs:  
AFNR3001 Agro-ecosystems in developing countries  
BIOM1003 Biometry 1  
ENVX2001 Applied statistical methods  
ENVX3002 Statistics in the natural sciences  
ENVX4002 Environmetrics  
GENE4015 Cytogenetics

The units that have had minor changes are:

ENVX4002 Environmetrics 4 – added ENVX3002 Statistics in the natural sciences as a prerequisite  
BIOM1003 Biometry 1 made available again  
GENE4011 Plant Cytogenetics replaced by GENE4020 Cytogenetics

The following units of study will be unavailable in 2010:

AGCH3030 Rural Environmental Chemistry A  
BIOM2001 Biometry 2  
BIOM3006 Statistics for the Natural Sciences  
BIOM3004 Biometry 3  
BIOM3005 Environmetrics 3  
BIOM4003 Matrix Algebra and Linear Models  
BIOM4004 Applied Multivariate Analysis  
BIOM4005 Biometrical Methods  
ENTO2002 Entomology and Parasitology  
GENE4011 Plant Cytogenetics  
LWSC4003 Landscape Hydrology and Management  
SOIL3008 Rural Spatial Information Systems  
AGEC4101 Agricultural Marketing Analysis  
AGEC4103 International Agricultural Trade  
AGEC4109 Agricultural Finance and Risk

AGEC4110 Professional Skills  
AGEC4111 Contemporary Issues  
RSEC4134 Economics of Water and Bio-resources

#### 1.4. Transitional Arrangements

The new units of study will be available to students who are currently enrolled. No transitional arrangements are required.

#### 2. Reporting of Honours awarded in 2009

The following table summarises the honours awarded at the graduation ceremony of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 expressed as actual numbers and (%) of students graduating.

**Table of Honours**

Degree	First Class Honours	Second Class Honours Div 1	Second Class Honours Div 2	Pass	Total
BAgrEc	5 (16)	4 (13)	3 (10)	19 (61)	31
BHortSc	1 (33)	1 (33)		1 (33)	3
BLWSc	2 (50)			2 (50)	4
BResEc	1 (50)		1 (50)		2
BScAgr	6 (31)	2 (11)	4 (21)	7 (37)	19

### 3. Changes to Faculty Resolutions relating to eligibility for the award of honours

Faculty resolutions for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources - undergraduate courses

- complete the requirements specified by the faculty for the unit and may be excluded by the Dean from admission to examinations in that unit.
- 5.2.2 Further testing
- 5.2.2.1 A Discipline Leader A Unit Coordinator may arrange for require further testing of students in addition to scheduled assessments and examinations, in accordance with Academic Board policy.
- 5.2.2.2 Further tests may be awarded where the candidate has been prevented by sufficient and duly certified illness or misadventure from completing the assessment for a unit of study. The full range of common result grades is available for these candidates.
- 5.2.2.3 Further tests may be awarded in a unit of study where the examiner requires further evidence to reach a final assessment of a candidate who has failed a unit of study and whose performance is borderline (e.g. a final mark in the range 45-49 percent). The highest grade of award available is Pass.
- 5.2.2.4 Where possible and practicable, all further tests will be administered and results finalised no later than two weeks after the end of the examination period.
- 5.2.2.5 The Discipline Leader Unit Coordinator is responsible for the awarding, timetabling and conduct provision of further tests, which may take such form as the Discipline Leader Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) directs. Students in a unit of study must be given notice of the proposed date for conducting further tests no later than the date of publication of the final University examinations timetable.
- 5.2.2.6 Individual students granted a further test should wherever possible be given at least three days prior notice. A candidate who is absent from a further test without sufficient reason will be deemed to have failed the test.
- 5.2.2.7 In respect to the notification of students referred to above, students will be deemed to have been notified by the Discipline Leader Unit Coordinator as a result of the posting of information by the due date on one or more noticeboards as advised by the Discipline Leader Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) concerned and posting an email to the student/s official University email address.
- 5.2.2.8 It is the responsibility of the student to provide written evidence of illness or misadventure to the appropriate Discipline Leader Faculty Office as soon as possible and practicable and in any case before the close of the relevant examination period. Where such evidence is not presented in time for the student to be offered a further test on the advertised date, the evidence will only be considered by the Discipline Leader Unit Coordinator where there is sufficient reason why it has not been presented by that date.
6. Honours and University Medal
- 6.1 For the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, Bachelor of Resource Economics, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Horticultural Science and Bachelor of Land and Water Science, First Class or Second Class Honours, Division One or Division Two may be awarded at graduation.
- 6.2 First Class Honours candidates whose work is of sufficient merit, in the opinion of the Faculty Committee to Award Prizes, Honours and the University Medal, shall receive a bronze medal.
- 0.0 Details of the fourth year work and determination of marks for fourth year are the responsibility of the Discipline Leader Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) and sections concerned.
- 6.3 Award of honours at graduation
- 6.3.1 Honours are awarded in Agriculture and not in an individual subject.
- 6.3.2 To be eligible for the award of Honours;
- 6.3.2.1 Students must have achieved a Year 2/3 WAM of at least 65, and
- 6.3.2.2 All candidates Students must have who have completed an a piece of independent research project as part of the final year of the degree program are formally eligible to be considered for honours.
- 0.0 Except with the special permission of the faculty, honours shall not be awarded to any candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, Bachelor of Horticultural Science;

- ~~Bachelor of Land and Water Science, Bachelor of Resource Economics or Bachelor of Science in Agriculture unless the candidate has completed the course in the minimum time (defined as four years for full-time students and up to 16 semesters for part-time students, pro-rated for any full-time study within the candidature);~~
- ~~0.0 To be eligible for the award of Honours, students must:~~
- ~~0.0 Notwithstanding the previous condition, candidates who complete the first three years of the course in four years, and who by virtue of their weighted average marks would otherwise qualify for the award of honours, will be so considered.~~
- ~~0.0 Such candidates may however be disadvantaged in terms of honours grading and ranking.~~
- ~~For the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and Bachelor of Resource Economics:~~
- ~~6.3.3 The overall aggregate honours mark shall determine the award of honours at the end of the fourth year.~~
- ~~0.0 For the assessment of an aggregate mark for the award of honours at the end of the fourth year:~~
- ~~6.3.3.1 Each of the units of study at level 2 and level 3 provided for in the resolutions shall be weighted according to credit point value and a weighted average mark (WAM) obtained (Year 2/3 WAM). Level 3 units of study attempted in Year 4, as provided for in the resolutions, will be included in the Year 4 WAM. Other than for level 3000 units of study attempted in Year 4, as provided for in the resolutions, the marks obtained in each of the units of study at level 2000 and level 3000, provided for in the resolutions, shall be weighted according to credit point value and a weighted average mark (WAM) obtained (Year 2/3 WAM).~~
- ~~6.3.3.2 Each of the units of study at level Year 4 provided for in the resolutions shall be weighted according to credit point value and a weighted average mark (WAM) obtained (Year 4 WAM). The marks obtained in each of the units of study at level 4000 and in any level 3000 units of study attempted in Year 4, as provided for in the resolutions, shall be weighted according to credit point value and a weighted average mark (WAM) obtained (Year 4 WAM).~~
- ~~6.3.3.3 The overall aggregate honours mark shall be the average of the level Year 2/3 WAM and the level Year 4 WAM.~~
- ~~For the Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture:~~
- ~~0.0 For the determination of the overall honours mark for the award of honours at the end of the fourth year:~~
- ~~0.0 Each of the units of study provided for in the resolutions in second and third years shall be weighted according to credit point value and a weighted average mark (WAM) obtained.~~
- ~~0.0 The overall honours mark shall be the average of the second and third year WAM and the fourth year mark:~~
- ~~6.3.4 In computing the aggregate marks of students, the average marks of units from all attempts at units of study attempted more than once shall be used. The mark achieved on the occasion of the first attempt at a unit of study shall be the mark used. In computing a WAM, the mark to be used for a unit of study that a student has attempted more than once shall be the simple average of the marks from all the attempts.~~
- ~~For the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and Bachelor of Resource Economics:~~
- ~~6.3.5 For the award of a particular level of honours a candidate, except in special circumstances, must obtain the relevant minimum aggregate honours mark and the minimum Year 2/3 WAM in second and third year in level 2 and level 3 units of study as set out in the following table:~~

Level of honours	Minimum overall honours mark	Minimum WAM Years Levels 2/3
First Class	75	70-65
Second Class, Division 1	70	65
Second Class, Division 2	65	62-65

Faculty resolutions fo

~~For the Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science-Bachelor of Science in Agriculture:~~

~~0.0 For the award of a particular level of honours, a candidate, except in special circumstances, must obtain the relevant minimum marks as set out in the following table:~~ 7

Level of honours	Minimum overall honours mark	Minimum WAM Years 2/3	7
First Class	75	<del>70</del> 65	7
Second Class, Division 1	70	65	7
Second Class, Division 2	65	<del>60</del> 65	7

6.3.6 In the event of a recommendation for the award of honours that departs from these standards, it shall be incumbent upon the ~~Degree Coordinator~~ ~~Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning)~~ ~~Discipline Leader~~ and section concerned to make out a substantial case for such a departure. 7

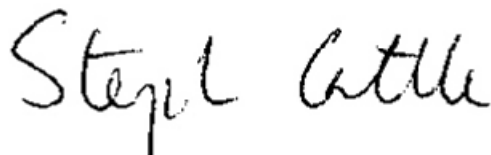
6.3.7 Admissible grounds for departure would include medical disability or misadventure early in the course, and ~~the existence of consistently lower standards of grading in units of study undertaken outside the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources:~~ of a nature for which allowance could not be made through the normal special consideration processes for units of study. 7

6.4 The Committee to Award Prizes, Honours and the University Medal shall be responsible for the award of the university medal and the award of honours. Achievement of the minimum standards referred to elsewhere in these resolutions is not in itself sufficient justification for these awards. 7

6.4.1 ~~For the Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and Bachelor of Resource Economics, a~~ university medal may be awarded, on the recommendation of the ~~relevant Degree Coordinator~~ ~~Agricultural and Resource Economics Discipline Leader~~, to a student who has a ~~Level Year 4~~ WAM of at least 80 and ~~an overall aggregate honours mark of at least 80 and a~~ ~~Level Year 2/3~~ ~~Second/Third Year~~ WAM of at least 80. 7

~~0.0 For the Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Land and Water Science and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, a university medal may be awarded, on the recommendation of the Degree Coordinator Sciences Discipline Leader, to a student who has a Level 4 WAM of at least 85, an overall honours mark of at least 80 and a Second/Third Year WAM of at least 80.~~ 7

Signature of Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning for the Dean



Stephen Cattle

## Minor Course Amendment Proposal

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### Faculty/Board of Studies:

**Contact person:** Lisa Kelaher, Undergraduate Program Adviser, Faculty of Economics and Business, 903 67051 or l.kelaher@econ.usyd.edu.au

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#### 1. Name of award course

All undergraduate degrees within the Faculty of Economics and Business including:

Bachelor of Commerce (Liberal Studies) (BCom (Liberal Studies))  
Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts (BCom/BA)  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (BCom/LLB)  
Bachelor of Commerce/ Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (BCom/MBBS)  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science (BCom/BSc);  
Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce (BE/BCom) and  
Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Commerce (BIT/BCom)  
And any other undergraduate degrees introduced hereafter.

#### 2. Purpose of proposal

To standardise the requirements for a major, within degrees from the Faculty of Economics and Business. The new standardised major will be made up of 1 junior and 6 senior subjects; 7 units of study in total, except in the case of an Economics major. Note: The Economics major will be unchanged and will consist of 4 junior and 6 senior units.

##### Background

The Faculty of Economics and Business has conducted an extensive review of the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) since February 2008. Part of the review looked at the significant variation in the requirements for a major across the different disciplines at the Faculty. For some time now, the requirement has varied from 6 to 8, depending on the discipline. In addition to the confusion this has created, the variation has added to complexity in planning for and difficulty in combining majors.

Following on from the recommended reduction in core units for the Bachelor of Commerce, the BCom Review committee proposed a change to the structure of majors: that majors be made up of 7 units (1 junior and 6 senior). The proposal was put to all Chairs of Disciplines (CoDs) in February 2009, along with other proposed changes to the BCom. The CoDs were asked to respond after consideration within their discipline. Included in the proposal put to the CoDs, was a table of what was required for each discipline to align their majors with this new model.

The new requirement for majors (7 units) was accepted. By standardising majors to 7 units, the Faculty will enable students to make significant improvement in planning and allow students to undertake any combination of two majors. It will also allow students to trial some units or take electives without jeopardising their planned combination of two majors.

#### 3. Details of amendment

The new requirements for a major in all cases, except for an Economics major, will be 1 junior and 6 senior units of study. This will replace the current varied requirements (in most cases, 2 junior and 6 senior units of study). Therefore, in most cases, it will mean that the Faculty is reducing the basic requirements for a major from 8 units of study to 7. Note: The Economics major will remain 4 junior and 6 senior units.

There will be no change to Faculty Resolutions, Senate Resolutions or the University Calendar entry as current resolutions only refer to senior credit point requirements, not junior. The requirements for each major will be listed in the handbook in the section outlining major requirements.

**4. Transitional arrangements**

Changes to the majors will come into effect from 2011 on. Students entering a degree with the Faculty in that year and thereafter will follow the new rules and requirements. Current students will follow previous year's rules and requirements and will not be affected by the changes. However, a note will be added to Section 10 of the Faculty handbook (p. 51 of 2009 version), stating that students who commenced their studies before 2011 will need to follow all rules and requirements (including those of majors) for that year.

**5. Other relevant information**

Not Applicable.

**6. Signature of Dean**

## Minor Course Amendment Proposal

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### Faculty/Board of Studies:

**Contact person:** Lisa Kelaher, Undergraduate Program Adviser, Faculty of Economics and Business, 903 67051 or l.kelaher@econ.usyd.edu.au

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#### 1. Name of award course

Bachelor of Commerce and all combined Commerce degrees with the Bachelor of Commerce, including:

Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts;  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws;  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery;  
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science;  
Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce and  
Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Commerce.

#### 2. Purpose of proposal

a) To amend the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and all combined Commerce degrees (listed in part 1, above) by reducing the number of core (compulsory) units from 11 to 6.

b) To specify the 4 new units of study and updates to the remaining 2, to be part of the newly established 6 core units.

#### Background

In keeping with Academic Board requirements, the Faculty commenced an extensive research based review of the Bachelor of Commerce in February 2008.

The review committee included the (then) Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, a group of discipline representatives, external representatives and a newly appointed Program Director (BCom).

The Committee consulted with key stakeholders from February to August, 2008 and gathered feedback across a range of areas within the degree. Stakeholders included: graduate employers, high school careers advisers and current students.

The Committee also researched and analysed industry expectations, Course Experience Questionnaires (CEQ), Student Course Experience Questionnaires (SCEQ), Unit of Study Evaluations (USE) and competitor degree offerings in relation to similar degrees.

A variety of strengths and weaknesses became apparent as a result of feedback and research. Included in the list of weaknesses were the following:

- There is a strong desire amongst students to link theory to practice in terms of 'real world' examples and opportunities to do this within the degree are sometimes limited;
- students expressed a need for teaching that offers current industry experience;
- Graduate Attributes are perceived to be well covered in program content and delivery with the exception of current industry experience and

- the large number of core units (11) leaves little room for trialling areas of interest and/or completing two majors.

The review, at this stage, pointed clearly towards a reduction of core units. With this in mind, all Chairs of Discipline (CoDs) within the Faculty were consulted on whether a reduction of core units would detract from the breadth and depth of learning required towards a major. CoDs were asked to identify up to 5 potential core units of study which must be maintained to support majors.

The results of this, alongside competitor analysis, and other detailed consultation and review, yielded the final proposal.

#### 4. Details of amendment

Currently, the BCom single degree requires 11 core units and these are:

##### **Junior units of study (42 credit points):**

- ACCT1001 Accounting 1A
- ACCT1002 Accounting 1B
- ECMT1010 Business and Economic Statistics A
- ECON1001 Introductory Microeconomics
- ECON1002 Introductory Macroeconomics
- INFS1000 Business Information Systems Foundations
- MKTG1001 Marketing Principles

##### **Senior units of study (24 credit points):**

- CISS2001 Business in the Global Environment
- FINC2011 Corporate Finance I
- WORK2218 People and Organisations
- ECOF3001 Business Strategy

Currently, the BCom and all combined degrees require 7 core units and these are:

##### **Junior units of study (36 credit points):**

- ACCT1001 Accounting 1A
- ACCT1002 Accounting 1B
- ECMT1010 Business and Economic Statistics A
- ECON1001 Introductory Microeconomics
- ECON1002 Introductory Macroeconomics
- INFS1000 Business Information Systems Foundations

##### **Senior unit of study (six credit points):**

- ECOF3001 Business Strategy

The amended BCom and all BCom combined degrees would include a total of 6 core (compulsory) units, comprising of 4 new core units and 2 existing units and therefore, the proposed amended degree would require the following core:

##### *New units*

1. Introductory Accounting: ACCT 1XXX (Still to be coded)
2. Business Contexts A: (ECOF 1003)
3. Business Contexts B: (ECOF 1004)
4. Capstone (Integrated Business Applications): ECOF 3010

##### *Existing units*

5. Introductory Microeconomics (ECON 1001)
6. Business and Economic Statistics A: ECMT 1010

Three of the four new units (Business Contexts A, Business Contexts B and the Capstone) were presented at and approved by the Faculty's Undergraduate Studies Board (USB) on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, while the fourth (ACCT1XXX) is to be brought to a future meeting of the USB for approval.

There will be no change to Senate Resolutions or the University Calendar entry.

**Changes to relevant sections of the Faculty resolutions are as follows:**

**Bachelor of Commerce**

2.1.1 ~~11 core units of study (comprising 42 junior and 24 senior credit points)~~ (six core units of study, (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook); and

**Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts**

3.1.1.1 ~~seven core units of study (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points)~~, (six core units of study (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points) as specified by the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook);

**Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (BCom/LLB)**

3.2.1 ~~7 core units of study (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points)~~, (six core units of study (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook);

**Bachelor of Commerce/ Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**

3.4.1 ~~7 core units of study (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points)~~, **6 core units of study (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points** as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook);

**Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science**

3.2.1.1 ~~7 core units of study (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points)~~, **6 core units of study (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points**, as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook);

**Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce**

2.1.2.2 ~~7 core units of study (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points)~~, **6 core units of study (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points)**, as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook);

**Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Commerce**

2.1.2.2 ~~7 core units of study in Economics and Business (comprising 36 junior and 6 senior credit points as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook)~~; **6 core units of study in Economics and Business (comprising 30 junior and 6 senior credit points as specified in the Faculty of Economics and Business Handbook)**;

**4. Transitional arrangements**

Changes to the BCom and combined Commerce degrees will come into effect from semester one, 2011 on. Students entering the degree in that year and thereafter will follow the new rules and requirements. Current students will follow previous year's rules and requirements and will not be affected by the changes.

**5. Other relevant information**

Concurrent to this proposed change to core units, will be the introduction of a revised major structure for the majors offered in the Faculty's undergraduate programs.

**6. Signature of Dean**