



Graduate Studies Committee

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Memorandum to: Members of the Graduate Studies Committee

The agenda for the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee scheduled to be held at **2.00 pm** on **Monday 26 November 2001** in the **Education Conference Room 551** is set out below.

Keri Neveldsen
Secretary to the Committee

22 November 2001

AGENDA

Pages

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

4-6

Recommendation

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 October 2001 as a true record.

2. Business arising out of the minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

3. Report of the Academic Board

7-8

Recommendation

That the Committee note the decisions of the Academic Board, at its meetings of 10 October and 14 November in respect of the Committee's report, as set out in the report presented.

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 Higher doctorates

4.1.1 Deferment of public availability of thesis

9

Recommendation

That the Committee note the report and confirm the Chair's action in approving the deferment of the public availability of a higher degree thesis, as set out in the report presented.

4.2 Oral report

Recommendation

That the Committee note the oral report of the Alternative Chair.

5. Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee

5.1 Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 November 2001

5.1.1 Receipt of report

10-11

Recommendation

That the Committee receive and note the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 November 2001.

5.1.2 Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

10-11

Recommendation

That the Committee note the proceedings of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 November 2001, as set out in the report presented.

6. Reports of Working Parties appointed to consider proposals for new or amended postgraduate courses

6.1 Faculty of Agriculture: Master of Applied Economics and Management

12-13

Recommendation

That the Committee receive and note the report of the working party to consider the proposal from the Faculty of Agriculture for the introduction of the new Master of Applied Economics and Management.

7. New and amended courses

7.1 Faculty of Science: Master of Information Technology, Graduate Diploma in Information Technology and Graduate Certificate in Information Technology

14, separate enclosure

Recommendation

That the Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the introduction of the new major subject areas, Business Information Systems, Telecommunications Engineering, and Computer Engineering, and the renaming of existing majors for the Master of Information Technology, Graduate Diploma in Information Technology and Graduate Certificate in Information Technology, with effect from 1 January 2002;*
- (2) *recommend that Senate amend the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above courses, with effect from 1 January 2002, as set out in the report presented.*

8. Reports from Faculties

8.1 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Medicine, Master of Science in Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology), Graduate Diploma in Medicine and Graduate Diploma of Science in Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology)

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Recommendation

That the Committee approve the introduction of a new 2 credit point unit of study, as set out in the report presented.

9. Review of the Academic Board and the Academic Forum 16, separate enclosure

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the report of the Review of the Academic Board and the Academic Forum with a view to referring comments in writing to the Chair of the Academic Board by 3 December 2001.

10. Intellectual Property Rule separate enclosure

Recommendation

That the Committee note the report relating to the Intellectual Property Rule as set out in the report presented.

11. Meeting dates 2002 17

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2002, as set out in the report presented.

12. General business

13. Next meeting

Recommendation

That the Committee note that the next meeting will be held on Monday 19 November 2001.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 15 October 2001

There were present: The Alternative Chair (Associate Professor A F Masters) presiding, Professors C Adam, A Brewer, L Field, G Gill and P Ramsden, Associate Professors P McCallum, F Nicholas, M Prosser and D Rothwell, Drs B Adamson, M Boughton and R Walker and Mr K Barlow. Miss K Neveltsen was in attendance.

Apologies were received from: The Chair (Associate Professor R T Ross), Professors J Gero and D Kemp, Associate Professor J Christodoulou and Drs E Baily and J Finkelstein.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution 161/01

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 September 2001 as a true record.

2. Business arising from the previous minutes

2.1 Faculty of Dentistry: Graduate Certificate in Restorative Dentistry

The Alternative Chair reported that following the meeting of the working party to consider the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry for the introduction in 2002 of the new course, Graduate Certificate in Restorative Dentistry, the Faculty had withdrawn the proposal. The Faculty advised that it wished further time to consider the implications of suggestions arising from the working party, particularly regarding the proposed Graduate Certificate's relationship with the existing Master's degrees and its implications for external accreditation.

3. Report of the Academic Board

The Committee noted the report of the Academic Board meeting of 12 September 2001 in relation to the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting of 20 August 2001.

Resolution 162/01

That the Committee note the decisions of the Academic Board, at its meeting of 12 September 2001, as set out in the report presented.

4. Report of the Alternative Chair

4.1 Show Cause

The Alternative Chair reported that correspondence had been received from the Undergraduate Studies Committee inviting the Graduate Studies Committee to participate in a working party to examine issues associated with Show Cause.

Associate Professor Peter McCallum, Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, outlined the development of the working party and the issues it would consider. The Committee agreed that the Alternative Chair would contact members seeking a volunteer to participate in the working party.

Resolution 163/01

That the Committee note the report of the Alternative Chair.

5. Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee

5.1 Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 October 2001

5.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 164/01

That the Committee receive and note the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 October 2001.

5.1.2 Marking of examiners' reports

The Committee noted that in considering the examiner's reports for a candidate, parts of one examiner's report had been blacked out. Whilst it appeared that this may have been a correction by the examiner, the PhD Award Sub-Committee was concerned that this was not clear and accordingly recommended that the Graduate Studies Committee provide advice to faculties regarding this.

Resolution 165/01

That the Committee recommend to faculties that if examiners' reports contain corrections and/or annotations, the Faculty should inform the PhD Award Sub-Committee whether the corrections and/or annotations were present on receipt of the report by the Faculty, or added subsequently and if so, why.

5.1.3 Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

Resolution 166/01

That the Committee note the proceedings of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 October 2001, as set out in the report presented.

6. Reports of Working Parties appointed to consider proposals for new or amended postgraduate courses

6.1 Faculty of Engineering: Doctor of Engineering Practice

The Committee received the report of the working party to consider the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering for the introduction of the new course, Doctor of Engineering Practice and noted that while the working party was unanimous in its support of the proposal, it would be further considered following the receipt of revised Resolutions of the Senate.

Resolution 167/01

That the Committee receive and note the report of the working party to consider the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering for the introduction of the new Doctor of Engineering Practice.

7. Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

7.1 Faculty of Education: Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies and Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies

The Committee noted that the Faculty of Education proposed amendments to the number of units of study and credit points required for the Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies in an attempt to bring the courses in line with the Academic Board's policy regarding credit point value for postgraduate coursework courses.

Resolution 168/01

That the Committee recommend through the Academic Board that Senate amend the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies and Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies in the Faculty of Education, as set out in the report presented.

8. General business

8.1 Annual Progress Reports

The Committee discussed annual progress reports for research candidates and the merits of a centrally designed form.

It was noted that while the Academic Board prescribed the process to be followed for annual progress reports, this was further developed by faculties to suit the various disciplines. It was acknowledged that there could be increased communication between faculties to share knowledge and developments but that many details would necessarily be faculty specific.

9. Next meeting

Resolution 169/01

That the Committee note that the next meeting will be held on Monday 19 November 2001.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Report of the Academic Board

3.1 Report of the Academic Board meeting of 10 October 2001

The report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting of 17 September 2001 to the Academic Board is available on pages 19-43 of the agenda for the meeting of the Academic Board on 10 October 2001. The agenda may be accessed on the web at the following URL: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/>

The Academic Board received and noted the report and endorsed the Committee's recommendations in respect of the proposals for the following new and amended courses:

- Faculty of Architecture
 - Master of Architecture, Graduate Diploma in Architecture and Graduate Certificate in Architecture
 - Master of Urban and Regional Planning (new specialisations)
- Faculty of Arts
 - Master of Professional Communication, Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication and Graduate Certificate in professional Communication
 - Master of Philosophy (new subject area)
 - Master of Arts (new subject area, name change in subject area, revised pathways for subject area)
 - Graduate Diploma in Arts (name change in subject area, revised pathways for subject area)
 - Graduate Certificate in Arts (new subject area, revised pathways for subject area)
- Faculty of Economics and Business
 - Master of Business and Graduate Certificate in Business (approval in principle)
- Faculty of Nursing
 - Graduate Certificate in Nursing (new streams)
 - Master of Midwifery and Graduate Diploma in Midwifery (revised duration)

The Academic Board also endorsed the Committee's recommendations in respect of amendment to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the following courses:

- Faculty of Architecture
 - Postgraduate Coursework Study: Master's Degrees, Graduate Diplomas and Graduate Certificates
- Faculty of Arts
 - Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas
- Faculty of Economics and Business
 - Master of Human Resource Management and Coaching, Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management and Coaching and Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management and Coaching
- Faculty of Nursing
 - Graduate Certificate in Nursing – revised pursuant to University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000
 - Master of Midwifery and Graduate Diploma in Midwifery – revised pursuant to University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000

AGENDA ITEM 4 Report of the Chair

4.1 Higher Doctorates

4.1.1 Deferment of public availability of thesis

I have approved the deferment of the public availability of the following higher degree thesis. The period granted is in addition to the six months which the Dean of the Faculty is entitled to approve:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Degree/ Faculty (Department)</i>	<i>Period of deferment</i>
Bernuetz, A	Doctor of Philosophy, Faculty of Agriculture	12 months

Reason: The University holds intellectual property title to the work which may have a significant commercial value.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee

Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 November 2001

The Committee met on 6 November 2001 when there were present: The Chair of the PhD Award Sub-Committee (Associate Professor A F Masters) presiding, Professor A Brewer, Associate Professors J Christodoulou, F Nicholas and J Small. Miss K Neveldsen and Ms V Carey were in attendance.

1. Receipt of Report

The Sub-Committee **recommends** that the Graduate Studies Committee receive and note the following report of the meeting held on 6 November 2001.

2. Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

(1) Report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting

The Sub-Committee noted the report of proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee held on 15 October 2001.

(2) Doctor of Philosophy

(a) Award of the degree

The Sub-Committee noted that the Chair had considered the examiners' reports, together with the recommendations of the head of department/school concerned and the faculty board of postgraduate studies, with respect to one candidate and resolved to approve the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, without further qualification.

(b) Award of the degree with qualification

The Sub-Committee noted that the Chair had considered the examiners' reports, together with the recommendations of the head of department/school concerned and the faculty board of postgraduate studies, with respect to four candidates and resolved to approve the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, subject to emendations.

(d) Cases referred to the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee considered examiners' reports, together with the recommendations of the head of department/school concerned and the faculty board of postgraduate studies, with respect to seven candidates and resolved:

- (i) to approve the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, without further qualification, in one case;
- (ii) to refer the candidature to the Faculty for further consideration in two cases;
- (iii) to approve the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, subject to emendations, in three cases;
- (iv) to require revision and resubmission for examination in one case.

(e) Appointment of Examiners

The Sub-Committee noted that examiners had been appointed for thirty five candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

(3) Doctor of Juridical Studies

(a) Cases referred to the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee considered examiners' reports, together with the recommendations of the head of department/school concerned and the faculty board of postgraduate studies, with respect to one candidate and resolved to require revision and resubmission for examination.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Reports of Working Parties on new or amended postgraduate courses

6.1 Faculty of Agriculture: Master of Applied Economics and Management

The Working Party met on Monday 12 November 2001, when there were present: Associate Professor A F Masters (presiding), Professor A Brewer, Professor G MacAulay (proponent), Associate Professor F Nicholas, Dr G H Wan (proponent) and Mr K Barlow. Miss K Neveldsen and Ms R Chung (University of Melbourne) were in attendance. Comments were received from Professor C Adam who was unable to attend and circulated with the proposal.

The Working Party was asked to consider a proposal from the Faculty of Agriculture for the introduction in 2002 of the new course, Master of Applied Economics and Management.

The proposal aimed to establish and develop an international postgraduate course at the University of Sydney in collaboration with Nanjing Agricultural University, China, to promote postgraduate training and international collaborative research. The Faculty of Agriculture developed the proposal in a model that would allow future expansion to further train students in differing cultural and social environments.

The intended market was full-fee paying international students from China and a joint board of management would be established to monitor the overall operation of the course.

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor Russell Ross had contacted the Faculty regarding the English language requirements to which the Faculty responded with a request for an exemption for this course which was also considered by the working party.

The Working Party discussed the proposal, noting the following points:

- the Faculty of Agriculture wished to expand its postgraduate activities and explore links with China as part of a broad strategy for the enhancement of its course offerings;
- the proposal was developed following an institutional visit by a delegation from Chinese universities who expressed interest in offering joint postgraduate courses with an Australian University and had received approval from the Chinese government;
- the proposal had been subject to extensive discussion in the department and Faculty;
- the Faculty had been concerned with issues of quality control and financial viability and believed that the proposal presented a new model for offering courses in conjunction with other institutions which minimised risk to the University will allowing for control over academic quality;
- the Faculty had undertaken initial discussions with the Faculty of Economics but further appropriate consultation was required;
- the proposal appeared to duplicate existing offerings in another Faculty;
- Nanjing University did not want "agriculture" in the title of the degree; and
- there was concern over whether the University had implicitly agreed to run the course and whether students were enrolled at Nanjing University with the expectation that they would commence study here in July 2002.

The following specific issues were also raised:

- Name of degree
The issue of the name of the degree needed to be addressed and consultation with other faculties would be required, while understanding the context in which "agriculture" is viewed in Asia.

- English Language requirements

The Academic Board policy established minimum English Language requirements for postgraduate candidates and the Graduate Studies Committee was required to uphold these.

The Graduate Studies Committee could consider a proposal for recommendation to the Academic Board that the policy be amended to allow for faculties to apply for exemptions from the policy however, this would need to be addressed before the proposal could proceed.

The Faculty needed to consider whether a reduced English Language requirement was a key component of the proposal.

- Bilingual support

The English Language requirement issue was also reflected in discussion relating to the proposal by the Faculty to offer bilingual support to students. While the working party thought the concept was good, concern was expressed regarding how the support would balance with candidate's comprehension development.

The working party noted that the proposal needed clarification regarding the support as it was unclear whether this would continue for those candidates undertaking units of study in other faculties and whether it was expected that those faculties provide the support.

- Credit points and course structure

The Academic Board's policy regarding Master's degrees was that they be 48 credit points. Faculties wishing to vary this requirement were required to seek exemption from the Graduate Studies Committee.

The proposal did not clearly articulate the proposal structure of the course and it appeared that confusion regarding the credit point value could arise. The variation between a candidate being granted 8 credit points for one year of study at Nanjing University and 40 credit points for one year of study at the University of Sydney also need to be clarified.

- Admission requirements

The issue of an interview prior to admission to the University of Sydney was discussed and the working party noted that this needed to be incorporated into the proposed Resolutions of the Senate for such a requirement to be enforced.

The English Language requirements in the Resolutions also needed to be addressed to allow for students applying for admission under a test other than IELTS.

The working party **recommends** that the Faculty of Agriculture consult the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) and bring a revised proposal to the working party, based on the issues raised above, with evidence of support from those faculties.

AGENDA ITEM 7

New and amended courses

7.1 Faculty of Science: Master of Information Technology, Graduate Diploma in Information Technology and Graduate Certificate in Information Technology

separate enclosure

The Faculty of Science proposes to introduce new majors into the articulated award courses, Master of Information Technology, Graduate Diploma in Information Technology and Graduate Certificate in Information Technology, with the subsequent amendment of related Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2002.

The Faculty notes that the proposal amends existing Resolutions of the Senate and Faculty Resolutions, and does not revise the Resolutions pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000. The Faculty advises that a complete review of all postgraduate coursework resolutions is planned for 2002.

The proposal has been developed as a collaborative effort between the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Economics and Business in an effort to co-ordinate Information Technology offerings between the three faculties, particularly at postgraduate level.

The proposal utilises existing units of study and aims to meet increasing demand from a rapidly evolving IT industry; to increase the competitiveness of current IT offerings at the University; and to provide a more coherent approach to administration of the courses.

The faculties also propose amendments to the admission criteria to ensure a consistent approach between the faculties and to recognise additional postgraduate courses.

The proposal is available on the web at the following URL:
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/committees/GSC/2001.html>

AGENDA ITEM 8

New and amended courses

8.1 Faculty of Medicine: Master of Medicine, Master of Science in Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology), Graduate Diploma in Medicine and Graduate Diploma of Science in Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology)

At its meeting of 7 November 2001, the Combined Board Postgraduate Studies (Dentistry, Medicine & Pharmacy) considered the establishment of two new Units of Study proposed by Dr J Craig, Department of Public Health, for inclusion in the courses above.

These two related UoS were proposed to replace existing subjects which have been offered as part of above courses for the past 4 years but which have evolved to meet changing academic requirements and now have inappropriate credit point weightings.

1. Advanced Concepts In Statistics (4 credit points) which replaces CEPI5301 value 2 credit points.
2. Development of Clinical Epidemiological Research (2 credit points) which replaces CEPI5302, value 4 credit points.

The advanced statistical unit has become more extensive and the development of clinical epidemiology research has become lighter to keep abreast of recent developments. The Clinical Epidemiology courses are structured around 2 and 4 credit point units, and approval of both these units keeps these courses' structure intact. Neither of these units of study is available in courses outside the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine.

The Combined Board Postgraduate Studies (Dentistry, Medicine & Pharmacy) unanimously agreed to

- (1) approve the establishment of the Advanced Concepts In Statistics (4 credit Points);
- and
- (2) **recommend** that the Graduate Studies Committee approve the establishment of Development of Clinical Epidemiological Research (2 credit points).

AGENDA ITEM 9

Review of the Academic Board and the Academic Forum

The report of the Review of the Academic Board and the Academic Forum has been received. It is enclosed with this agenda and has now been widely circulated to the University community for consideration and comment.

Two general fora have been arranged to facilitate discussion and input to the final recommendations arising from the review, namely, a meeting of the Academic Forum scheduled for 19 November and a general forum to be held on 30 November.

Comment has been invited to the Chair of the Board by Monday 3 December for consideration by the Academic Board at its December meeting before the report, together with the recommendations of the Board, are referred to Senate for endorsement at its meeting in February 2002.

AGENDA ITEM 11 Meeting dates 2002

2002 Graduate Studies Committee meeting schedule

The 2002 meeting dates for the Graduate Studies Committee, and the schedule for the production and distribution of the agenda, are set out below.

All meetings will be held at **2 pm in the Western Tower Room**. Meetings will be on Mondays, except where indicated otherwise.

<i>Close-off for receipt of material for agenda</i>	<i>Agenda mailed</i>	<i>Meeting date</i>
Monday	Monday	Monday
21 January	29 January (Tuesday)	4 February
18 February	25 February	4 March
18 March	25 March	2 April (Tuesday)
22 April	29 April	6 May
20 May	27 May	3 June
17 June	24 June	1 July
22 July	29 July	5 August
19 August	26 August	2 September
23 September	30 September	8 October (Tuesday)
21 October	28 October	4 November

<i>Easter</i>	<i>Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April inclusive</i>
<i>Anzac Day holiday</i>	<i>Thursday 25 April</i>
<i>Queen's Birthday</i>	<i>Monday 10 June</i>
<i>Labour Day</i>	<i>Monday 7 October</i>
<i>AVCC Common Weeks / non-teaching periods</i>	<i>Fri 29 March to Fri 5 April inclusive; Mon 8 July to Fri 12 July inclusive; Mon 30 Sept to Fri 4 October inclusive.</i>