

SECTION 1: ACADEMIC BOARD COURSE PROPOSAL

PART 1: OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Faculty: Health Sciences

Department/School presenting the proposal: Discipline of Health Information Management

Faculty Contact person and/or: Ms Jane Gamble

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Date course approved by Faculty: 2000

1.1.1. Type of proposal: Deletion x

For deletion of a course please complete Part 1, and Part 2 items 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.9 and 1.2.11.

1.1.2. Type of course: Postgraduate coursework X

1.1.3. Name of award course(s)

Name of award course/s to be **deleted**:

Master of Health Information Management

Master of Health Science (Health Informatics)

Master of Health Science (Health Informatics) Honours

1.1.4. Abbreviated name

MHIM and MHI

1.1.5. Date of introduction or deletion

Deletion: Year 2008 Semester 1

1.1.6 Availability to students

Commonwealth supported students

Full-time

Part-time

Fee-paying local students

Full-time

Part-time

Fee-paying international students

Full-time

Part-time

Research Training Scheme

(PG Research students only)

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PART 2: DETAILS FOR ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL

1.2.1 Purpose of the proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to delete the Master of Health Information Management (MHIM) and the Master of Health Science (Health Informatics). The MHIM and the Master of Health Science (Health Informatics) are both one year full-time courses which will be replaced by one two year full-time Master of Health Informatics (proposed to commence in 2008). The deletion of the two courses is based on a review of stakeholder opinions and industry need. The proposed Master of Health Informatics is designed to respond to the changing needs of health professionals and health organisations in our increasingly electronic environment. It provides a more in-depth course over two years to equip students with the required breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding and expertise in the design, implementation and use of information and communication technologies in health. The new course is a graduate entry masters program for students who wish to pursue a career as a health informatics specialist. Our aim is to graduate health informatics specialists who can make a significant contribution to the field.

1.2.2 Justification for proposal

The two courses we propose to delete have similarities but also key differences. The Master of Health Information Management is a one year full-time coursework program designed to prepare specialists in the design and management of health information systems. The course includes a large component of skills based competencies designed to train students in the classification of clinical information using the International Classification of Diseases. The Master of Health Science (Health Informatics) is a one year full-time course which provides graduates with a theoretical and practical understanding of the role of information and communication technologies in health care. There is no skills based training of classification in this course which focuses on information and communication technologies and their application to health.

Both courses are limited due to their length (one year full-time), and there has always been content overlap and confusion about the differences between the two courses. The deletion of the two existing Masters courses with replacement by a new two year Master of Health Informatics course, is intended to attract a large number of high quality students and to provide an opportunity to complete a premier informatics program related to information and communication technology in health. The proposed new course, the Master of Health Informatics, will extend and deepen the existing curricula to include knowledge and skills in information science, information and communication technologies in health, and health informatics research, to support the increasing need for health informatics professionals to have high levels of expertise in these areas. This aim is in line with the learning and teaching strategic directions (2006-2010) of the University of Sydney.

Information exchange is the core of a safe, efficient and effective health system. The underlying aim of the proposed Master of Health Informatics program is to provide graduates with the required knowledge and skills to be able to understand and improve the way in which health care delivery and patient outcomes are enhanced through the effective use and exchange of information.

These amendments are the result of a review and repositioning of the proposed Master of Health Informatics course as the premier postgraduate informatics program in Australia. Health informatics has been named as one of five key research areas for the Faculty of Health Sciences over the next five years. It will be the core focus of research, development and teaching from the Health Information Management discipline. The new course is proposed in response to: 1) the identified need for a larger and better trained specialised workforce in health informatics and, 2) new developments in the knowledgebase of health informatics.

1.2.9 Transitional arrangements (for continuing students)

Last year of student intake under existing Resolutions:

Local students 2007

International students 2007

Provisions in place for students enrolled under existing Resolutions:

Students enrolled in the two existing 48 credit point one year full-time (or two year part-time) Masters courses (that is, the Master of Health Science (Health Informatics) or the Master of Health Information Management) will be offered the option of transferring to the proposed new two year full-time Master of Health Informatics or completing their existing 48 credit point course. If they elect to transfer their previous studies will be evaluated to ascertain appropriate credit and units of study to complete in the new 96 credit point program. If they elect to remain in their existing course they will be taught to completion in the existing 48 credit point program. It is anticipated those students who elect to remain in their existing courses will complete their studies in semester 2, 2007 (full-time students) and semester 2, 2008 (part-time students). From 2009 onwards, a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether they should complete under the old resolutions or be transferred into the new course described in the 2008 resolutions (MHI).

1.2.11 Resolutions

1.2.11.1 Are there changes to the list of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates conferred by your Faculty, as listed in the **Resolutions of the Senate** available in the **University Calendar**?

Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 2.*

No

1.2.11.2 Will there be new Resolutions or changes to the existing **Resolutions of the Senate** for the proposed Coursework award course?

Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 3.*

No

1.2.11.3 Will there be new Resolutions or changes to the existing **Faculty Resolutions** for the proposed award course?

Yes *If yes, please complete Appendix 4.*

No

1.2.11.4 Will there be changes to the academic dress due to the introduction of the proposed new award course?

Yes No

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

**Resolutions of the Senate
Degrees, diplomas and certificates in the Faculty of [Faculty]**

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

Resolutions of the Senate (Coursework courses)

SECTION 1 – APPENDIX 4: RESOLUTIONS OF THE FACULTY