



The University of Sydney

Academic Board

Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 1996

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 11 December 1996 in the Professorial Board Room.

There were present: the Chair (Professor J M Mack) presiding, the Deputy Chairs (Professors D J H Cockayne, J Lawler and J R Lawrence and Associate Professors R Pesman and R Waterhouse), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), Associate Professors R Arnold and R Atherton, Ms S Baker, Associate Professor H C Beh, Dr A E Brew, Professors L W Burgess, K K Campbell, J P Carter and B Cass, Associate Professor L J Copeland, Professors L Cram and R Dunn, Associate Professor C J Durrant, Professors K Eltis, L D Field, D R Fraser, G Gill and J R Glastonbury, Associate Professor J Gordon, Professor M A Harris, Ms C Hyde, Associate Professor P Jones, Professors W G Julian and J F Kinnear, Associate Professor A F Masters, Professor R McPhedran, Dr R A Mitchell, Associate Professor N E Newbigin, Mr K Oliver, Professors R L Russell and S M Salisbury, Associate Professor G E Sherington, Professors D Weisbrot and M C Wells, Mr R Wilson, Dr G Wright and Professor J A Young.

Present as observers were: Mrs S Chapman (Secretary to the Academic Board), Professors R G Hewitt, R Johnstone and L M Koder and Ms C M Sexton.

Present by invitation were: Ms L Maral, Dr C O'Brien, Ms B Olde, Mr M Partridge and Associate Professor G Stone.

In attendance: Miss E R Ring.

P This symbol denotes items which were starred for discussion at the meeting. All other items were dealt with as recommended in the agenda.

11/96 Minutes

*** The Board agreed that the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Academic Board held on Wednesday 13 November 1996 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

12/96 Business arising out of the minutes

None.

13/96 Report of the Chair

The following reports had been circulated and tabled:

(see agenda and supplementary agenda item A4.)

Part I

1. Report on Senate Matters

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

2. 1997 meeting dates of the Academic Board

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

3. 1997 meeting dates of the Academic Forum

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

4. Appointment of members to fill casual vacancies on the Board

*** The Board agreed to appoint the nominees, as requested.

5. Chairing of the Library and Information Technology Committee

*** The Board agreed to appoint Professor McPhedran as Alternate Chair of the Library and IT Committee, as recommended.

6. Future directions

*** The Board agreed to appoint the Working Party, as recommended.

7. Working Party to examine appeals against academic decisions

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

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8. Working Party to consider Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Professor Johntone spoke to the report of the Working Party and clarified a number of issues raised by Board members. He undertook to take on notice Professor Cockayne's question about whether or not nominees could be re-nominated. Professor Koder responded to a concern expressed by the Chair and said that provision had been made for funding the Awards from 1997 onwards. The Chair said that he would suggest some nominees for appointment to the 1997 Committee to the February Board meeting, but would initially approach all members of the 1996 Committee regarding their nomination for 1997.

*** The Board agreed to adopt the recommendations of the Working Party, subject to an amendment being made to Recommendation 6 whereby the words "to consider" are replaced by the words "to familiarise the Committee with".

9. Implementation of the new Appointments Policy

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

10. Action under delegated authority

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

11. Reports on promotions: titles for Personal Chairs and promotions to Lecturer

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

12. Statistical reports from the Academic Groups on retirements and resignations and Chair appointments

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

13. Afternoon tea break

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

14. Question Time

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

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15. Academic Board Nominees on Senior Staff Selection Committees

The Chair reported that with Senate's endorsement of the proposed responsibilities for senior staff at its December meeting, there had been some urgency in progressing the selection process to fill the senior staff positions. He had therefore used the authority delegated to him by the former Board and its Standing Committee to put forward the names of nominees. He had based his choice of nominees on the principles used in the past in such situations and had tried to reflect the range of interests associated with each of the positions; he had consulted with the Deputy Chairs about the nominees. He had excluded Deans as nominees as they could be potential applicants.

*** After some discussion, the Board agreed to endorse the nominees for appointment by Senate to the selection committees.

16. Promotions Procedures - 1997

*** The Board agreed to note the report and to endorse the Chair's action in approving the changes requested.

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Part II

At the meeting the Chair reminded members that they were invited to attend the Christmas party to be held on the following Monday after the meeting of the Academic Forum.

*** The Board noted the report.

14/96 Statement by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

The following report was tabled:

(see supplementary agenda item A5.)

Part I

Report on Senate Matters

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

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Part II

At the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor reported in the following terms:

It had been a particularly difficult period in the sense of making all the arrangements for the restructuring for next year, together with the obvious problem of enterprise bargaining. He wished to reiterate his view that it was not helpful to be emotional about the latter issue. Enterprise bargaining seemed to be moving towards some kind of resolution, although the news from the meeting held earlier in the day was inconclusive. The bans on the return of Honours results had now been lifted, but there were still concerns about other issues.

In the discussion that followed, it was reported that the NTEU had agreed to meet again on the following Monday, and that it was also reported that it had been agreed that special cases for dispensation from the bans could be made to Dr Whiting. It was noted that such a dispensation could resolve some difficulties, such as that for final year Nursing students, whose results needed to be processed in order that they qualify to graduate, with this being a prerequisite for professional registration, which was a requirement for them to take up nursing positions. The Vice-Chancellor said that he would be pleased to be of assistance in making such special cases as this was not part of the enterprise bargaining process.

In response to a question about the position of University Librarian, the Vice-Chancellor said that he was in a position to respond to the advice provided by the Board. The position would be specifically that of Librarian, and, recognising its academic significance, the appointment would be at the equivalent level of a dean. In view of the pending restructuring, it would be appropriate for Professor Anderson to progress the advertisement and the filling of the position.

*** The Board noted the report.

15/96 Report by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on proctorial matters

*** The Board noted that the Vice-Chancellor and Principal tabled a report.

16/96 Report of the Faculty of Architecture

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item B2.)

Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate: constitution of the Faculty of Architecture

*** The Board agreed to recommend the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate, as recommended.

17/96 Report of the Faculty of Education

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item B7.)

Semester and vacation dates for 1997

Candidature for the degrees of Bachelor of Teaching and Master of Teaching

*** The Board agreed to approve the 1997 semester and vacation dates for the BTeach and MTeach, as requested.

18/96 Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C1.)

Proceedings of the Committee

1. **Terms of reference and constitution of the new Graduate Studies Committee**
2. **Levels of award and grading systems used for Master's degrees**
3. **New initiatives by the Graduate School of Business**
4. **English language proficiency requirements**
5. **Administration of graduate candidatures**
 - (a) **PhD Award Sub-Committee**
 - (b) **Higher doctorates**
6. **Proposals for new and amended postgraduate award programs**
 - (1) **Graduate School of Business: Graduate Certificate in Transport Management**
 - (2) **Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Master of Performance**
7. **Work in progress**
 - (1) **Structure of the initial year of the PhD**
 - (2) **UMI Dissertation Service**

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

19/96 Report of the Library and IT Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C2.)

1. **Structure of the Committee/Proposed Reference Groups**
 - (a) **Student Representation**
 - (b) **Joint Meeting of the Library Committee and Working Party on Information Technology: Proposed Reference Groups**
 - (c) **Director of Information Services**
 - (d) **Deputy Chairs**
 - (e) **Membership and tasks of the Reference Groups**
2. **Position of the University Librarian**
3. **Electronic Publishing**
4. **Internet Charging and Access**
5. **Student Access to IT**

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

20/96 Report of the Research Committee

The following reports had been circulated:

(see agenda item C3.)

- A. **Report of the final meeting of the Research Policy Committee**
 1. **Revision of Procedures for the Allocation of APAs and UPAs**
 2. **DEETYA Research Publications Report**
 3. **Arrangements for the Research Forum on Wednesday 4 December**
 4. **Report of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)**
 5. **Report from the Director, Business Liaison Office**
 6. **Report from the Director, Research and Scholarships Office**

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

B. Report of the inaugural meeting of the Research Committee

1. Change of Name of Committee
2. Welcome and Farewell
3. Weightings for International and National Conference Publications
4. Performance Indicators
5. DEETYA Research Publications Report
6. Meeting with Research Fellows
7. Eligibility Criteria for Applicants for Research Funding through The University of Sydney
8. Report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
9. Report from the Director, Business Liaison Office
10. Report from the Director, Research and Scholarships Office

*** The Board agreed to note the report.

21/96 Reports of the Academic Groups on Chairs

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item D1.)

*** The Board agreed to note the report.