



Academic Board

Meeting held on Wednesday 12 November 1997

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 12 November 1997 in the Professorial Board Room.

There were present: the Chair (Professor R Pesman) presiding, the Deputy Chairs (Professors D J H Cockayne, J Lawler, J R Lawrence, R McPhedran and A Sefton), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), Professor C Adam, Associate Professor R Atherton, Drs R Bohringer and A Brew, Professors K K Campbell and B Cass, Mr T Clark, Associate Professors L J Copeland, E Cornell and D Dragovich, Professor R Dunn, Associate Professor C J Durrant, Professors K Eltis and D R Fraser, Associate Professor F Fricke, Professor G Gill, Associate Professor C B Gillies, Professors M A Harris and R Hewitt, Ms C Hyde, Professors J F Kinnear and I J Klineberg, Associate Professor A F Masters, Mr J McNicoll, Dr P Phibbs, Professor J Raper, Dr A Reynolds, Professor B D Roufogalis, Associate Professor M Sankey, Professors W Schworm and T Walter and Dr G Wright.

Present as observers were: Dr W Adams (Secretary to the Academic Board), Mr J Shipp and Professor D Weisbrot.

Present by invitation were: Ms H Fleming, Ms L Maral, Ms B Olde and Mrs L Rose.

In attendance: Miss E R Ring.

P 123/97 Starring

Members of the Board were invited to star any unstarred item which they wished to have discussed. All other items were dealt with as recommended in the agenda.

*** The Board resolved as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

124/97 Minutes

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 1997

*** The Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 1997 as a correct record.

2. Business arising out of the minutes

None.

125/97 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 noted the report.

2. NSW Government's White Paper on HSC Reform

*** The Board endorsed the Working Party's response.

**3. Work in progress
Draft Student Appeals Document**

*** The Board noted the report.

4. Questions on notice

*** The Board noted that no questions had been received this month.

P Part II

At the meeting the Chair reported on the following matters:

1. NSW Government's White Paper on HSC Reform

The Chair reported that the response prepared by the Board's working party on the HSC White Paper was couched in general terms as more detailed responses had been submitted by relevant members of staff on individual subjects such as Mathematics and LOTE. The Board of Studies was currently holding meetings on each subject with interested groups including representatives from the universities. The Chair expressed her thanks to the members of staff from this University who were attending the meetings. She had met with Professor Jeremy Davis, President of the Academic Board at the University of New South Wales, last week and the concerns of the two universities were similar. The Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senate of Universities in NSW and the ACT was meeting at the University of Technology, Sydney on November 20, and the White Paper was the main item on the agenda. The meeting would be attended by Mr Warren Grimshaw, President of the Board of Studies, and Dr Jim McMorrow, Assistant Director-General of DTEC and Chair of the White Paper Cross Portfolio Taskforce.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he would be meeting with Dr McMorrow and Mr Grimshaw the following week and also with the metropolitan Vice-Chancellors and the Task Force. He did not believe that addressing Mathematics in isolation from the other subjects would be a viable solution.

During the ensuing discussion, various members of the Board reported on separate submissions which had been made emphasising the problems that the proposed restructuring would cause and arguing for the retention of the 3-unit structure in subjects such as Science, English, Computer Science, Geography and foreign languages. The Vice-Chancellor reported that the New South Wales Vice-Chancellors' Conference was divided on the issue.

2. Heads of Department Forum

The topic for the Heads of Department Forum on Monday 10 November had been the Academic Board. The Chair and Deputy Chairs spoke to Heads about present and future agendas. There was some interesting discussion on the relationship of the new streamlined Board with the wider academic community and particularly with the Heads who have to implement Board policy, policy in which they no longer have a voice.

126/97 Statement by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

The following report was tabled:

(see supplementary agenda item A5.)

Part I

1. Report on Senate Matters

*** The Board noted the report.

P Part II

At the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor reported on the following matters:

1. West Review of Higher Education

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University had received a small number of copies of the West Review's policy discussion paper but that there had been little time to study it in

detail. Articles in the press that morning seemed to indicate that the Government was not supportive of the propositions in the Review report.

It appeared that significant recommendations were being made in respect of the funding of both undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

Three possible models of undergraduate funding were proposed, each based on a highly-significant presupposition that all universities should be free to determine fee levels; the models then proposed different degrees of deregulation:

- The first model allowed for some deregulation by permitting universities to set fee levels with reduced central control of student numbers.
- The second allowed greater freedom for universities to determine student numbers and fee levels, but it opened the market to private providers and proposed that students be able to apply for rationed scholarships.
- The third model was for total deregulation, with demand-driven funding of post-secondary education, in which students would possess an entitlement for equivalent full-time study. This would apply to both university and vocational education.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the second model resembled most closely the provisions of the University submission to the West Review. The third model raised a number of concerns over the establishment of a gulf between research and teaching, over the basis for funding institutions that taught but did not undertake research and over learning subsidies for TAFE courses in disciplines also taught at university.

Careful consideration would need to be given to the report to determine the advantages and disadvantages of the three models. It was important to consider the nexus between research and teaching.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that three possible models of research funding were also proposed:

- The first model was almost based on the *status quo*, with a more demand-sensitive process for the allocation of research training resources and an enlarged role for the ARC in developing and promulgating national higher education research priorities.
- The second model made the same provisions as the first, but also reshaped the current suite of ARC/DEETYA research programs, resulting in fewer, larger and more flexible programs.
- The third was the most radical model, which incorporated elements of the first model, but also shifted the balance of funding towards competitive block grants, thereby raising the research quantum to approximately 10%.

Again, careful consideration was required to determine the best model for the University. Obviously in the short term the third model would provide differential benefits, but the long-term effects would need to be determined. The University had placed greater emphasis on the role of the individual academic than the other institutions in the Group of Eight, so its position was closer to that of the West Review than many others'.

The Review report had attempted to take a realistic view of the relative position of Australian higher education in the international education scene and sought comment and further input. If the Government had disowned the report before it had even been discussed by the tertiary sector, then higher education faced a serious problem with insufficient funding for many years and no provision for it to recover lost ground. The University would need to address its own future rather than wait for whatever outcomes might eventuate from the West Review.

During the ensuing discussion the Vice-Chancellor answered a number of questions about specific aspects of the Review report. He also advised that the report had been published on the Web.

The Vice-Chancellor said that time was needed for the report and its implications for the University to be considered thoroughly. The University also needed to consider the political realities by which the outcomes of the report would be determined.

2. Advance offers

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he would like the Board to consider seriously the possibility of the University making advance offers across the spectrum of students — fee-paying and HECS-paying — on the basis of some form of early assessment, preferably school-based, thereby reducing dependence on the final HSC result. This would allow for two modes of entry, and would present advantages in terms of equity and access. There would be problems to be addressed, such as comparability of assessment across different high schools, and people could be litigious over the issue of final marks. In addition there were cost implications, especially if the final marks were supplemented by interview-based assessment. He would, nevertheless, like the Board to consider the possibility of moving in this direction.

*** The Board noted the report.

127/97 Report of the Academic Forum

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item A12.)

1. **Forum focus: The University and the Private Hospital**
2. **Notice of motion**
3. **Question time**
4. **Reports for noting**

*** The Board noted the report.

P 128/97 Draft Intellectual Property Policy

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item A13.)

In speaking to the draft Intellectual Property Policy document, Professor Gill reported that a whole new document had been written rather than amendments being made to the previous draft. This new draft was based essentially on three principles:

- The policy was simplistic, being simpler and easier to comprehend than the earlier draft.
- Equity issues had been addressed, whereby the policy reflected the claims of both the originator and the University.
- The policy was enforceable and was framed to encourage commercialisation through the University rather than to act as a disincentive.

Members commented on various aspects of the draft, and some suggestions were made for minor amendments to the document. A number of members commended the document.

The Chair reported that she sensed support in principle for the document, with the amendments proposed being minor and mostly administrative in nature; she asked that all suggestions for changes be forwarded in writing. The Chair expressed the Board's appreciation of the work of the committee.

*** The Board endorsed the policy subject to comment by the University Solicitor.

129/97 Report of the Faculty of Architecture

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item B2.)

Semesters 1998

*** The Board approved the semester dates for the Faculty of Architecture for 1998 as requested.

130/97 Report of the Faculty of Dentistry

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item B5.)

Semester dates for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery for 1998

*** The Board approved the semester dates for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery for 1998 as requested.

131/97 Report of the Faculty of Law

The following reports had been circulated and tabled:

(see agenda and supplementary agenda item B10.)

Semester dates - 1998

*** The Board approved the semester dates for the Faculty of Law for 1998 as requested.

132/97 Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

The following reports had been circulated and tabled:

(see agenda item C1.)

Part I

1. Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

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(1) Faculty of Architecture

Initial proposal for major changes to existing award program, the Bachelor of Science (Architecture)

The item was starred for discussion, and Professor Lawler reported that it had been the intention of the Faculty to introduce the major changes in 1998, and not 1999. A further report would be presented to the Board's December meeting.

*** The Board approved in principle the major changes proposed for the Bachelor of Science (Architecture) degree for 1999, as recommended.

(2) Faculty of Engineering

Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Commerce

*** The Board approved the major changes proposed for the Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Commerce program with the recommended proviso.

(3) Faculty of Science

Initial proposal for new award program, the Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced)

*** The Board recommended to Senate that it approve in principle the proposal for the introduction of the new Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced) program.

2. Proceedings of the Committee

(1) Membership

(2) Admission and selection into fee-paying undergraduate courses in 1998

(3) Working party: Approval mechanisms for new courses and major changes to existing courses

(4) Admissions

(5) Faculty of Arts

Major changes to the existing award programs, the Diploma of Arts, Diploma of Language Studies and Diploma of Social Sciences

(6) Special Admission Preparation Course: Religious Studies

(7) Working Party on Uniform Reporting of Honours Grades

*** The Board noted the report.

P Part II

At the meeting Professor Lawler reported that she expected that the following documents would be presented to the Board's December meeting:

- a revised (but lengthy) Admissions Policy;
- a new streamlined process for proposals for new and amended courses; and
- recommendations on the uniform reporting of honours grades.

*** The Board noted the report.

133/97 Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C2.)

Part I

1. Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

(1) Faculty of Arts Public History

*** The Board recommended that Senate approve the introduction of the new Joint Program in Public History and amend its Resolutions to effect the new program, as recommended.

(2) Faculty of Economics Management of Technology Master of Philosophy in Economics Transport Management

*** The Board recommended that Senate:

- approve the introduction of the new subject area of Management of Technology within the Master's degree and Graduate Diploma and amend its Resolutions to effect the new program, as recommended;
- approve the change in name of the research master's degree;
- approve the introduction of the new major in Transport Management; and
- amend the Resolutions of the Senate to effect these changes, as recommended.

(3) Faculty of Engineering Graduate Certificate in Electrical Energy Systems Graduate Certificate in Integrated Systems Graduate Certificate in Photonics Graduate Certificate in Signal Processing Graduate Certificates in Wireless Communications Graduate Diploma in Technology Venture Creation

*** The Board recommended that Senate approve the introduction of the new Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diploma and amend its Resolutions to effect the new programs, as recommended.

(4) Faculty of Medicine Clinical Epidemiology

*** The Board recommended that Senate approve the introduction of the new Graduate Diploma and amend its Resolutions to effect it, as recommended.

(5) Orange Agricultural College Master of Rural Management

*** The Board recommended that Senate approve the change in name of the research master's degree, as recommended.

2. Appointment of Associate Supervisors

*** The Board endorsed the existing policy and drew it to the attention of faculties, colleges and boards of studies.

3. Guidelines for proposals for new and amended award programs

*** The Board endorsed the revised Guidelines for proposals for new and amended postgraduate award programs.

4. Proceedings of the Committee

- (1) **Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee**
- (2) **Report of the Coursework Sub-Committee**
 - (a) Position papers on Parallel teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate coursework and on distance, alternative and flexible modes of delivery in postgraduate coursework programs
 - (b) Proceedings of the Sub-Committee
- (3) **Higher doctorates**
- (4) **Co-tutelle with the Université de Paris III**
- (5) **Role of the Committee in conjoint courses and new initiatives**
- (6) **Appointment of a Supervisor of a PhD candidature**
- (7) **Working Party on Electronic Submission and Publication of Theses**
- (8) **Appointment of Working Parties to consider new or amended postgraduate award programs**
- (9) **Proposal for a new postgraduate award program, the Master of Occupational Therapy**

*** The Board noted the report.

P Part II

At the meeting Professor Lawrence reported that he wished to draw particular attention to two items in the Graduate Studies Committee report:

- the importance of implementing the policy that associate supervisors be appointed for research candidatures wherever possible; and
- the revised Guidelines for proposals for new or amended postgraduate courses.

*** The Board noted the report.

134/97 Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C3.)

Part I**Proceedings of the Committee**

1. **Future directions for the Committee**
2. **Position of Language Reference Group of the Teaching and Learning Committee**
3. **McGaw White Paper for Review of Languages Policy in NSW**
4. **Mid-year provision to 'show cause'**
5. **Assessment Policy Statements**

*** The Board noted the report.

P Part II

Professor Sefton said that there were no further matters at present that she wished to report upon.

135/97 Report of the Research Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C4.)

Part I

1. **General Business**
2. **Overseas Conference and Travel Grants Scheme (OCTGS)**
3. **Report of the working party on "research-only" staff**
4. **List of "eligible research-only staff"**
5. **Proposal to combine URGS and ARC Small Grants application processes**
6. **Report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Development Program.**
7. **Joint NHMRC/AVCC statement and guidelines on research practice**
8. **Report on ARC**
New Chair of ARC
Funding levels

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- DEETYA Guidelines**
9. **Report on Research Forum**
 10. **Report of the Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)**
 - Staffing**
 - Budget process**
 - Benchmarking**
 - ARC Large Grant Appeals**
 - Severance pay for fixed-term contracts**
 - Intellectual Property Policy**
 11. **Report of the Director, Business Liaison Office**
 - New BLO Manual**
 - Proposed Forum**
 12. **Report of the Director, Research Development**
 13. **Report of the Acting Director, Research and Scholarships Office**
 - Publications Audit**
 - ABS Meeting with Clinical Schools**
 - University Research Grants Scheme**
 - U2000 Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**
 - Staff Movements**
 14. **Next Meeting**

Item 2., Overseas Conference and Travel Grants Scheme (OCTGS), was starred for discussion. Professor McPhedran said that he had no concerns about the intent but rather about the wording of the last sentence which stated that *“The Committee further agreed that, primarily or significantly “teaching related” travel should not be funded through the OCTGS, but that “research and teaching” related travel should not be excluded”*. This wording gave the impression that staff who justified a trip on the basis of research did not strengthen their applications by also including a teaching component.

Professor Cockayne reported that the issue had arisen at the Research Committee because Professor Johnstone had raised the issue of funding of travel for teaching purposes and whether a different scheme should be put into place for this purpose. Professor Cockayne said that the Research Committee was fully supportive of the view that teaching-only travel should be supported, but that there were insufficient funds even for research-only travel, and that additional funding needed to be found for both. Professor McPhedran referred to the situation of staff undertaking research travel where they wished to add some teaching-related travel as an extra element and suggested that provision be made for a contingent amount for this purpose.

During the ensuing discussion, various members reported on the importance of provision being made for teaching-related travel and on the historical basis of OCTGS administration and funding. Professor Cockayne reported that if the OCTGS were to administer teaching grants, the scheme and membership of the committee would need to be changed; alternatively, a second scheme could be established. He undertook to refer the issue back to the Research Committee.

*** The Board noted the report, noting also that Professor Cockayne would raise the issue of the breadth of the OCTGS scheme and that of making provision for teaching-related travel with the Research Committee.

P Part II

At the meeting Professor Cockayne draw attention to item 3 in the Committee’s report on the report of the working party on “research-only” staff, reporting that the Committee was attempting to unravel the plethora of research titles and the rights and privileges of research-only staff. The Committee would also be considering the West report over the next few weeks with a view to forwarding comment to the Vice-Chancellor.

*** The Board noted the report.

136/97 Report of the Library and Information Technology Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C5.)

Part I

- 1. Codes of Conduct for Internet based services.**
- 2. Student Use of Information Technology**
- 3. Library Matters**

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Medical Library
Wolstenholme Library

*** The Board noted the report and endorsed the recommendation in respect of the Medical Library in item 3.

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Part II

Professor McPhedran said that there were no further matters at present that he wished to report upon.

137/97 Report of the Academic Staffing Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C6.)

Part I

- 1. Report of the Sub-Committee on Promotion of Research-Only Staff**

*** The Board noted the report.

- 2. Academic Titles**

*** The Board noted the report.

- 3. Level E positions**

*** The Board noted the report.

- 4. Committee membership**

*** The Board approved the recommendation.

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Part II

Professor Pesman said that there were no further matters at present that she wished to report upon.

138/97 Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Awards for Excellence in Teaching

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item D1.)

*** The Board noted the report and congratulated the recipients.

139/97 Report of the Promotions Committee for Personal Chairs/Title of Professor

The following report was tabled:

(see agenda item D2.)

*** The Board noted the report.