



The University of Sydney

---

## Academic Board

Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 1997

---

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 16 July 1997 in the Professorial Board Room.

**There were present:** the Chair (Professor R Pesman) presiding, the Deputy Chairs (Professors J Lawler, J R Lawrence and A Sefton), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), Associate Professor M Allars, Professor D Anderson, Associate Professor R Atherton, Ms S Baker, Dr A E Brew, Professors K K Campbell, K Eltis, L D Field and G Gill, Associate Professor C B Gillies, Professors M A Harris and R Hewitt, Associate Professor P Jones, Professor I J Klineberg, Associate Professor A F Masters, Dr P McCallum, Mr K Oliver, Dr P Phibbs, Professor J Raper, Dr A Reynolds, Professors B D Roufogalis, R L Russell, W Schworm and G P Steven, Associate Professor G M Stone, Mr R Wilson and Dr G Wright.

Present as observers were: Dr W Adams (Secretary to the Academic Board), Professor D Napper, Ms C Sexton and Professors D Weisbrot and J A Young.

Present by invitation were: Ms L Maral, Ms B Olde, Mr T Robinson and Mr R Silver.

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.

### 70/97 Minutes

\*\*\* It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on Wednesday 11 June 1997 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 71/97 Business arising out of the minutes

None.

### 72/97 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. Membership of faculties and academic colleges by pro-vice-chancellors (college)**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

**3. Working Party on the Intellectual Property Draft Policy**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

- 4. International Relations Committee**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 5. Meeting of Committee of Chairs of Academic Board/Senates of Universities in NSW and the ACT, Newcastle 19 June 1997**  
 (1) McGaw Report  
 (2) Report of the Board of Studies  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 6. Action under delegated authority and reports from the Academic Groups**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 7. Work in progress**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 8. Questions on notice**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the Chair's response.
- 9. Full-fee paying local undergraduate students**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 10. Membership of the Board**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report and welcomed Professor Steven to membership of the Board.

## P Part II

At the meeting, the Chair reported on the following matters:

- 1. Welcome to new members**  
 The Chair welcomed Professor Judith Raper, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, to her first meeting of the Board and Professor Leeder, *in absentia*, as the new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.
- 2. Student appeals**  
 The Chair reported that the Working Party which had been appointed to examine present procedures for student appeals against academic decisions had just produced a draft document which she had sent out this week for comment to the Chair of the Committee of Deans, the Chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Committees, the SRC and SUPRA. The document, together with their comments, would be presented to the August meeting of the Board.
- 3. Rhodes scholarships**  
 The Chair reported that she had been asked to remind members that applications for Rhodes Scholarships closed on September 1st and that outstanding students should be very much encouraged to apply. Further information was available from Michael Bannigan, Honorary Secretary to the New South Wales Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee on 9351 5400.
- 4. Advanced Standing**  
 The Chair reported that she had made some comments on admission of students with advanced standing in her reply to the questions on notice. She believed that the matter of advanced standing was one where the University needed to move quickly to review and clarify its policies and she would be asking the Board's Undergraduate Studies Committee to address this matter.

## 73/97 Statement by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

The following reports had been circulated and tabled:

(see agenda and 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. Full-fee paying local undergraduate students

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the Report of the Local Fee-Paying Undergraduate Students Project Management Group, that the Chair had tabled, had been endorsed by Senate and asked that, since the document was still commercial in confidence, members of the Board treat it as such.

In response to a question from Mr Oliver on the procedures and rationale generally used for the establishment of Reference Groups, the Vice-Chancellor reported that he had appointed the group to provide feedback to the Project Management Group on the appropriateness of the procedures and policies that it recommended. Members of the reference Group included Fellows of Senate and the Chair of the Board. Consultation was part of an interactive process with management groups and it resulted in an effective process.

Mr Oliver also observed that Senate had endorsed the report and that it had been referred to the Board only for information; there were matters of academic policy in the report, however, about which the Board might have wished to have been consulted. He believed that it would be helpful if a detailed record were kept of the discussions at Senate and the reasons for Senate taking a particular course of action on this and other matters containing academic principles on which the Board had not been consulted in advance since this would enable the Board to tender informed advice to Senate on related matters. The Vice-Chancellor said that the broad academic principle had been referred to the Board; the issues debated recently at Senate were really those of implementation. The Board should be consulted on all academic issues and he would not like to see a system where Senate debated any matter of academic policy without input from the Board.

The Chair reported that in addition to the paper presented to the Board, there had been further consultation with the former Chair of the Board, the Board's Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Deans in respect of equity and merit issues.

#### 2. University Private Hospital

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he would hold a public forum on the proposal for the University Private Hospital, but that the scheduling of the forum would be delayed until more precise advice was available on some legal issues associated with the use of University land and on the site for the Hospital so that a clear picture of the proposal could be presented.

Professor Campbell observed that the utilisation of the Bosch building, the current favoured site, would result in a net loss of teaching space. The Vice-Chancellor responded that planning for the proposed private hospital included the replacement of lost teaching space and the result might well be a net gain.

#### 3. Overseas trip

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had attended a preliminary meeting for the formation of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. The two Australian universities invited to be foundation members were ANU and Sydney. This Association would have a voice that could be heard by APEC, a forum where research-based universities needed to be able to be heard. The Association would also provide opportunity for benchmarking and other forms of exchange.

He had also met with Philip Lader, US Ambassador-Designate to the United Kingdom, who had suggested that the University refresh its links with Duke University. It was interesting to note that UCLA, which had approximately the same number of students as Sydney, had four times the disposable budget.

#### 4. Dearing Report

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the Dearing Report on universities in the United Kingdom would be released shortly.

### P 74/97 Report of the Faculty of Veterinary Science

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item B19.)

#### Constitution of the Faculty

Mr Oliver said that he had starred this item in order to seek clarification of the Faculty's purpose in recommending that the Deans of the Faculties of Architecture and Engineering become members *ex officio* of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The Faculty's report stated that the purpose was "to facilitate communication between members of the College of Sciences and Technology". He was aware that many faculties had provision for membership of the deans of other faculties; this particular recommendation, however, appeared to have a parallel with the recommendations from several faculties that their constitutions be amended to make provision for faculty membership of their Pro-Vice-Chancellor (College). Communication among the faculties in a college could easily be addressed by invitations to other deans to attend faculty meetings; it did not require membership.

Associate Professor Stone said that provision had long existed for the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Science to be members of each other's faculties and that this had been extended some years ago to the Faculty of Science and Orange Agricultural College. It was a natural extension to include the Deans of Architecture and Engineering, and was an effective form of communication.

\*\*\* The Board recommended the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate, as recommended.

### 75/97 Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

The following report had been circulated:

(see agenda item C1.)

#### 1. Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

##### (1) Faculty of Health Sciences

##### (a) Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure and Health) (formerly Diversional Therapy)

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure and Health) as recommended.

##### (b) Bachelor of Health Science (Rehabilitation Counselling)

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Health Science (Rehabilitation Counselling) as recommended.

##### (c) Bachelor of Health Science (Aboriginal Health and Community Development)

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Health Science (Aboriginal Health and Community Development) as recommended.

**(2) Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science (Bioinformatics)**

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, adopted the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Bioinformatics) as recommended.

**(3) Sydney College of the Arts: Bachelor of Visual Arts**

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Visual Arts as recommended.

P

**(4) Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

The Chair reported that she had starred this item and amended her recommendation for the action to be taken by the Board in response to concerns expressed to her about the precise wording of the sections relating to admissions policies.

Professor Lawler reported that a working party had been re-drafting the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Admission, made pursuant to Chapter 10 of the By-laws. The Undergraduate Studies Committee was aware that there were minor discrepancies and redundancies in the resolutions, and these would be addressed in due course.

The Board adopted the Chair's revised recommendation, viz:

**(a) Bachelor of Music:**

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Music, subject to confirmation of the consistency of Sections 9 to 12 of the proposed Resolutions relating to the BMus with the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Admission made pursuant to Chapter 10 of the By-laws.

Note: Section 5. of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the BMus degree are also amended by adding the following words "and the testamur for the degree shall specify the area of specialisation".

**(b) Bachelor of Music Studies**

\*\*\* The Board:

- approved the proposal; and
- acting on behalf of Senate, adopted the new Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Bachelor of Music Studies, subject to confirmation of the consistency of Sections 7 to 10 of the proposed Resolutions relating to the BMusStudies with the Resolutions of the Senate relating to Admission made pursuant to Chapter 10 of the By-laws.

**2. Proceedings of the Committee****(1) Faculty of Engineering****(a) New academic programs:**

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering  
 Bachelor of Engineering in Telecommunications Engineering  
 Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Science  
 Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Arts

**(b) Major changes to existing awards/courses:**

Bachelor of Engineering  
 Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Commerce

**(2) Admission and selection into fee-paying undergraduate courses in 1998****(3) Overseas Qualifications Sub-Committee****(4) Credit point values and nomenclature**

(5) **Working Party: Approval mechanisms for new courses and major changes to existing courses**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report:

**76/97 Report of the Graduate Studies Committee**

*The following report had been circulated:*

*(see agenda item C2.)*

**A. First report**

**1. Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate**

**(1) Faculty of Medicine: Master of Surgery**

\*\*\* The Board, acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degree of Master of Surgery as recommended.

**(2) Graduate School of Business**

**(a) Graduate Certificate of Transport Management**

\*\*\* The Board recommended the introduction of the new award program, the Graduate Certificate of Transport Management and the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate to effect this.

**(b) Master's Degrees, Graduate Diplomas and Graduate Certificates in the Graduate School of Business**

\*\*\* The Board, acting on behalf of Senate, amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master's degrees, Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas offered by the Graduate School of Business to make explicit provision for distance and/or off campus study, as recommended.

**2. Faculty reports on postgraduate teaching and reviews of postgraduate coursework**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report and forwarded the report on postgraduate teaching to Senate.

**3. Proceedings of the Committee**

**(1) Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee**

**(2) Report of the Coursework Sub-Committee**

**(3) Higher doctorates**

**(4) Reference from the Research Committee: responsibility for teaching and postgraduate supervision for Research Fellows**

**(5) AusAID Sponsored Students: Notes for Faculties and Supervisors**

**(6) Future Constitution of the PhD Award Sub-Committee**

**(7) NTEU policy on Examination of Postgraduate Theses**

**(8) Sandwich PhDs**

**(9) Postgraduate Co-ordinators' Workshop**

**(10) Guidelines for the preparation of the academic content of new postgraduate coursework award programs**

**(11) Workshops for Postgraduate Supervisors**

**(12) Postgraduate Studies Handbook**

**(13) Working Parties on electronic submission and electronic publication of theses**

**(14) Appointment of Working Party to consider amended award programs**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

**B. Second report**

P

**1. Supervision of postgraduate international research students**

Professor Lawrence reported that he had starred this item to draw particular attention to the importance of good practice in postgraduate supervision and the requirements for international students.

\*\*\* The Board adopted the statement relating to supervision of postgraduate international research students and drew it to the attention of the boards of postgraduate studies of all faculties, colleges and boards of studies.

- 2. Future Constitution of the PhD Award Sub-Committee**  
 \*\*\* The Board adopted the proposed structure for the PhD Award Sub-Committee.

- 3. Proceedings of the Committee**
- (1) **Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee**
  - (2) **Report of the Coursework Sub-Committee**
  - (3) **Higher doctorates**
  - (4) **Deferment of public availability of theses**
  - (5) **Annual Progress Report Forms**
  - (6) **Working Party on electronic submission and electronic publication of theses**
  - (7) **Appointment of Working Parties to consider new and amended award programs**  
 Faculty of Engineering  
 Faculty of Health Sciences  
 Faculty of Nursing  
 Faculty of Science  
 Sydney College of the Arts  
 Board of Studies in Social Work
  - (8) **New initiatives by the Graduate School of Business**
- \*\*\* The Board noted the report.

### **77/97 Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee**

*The following report had been circulated:* (see agenda item C3.)

- 1. NSW Department of Training and Education Co-ordination: Review of Teaching of Languages Other than English in Primary and Secondary Schools.**  
 \*\*\* The Board noted the report.
- 2. The Provision of English Language Services at the University of Sydney (Professor Martin)**  
 \*\*\* The Board adopted the report and its recommendations in principle and drew the resource implications to the attention of the Vice-Chancellor.

### **78/97 Report of the Research Committee**

*The following report had been circulated:* (see agenda item C4.)

- 1. Proposal for Revised Use of University Research Grant Scheme Funds (URGS)**
  - 2. Overseas Conference Travel Grants Scheme**
  - 3. Proposed New University Funding Model**
  - 4. Designation of Research-Only Staff**
  - 5. Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG)**
  - 6. Report from the Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)**
  - 7. Report from the Director, Business Liaison Office**
  - 8. Report from the Director, Research Development**
  - 9. Report from the Director, Research and Scholarships Office**
- \*\*\* The Board noted the report.

### **79/97 Report of the Library and Information Technology Committee**

*The following report had been circulated:* (see agenda item C5.)

- 1. Discussion Paper on Internet Charging**  
 \*\*\* The Board supported the LITC's recommendation that the Internet charging approach Option C be referred for adoption by the ITC.

**P**

- 2. Code of Conduct for use of Internet based services**  
 In view of concerns that had been expressed to her and of the absence from the Board meeting of Professor Johnstone, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Support), and Professor

McPhedran, the Committee's Chair, the Chair asked that the Codes be referred back to the LITC.

\*\*\* The Board adopted the Chair's suggestion that the Codes be referred back to the LITC.

**3. Information Technology In Lecture Theatres**

\*\*\* The Board endorsed the LITC's recommendation.

**4. Professor J Rosenberg**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

**80/97 Report of the Academic Staffing Committee**

*The following report had been circulated:*

*(see agenda item C6.)*

**1. Committee Brief**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

**2. Draft Policy Document - Promotion of Academic Staff to Levels B, C and D**

\*\*\* The Board noted the report.

**81/97 Report of the Committee appointed to reconsider an application for promotion from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor**

*The following reports had been circulated and tabled:*

*(see agenda item D1. and tabled paper)*

\*\*\* The Board noted the confidential report.

Note: At the Chair's request, the confidential report was collected at the end of the meeting.