



Academic Board Minutes

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board
held at 2 pm on Wednesday 16 December 1998 in the Professorial Board Room**

There were present: the Acting Chair of the meeting (Professor D Cockayne) presiding, the Deputy Chair (Professor J Lawler), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), Professor D Anderson, Dr A E Brew, Professors KK Campbell, B Cass and J Chudleigh, Associate Professors D Davey and D Dragovich, Professor R Dunn, Associate Professor C J Durrant, Professors K Eltis and L Field, Associate Professor C B Gillies, Dr D P Godden, Professors M A Harris and R Hewitt, Ms C Hyde, Professors J F Kinnear and S R Leeder, Associate Professor A F Masters, Professors G T Moore and D Nutbeam, Dr P Phibbs, Associate Professor A Reynolds, Professors R Rose, G Sherington and G P Steven, Mr D Trudinger, Professors T Walter and J Webber, Messrs L Whittington and T J Wilkinson and Dr G Wright.

Present as observers were: Dr W Adams (Secretary of the Academic Board), Professor L M Koder, Miss C M Sexton and Professors D Siddle and J A Young.

Present by invitation were: Associate Professor R Ross and Mrs L Rose.

In attendance: Miss E R Ring.

☆ **1. Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professor C Adam, Dr R Bohringer, Professor L W Burgess, Associate Professors M Findlay and P Jones, Professors H Kendig and J R Lawrence, Dr R A Mitchell, Professors R Pesman, J Raper, B D Roufogalis and A Sefton, Mr J Shipp, Professors V Spate and D Weisbrot and Mr R Wilson.

(File 021/0005/00003)

2. Arrangement of Agenda

☆ **2.1 Starring of items**

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items.

The following additional items were starred: 3, 6.1.1, 7.1.1, 10.1.2, 10.2.2, 11.1.2 and 12.1.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 212/98

That the Academic Board resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

☆ **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Resolution 213/98

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 November 1998 as a true record, subject to the following amendment to the second sentence on page 6 in minute item 5.3.1.

The sentence which commences "In respect of the SUPRA's criticism of the University ...", is amended by the addition, after "University", of: "Mr Trudinger stated that students at the University are taught to question and to be critical, therefore ...".

(File 028/0030/00016)

4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Report on Senate matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 7 December 1998

Resolution 214/98

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting on 7 December 1998.

☆ **5.2 General report**

5.2.1 Christmas party

5.2.2 Flexible Learning Working Party

Resolution 215/98

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on general matters.

5.2.3 Other business

Professor Cockayne advised the meeting that he had been asked to chair the meeting in Professor Pesman's absence overseas.

He reported as follows:

5.2.3.1 Tribute to Professor McPhedran

Professor Pesman had asked him to record the following appreciation of Professor McPhedran as a Deputy Chair of the Board:

Professor Ross McPhedran is retiring at the end of this year as a Deputy Chair of the Board. In expressing appreciation of the contribution to the Board of Ross McPhedran, I speak for myself and for all members of the Board.

Ross has been a member of the Board since 1994 and a Deputy Chair for the last two years. He very generously took on the new and difficult portfolio of Chair of the then

new Library and Information Technology Committee and he has been assiduous in bringing to the attention of the University community the pressing issues and problems in the wide area of information dissemination and storage and in setting policy guidelines. But it is by no means only as Chair of the Library and Information Technology Committee that Ross has made his very valuable contribution to the work of the Board. He has a very strong commitment to academic values and processes and has always been willing to accept the responsibilities that go with commitment: I would mention in particular his work with scholarships and the HSC. While Ross McPhedran is retiring as Deputy Chair of the Board, he is not deserting us and will continue to serve as an elected professorial member of the Board. I am grateful that his expertise and accumulated knowledge are still available to us.

5.2.3.2 Tribute to Professor Sefton

Professor Cockayne thanked Professor Ann Sefton who was to retire as a Deputy Chair of the Board at the end of this year, after making enormous contributions to its activities.

Professor Sefton had been a Deputy Chairman of the "old" Academic Board from September 1986 to December 1987 and a Deputy Chair in 1996. In 1996 she was also a member of the Committee for Undergraduate Studies' Examinations and Assessment Review Sub-Committee (EARS). She was elected a Deputy Chair of the reconstituted Academic Board from November 1996 to December 1998 and chaired the Board's Teaching and Learning Committee during this period. She made enormous contributions to uplifting standards of, and respect for, teaching in this University, and she led from the front with her work on the Graduate Medical Program, for which she was awarded recently a prestigious National Teaching Award. Professor Cockayne noted that she was not leaving her work for the Board, having been elected recently as Chair of the Academic Forum for a two-year term from 30 October 1998.

5.2.3.3 APAs and UPAs

Professor Cockayne reported that the first round of Australian Postgraduate Award and University Postgraduate Award offers was being sent out that day, following an effective meeting on Monday. The process would be much quicker this year.

Professor Siddle advised that the number of APAs awarded to the University for commencing students in 1999 had been reduced from 150 to 147; most universities had seen a reduction following the reduction of the number available nationally by 45. There was a strong feeling at the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee that APA first round offers should be made earlier next year so that replies were received before Christmas.

Associate Professor Masters referred to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that claimed that there were too many PhD students; similar comments had also been made by a member of the ARC. He was concerned that this type of misinformation could be the basis for further reductions

in the number of APAs to be made available. Professor Siddle said that there was little evidence to substantiate the statements about PhD attrition rates being poor, candidatures taking too long and graduates not being useful to industry. Such statements should be refuted vigorously.

5.2.3.4 ARC grants

Professor Cockayne referred to the University's success in gaining Australian Research Council funding for 1999 and asked Professor Siddle to report on the outcomes.

Professor Siddle advised that the University had ranked first in the country in terms of the total amount of new ARC funding for 1999, having gained:

- 63 new Large Grants worth \$3.6 million;
- 12 new Fellowships;
- 33 new SPIRT (Strategic Partnerships with Industry-Research and Training Scheme) grants worth \$1.5 million;
- funding for two new Key Centres, one headed by Professor Durrant-Whyte in Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, and the other headed by Professor Gilbert in Chemistry; the University was also involved in a Key Centre at the University of Wollongong;
- over \$5.5 million in RIEFP (Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Program) grants; and
- IREX grants (three researchers having been successful in attracting funds — \$201,609 — to support visits under the International Researcher Exchange Program.

The Small Grants income was just over \$3 million. Some money had been held back this year, to be distributed to those who had been just below the Large Grants cut-off.

The University's success in gaining these grants added significantly to the research fabric of the institution. The ARC results were also informative in identifying areas in the University which were doing well and areas where the University's research profile needed to be lifted.

Resolution 216/98

That the Academic Board note the report of the Acting Chair on other business.

(Files 021/0006/00008, 028/0002/00304, 152/0003/00316, 099/0002/03112)

6. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

6.1 Report on Senate matters



6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 7 December 1998

6.1.1.1 Reference from Senate: Proposed review of undergraduate courses

Dr Godden referred to item (2) in the tabled report relating to Senate's request that the Board consider and report to the April or May 1999 Senate meeting on the merit and practicality of: the revision of all basic undergraduate degree courses from three- to four-year courses; and the introduction of an undergraduate degree admissions

requirement for the professional faculties. He asked whether these issues had been under discussion for some time or whether they had just been raised; there were financial and equity implications in any such initiatives.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the issues had not been the subject of lengthy discussions at formal meetings. Some Fellows of Senate had considerable enthusiasm for the introduction of the American-type of generic bachelor's degree, with professional degrees being graduate programs.

In response to a comment about the possible difficulty of a comprehensive response being prepared for the April or May 1999 meeting of Senate, the Vice-Chancellor suggested that it would be valuable if the Board could report by that time, if necessary in an interim form. Professor Cockayne said that the Chair would be contacted about the request, and that the Board would work to meet the deadline.

Resolution 217/98

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting on 7 December 1998, noting also Senate's request for advice from the Board concerning elements of the nature of undergraduate courses.



6.2 General report

Items in the *Higher Education Supplement*

The Vice-Chancellor reported briefly on two items concerning the University that had appeared in the *Higher Education Supplement* that day. Concerning speculation about a *casse* in the NSW Supreme Court, he noted that a settlement had taken place and the case had been dismissed.

He was pleased to note that another article accurately reported the fact that changes in the UAC first preferences from last year favoured Sydney compared with UNSW. It had been necessary to provide data to correct wrong information previously supplied by others to the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Abstudy

In response to comments and questions about media reports that Abstudy was to be abolished, the Vice-Chancellor reported that he had no knowledge of the Government's intention beyond what had appeared in the press; to the best of his knowledge, none of the Vice-Chancellors had been consulted about this.

Resolution 218/98

That the Academic Board note the Vice-Chancellor's general report.

(Files 021/0006/00007, 151/0012/00047, 040/0005/00397, 151/0007/00010)

7. Report of the Academic Forum

7.1 Report of the meeting held on 23 November 1998



7.1.1 Receipt of report

Associate Professor Masters referred to Item 2.(1) in the report (Question time: Funding for postgraduate research students) and asked that the phrase "(where the question came from)" be deleted from the second sentence in the second paragraph. While he had in fact put the question, it was as an individual and not as a representative of the School of Chemistry.

Resolution 219/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Academic Forum meeting held on 23 November 1998, referring the proposal to delete the phrase “(where the question came from)” in Item 2.(1) of the report to the Forum for consideration.

(File 028/0039/00002)

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee

8.1 Report of the meeting held on 17 November 1998

8.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 220/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 17 November 1998.

8.1.2 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

Faculty of Economics

8.1.2.1 Bachelor of Economics

Resolution 221/98

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Economics for major changes in 2000 to the existing degree of Bachelor of Economics; and
- (ii) amend the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above degree, with effect from 1 January 2000, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0017/00010)

8.1.2.2 Bachelor of Commerce

Resolution 222/98

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Economics for major changes in 2000 to the existing degree of Bachelor of Commerce; and
- (ii) amend the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above degree, with effect from 1 January 2000, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0017/00012)

Faculty of Medicine

8.1.2.3 Associate Diploma in Community Health and Development

Resolution 223/98

That the Academic Board:

- (i) recommend that Senate approve the proposal of the Faculty of Medicine for the introduction in 1999 of the new Associate Diploma in Community Health and Development; and
- (ii) recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above diploma, with effect from 1 January 1999, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0020/00024)

8.1.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 224/98

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 17 November 1998 relating to the following matters:

- (1) Review of Resolutions of the Senate, Academic Board and Faculties in respect of degrees/approval mechanisms for new or amended courses of study
- (2) Common result grades
- (3) Summer schools and policy on exclusions and credit for units of study
- (4) Admissions Working Party
- (5) Equity Advisory Committee



8.2 Report of the Chair

The Chair had no further report for the meeting.

(File 028/0002/00290)

9. Graduate Studies Committee

9.1 Report of the meeting held on 30 November 1998

9.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 225/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 30 November 1998.

9.1.2 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

Faculty of Economics

9.1.2.1 Master of International Business

9.1.2.2 Graduate Diploma in International Business

9.1.2.3 Graduate Certificate in International Business

Resolution 226/98

That the Academic Board:

- (i) recommend that Senate approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics for the introduction of the new courses, the Master of International Business, the Graduate Diploma in International Business and the Graduate Certificate in International Business, for implementation in 1999; and
- (ii) recommend the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate and the adoption of new Resolutions, with effect from 1 January 1999, as set out in the report presented.

(Files 003/0017/00009, 003/0017/00017, 003/0017/00016)

Faculty of Law

9.1.2.4 Postgraduate Resolutions

Resolution 227/98

That the Academic Board:

- (i) recommend that Senate approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law for:
 - the abolition of Honours in coursework Master's programs,

- the amendment to the requirements for research within coursework degrees and the introduction of 'postgraduate research units', and
 - the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to all postgraduate courses in the Faculty to provide a consolidation of postgraduate resolutions, for implementation in 1999; and
- (ii) recommend the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate, with effect from 1 January 1999, as set out in the report presented.
- (File 003/0019/00016)

9.1.3 Welcome to presumptive new Chair

Resolution 228/98

That the Academic Board note the report.

9.1.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 229/98

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 30 November 1998 relating to the following matters:

- (1) Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting of 17 November 1998
- (2) Report of the Coursework Sub-Committee
- (3) Review of management structures and processes with respect to research higher degree programs
- (4) Report of the Working party on electronic submission, examination and publication of theses
- (5) Postgraduate Supervisors' Development Program
- (6) 1999 meeting dates
- (7) Survey of the annual departmental review process for research students
- (8) Higher doctorates: Award of degree: Doctor of Engineering
- (9) Appointment of Working Parties to consider new and amended postgraduate courses: Board of Studies in Social Work
- (10) Professional doctorates
- (11) Appreciation of Professor Lawrence



9.2 Report of the Chair

No further report was presented at the meeting.

(Files 028/0002/00291, 028/0002/00316)

10. Teaching and Learning Committee

10.1 Report of the meeting held on 5 November 1998

10.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 230/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 5 November 1998.



10.1.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Associate Professor Masters referred to Item (5) on Distribution of grades and expressed surprise at the report that more than one document was in use, suggesting that as the Academic Board had a policy which was available on the Web, that policy should be used across the University. Dr Brew explained that the Committee had noted that the advice to examiners was at variance with the Board policy on the Web and that there were policies circulating in some faculties that were not in accord with the Board's policy. These issues were being addressed by the Committee.

Resolution 231/98

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 5 November 1998 relating to the following matters:

- (1) Report of NeTTL
- (2) Teaching and Learning Showcase
- (3) Assessment policies
- (4) Flexible learning
- (5) Distribution of Grades

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 3 December 1998

10.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 232/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 3 December 1998.



10.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Associate Professor Masters referred to Item (3) on Annual faculty teaching reviews, observing that faculty teaching reports were no longer being presented to the Board; he emphasised the requirement that all faculties submit reports to the Committee. Dr Brew confirmed that the Committee presented a summary report to the Board.

Resolution 233/98

- (1) Report of Centre for Teaching and Learning
- (2) Teaching and Learning Showcase
- (3) Annual faculty teaching review
- (4) Assessment policies
- (5) Flexible learning
- (6) Distribution of Grades
- (7) CUTSD Grants
- (8) Other business
 - (a) Teaching and Learning Committee achievements
 - (b) Farewell



10.3 Report of the Chair

No further report was presented at the meeting.

(File 028/0025/00027)

11. Research Committee

11.1 Report of the meeting held on 24 November 1998

11.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 234/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Research Committee meeting held on 24 November 1998.



11.1.2 The University of Sydney's policy on the receipt of funding from the Tobacco Industry

Associate Professor Masters referred to the recommendation that the wording of the University's current policy on the receipt of funding from the tobacco industry be amended as follows and suggested that the proposed new wording would still be open to criticism in respect of the broad definition of "tobacco companies".

The University ~~and its Departments~~ will not accept support from ~~Rothmans or any other Tobacco company that involves the nomination of the company as the source of support~~ companies.

(Note: This is the current policy, with proposed deletions struck through and proposed addition underlined.)

Professor Cockayne reported that the Research Committee had the delegation to review this policy as part of the on-going review of University policies. It had been recognised that it would be extremely difficult in some circumstances to identify whether or not tobacco companies were involved in providing financial support to the University.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- the policy had been established to deny tobacco companies favourable publicity and the ability to exploit associations with universities and the use of universities' names;
- the reference to "Rothmans" was an historic one, based on the University's involvement with the "Rothmans Fellowship";
- the policy had been established to deny publicity to tobacco companies rather than to deny receipt by the University of funds that might be associated with the tobacco industry; whether these two aspects of the policy needed to be addressed was debated;
- the University's policy had to be able to be implemented;
- the issue applied to support generally to the University and all its activities and not just to research support;
- donations and bequests to the University could be based on income from shares in tobacco companies or foundations or subsidiaries thereof;
- Professors Cockayne and Siddle and the University Solicitor could be asked to draft a form of words that captured the spirit of what was required; and
- Associate Professor Chapman, who had expertise in this area, could be invited to attend the meeting of the Research Committee when this issue was discussed.

Professor Cockayne said that he would refer the issue back to the Research Committee; he would be pleased to receive comments for consideration by the Committee.

Resolution 235/98

That the Academic Board refer back to the Research Committee for reconsideration its recommendation for the amendment of the wording of the University's policy on the receipt of funding from the tobacco industry.

(File 096/0005/00085)

11.1.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 236/98

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research Committee meeting held on 24 November 1998 relating to the following matters:

- (1) Correspondence from the Postgraduate Student Member of the Academic Board, Mr Tim Wilkinson
- (2) Medical Research Investment Fund
- (3) Reports
 - (a) Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
 - (b) Report by the Director Business Liaison Office
 - (c) Report by the Director, Research Development
 - (d) Report by Director, Research and Scholarships
- (4) Moving Ahead: New Horizons - University of Sydney Strategic Plan 1999-2004



11.2 Report of the Chair

The Chair had no further report for the meeting.

(File 028/0002/00019)

12. Academic and Staffing Committee



12.1 Report of the meeting held on 25 November 1998

12.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 237/98

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 November 1998.

12.1.2 Promotion for Teaching-only Academics

Resolution 238/98

That the Academic Board approve the establishment of a one-off round of promotions in 1999 for Level A and B appointments for those members of staff whose initial appointment was at Tutor or Senior Tutor level, as recommended in the report presented.

(File 028/0002/00327)

12.1.3 Policy Document - Criteria for the Award of Clinical Titles (Levels A-D)

Associate Professor Masters raised a procedural matter in respect of conjoint appointments and the award of Clinical Academic titles, and Professor Young clarified the policy in respect of the three different types of Clinical Titles awarded.

Resolution 239/98

That the Academic Board endorse the report and commend the policy document - Criteria for the Award of Clinical Titles (Levels A-D) to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

(File 028/0002/00042)

12.1.4 Appointments Report

Associate Professor Masters referred to the gender imbalance in some categories of appointments, such as the Level As by nomination where 14 male and 25 female appointments had been made, and suggested that this be examined. Professor Cockayne said that this would be referred to the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion, Mr Trudinger asked that statistical analyses of casual appointments be provided; after some discussion he agreed to take this up with the Chair.

Resolution 240/98

That the Academic Board note the statistical analysis of the reports of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (College) on academic appointments during the period 1.4.98 to 30.9.98.

(File 021/0006/00009)

12.1.5 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 241/98

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 November 1998 relating to the following matters:

- (1) Policy Document - The Appointment of all Categories of Academic Staff
- (2) Policy Document - Promotion of Academic Research-only staff



12.2 Report of the Chair

No further report was presented at the meeting.

(File 028/0002/00325)

13. General Business

13.1 Delegation of authority

Resolution 242/98

That the Academic Board authorise the Chair to act on its behalf in respect of any urgent matters that may arise between the Board meeting on 16 December 1998 and the first 1999 Board meeting on 10 February.

(File 033/0001/00019)

13.2 Membership of the Academic Board

13.2.1 Outcomes of 1998 Academic Board elections

Resolution 243/98

That the Academic Board note the outcomes of the Academic Board elections in 1998.

13.2.2 Appointment of a Faculty member to membership of the Board: Faculty of Veterinary Science

Resolution 244/98

That the Academic Board appoint Associate Professor Grant Stone to membership of the Board under Section 42.4 of the Academic

Governance Rules, to hold office from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000.

(File 021/0002/00001)

13.3 Membership of the Central Promotions Committees

Resolution 245/98

That the Academic Board appoint the members of the Central Promotions committees for 1999 as presented in the report.

(File 028/0002/00315)

13.4 Membership of the Core Committee to Consider Tenure for Tenurable Staff

Resolution 246/98

That the Academic Board appoint the members of the Core Tenure Committee for 1999 as presented in the report.

(File 028/0002/00004)

13.5 Report of the Committee appointed to consider applications for promotion from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor/Reader

Resolution 247/98

That the Academic Board note the report of the Committee appointed to consider applications for promotion from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor/Reader.

(File 028/0002/00020)

13.6 1999 Academic Board meeting dates and agenda production schedule

Resolution 248/98

That the Academic Board note the 1999 Academic Board meeting dates and the agenda production schedule.

13.7 Report by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on proctorial matters

Resolution 249/98

That the Academic Board note the tabled report on proctorial matters.

(Files 021/0006/00007, 041/0015/00184, 041/0015/00190,
041/0015/00192, 041/0015/00197, 041/0017/00108)

The meeting closed at 3.05 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date